



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Jul 11, 2018
TO: Members of the Orlando Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: David Draper, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: June 13, 2018 TF Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: Wednesday, Aug 8th, 2018
Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
Location: H.O.L.A. Office Center
595 N. Primrose Dr. Orlando, FL 32803
Contact: David Draper
Office: (407) 317-7335
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E-Mail: David.Draper@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Orlando area for many years. The participants are representatives of various government agencies, private not-for-profit organizations and mutual assistance associations. An average of about thirty to thirty-five people attend these meetings on a regular basis. The purpose of these meetings is to increase awareness of the refugee populations, share best practices, build collaborations between agencies, spot trends in refugee populations, characteristics or movements, help create good communication among service providers; get informed about upcoming community events at the local, state and national level, request for proposals, training, workshops, conferences, discuss refugee service needs and explore solutions to those needs. Meeting participants receive updates, information and clarification on new federal and state regulations and policy changes pertaining to refugees.

If there are any issues that you would like to include in the agenda, please contact me at the above address.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

400 W. Robinson Street, S1111C, Orlando, Florida 32801

ORLANDO AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

This meeting was held at the Florida Department of Transportation, located at 133 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807. Twenty-one people were in attendance. David Draper, Community Liaison Manager, represented the Florida Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Rosa Chaves, Community Liaison for the Central Region, was also present. Everyone introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- I. **Child Care Licensing Program – Marquencia Fulton, Family Services Counselor,** provided an overview about the child care licensing program.
 - The Child Care Licensing Program licenses and inspects child care facilities and homes to ensure the health and safety of children. They perform three inspections a year on licensed child care facilities and two inspections a year on family daycare homes. Also, they complete one inspection a year on School Readiness Licensed Exempt and Religious Exempt providers. For Gold Seal License Exempt providers, three inspections are performed each year. However, if needed, they will conduct re-inspections and complaint management.
 - This program provides technical assistance and in-service training. They also coordinate and collaborate with other department programs when a complaint is received on a child care provider.
 - There are “Non-compliance/Violation of Standards” classified in three different levels from Class I to Class III Violations. Class I Violations are the most dangerous and signify an imminent threat to the child. Class III are minor violations with little potential to harm children.
 - The Child Care Licensing Program also licenses “School-age Child Care Programs” which include any child care facility serving school-aged children before, during, or after-school or out-of-school time programs. These programs must be licensed prior to operation and for continued operation (unless the program is exempt from licensure).
 - For Summer Camp programs, DCF collects and publishes a voluntary list and the facilities are required to have ALL personnel cleared through level 2 background screenings prior to caring for children.

- Marquencia also gave tips for refugees and providers concerning ‘being on the lookout’ for day care facilities that may be in violation. For example, she mentioned ensuring the day care has the correct ‘child to staff’ ratio and that refugees/providers be on the lookout for sharp or dangerous objects (such as scissors) sitting in open or accessible locations.

II. UCF Project Harmony, UCF Marriage & Family Research Institute (MFRI) – Diana Morales, Assistant Director of Recruitment and Melanie Toribio, Recruitment Specialist provided an overview about their program.

- The MFRI was founded in 2003 and is dedicated to evaluating, understanding, and supporting couples, marriages, and families by disseminating skills and best practices to all individuals. They have been conducting other projects such as “Stronger Marriages and Stronger Families”, “Pairs Evaluation Project” (PEP), “Supporting Healthy Marriages Together Project” (SHM), and many more.
- Through this project, they provide relationship education to individuals and couples, increasing marital and relationship satisfaction, conflict resolution skills, and communication skills. It also improves access to community social services, including mental health services and career related services.
- It also includes financial management and literacy as well as personal branding which focuses on helping participants to gain a deeper understanding of how to consistently make a good impression on others.
- To participate in the project, the individual should be at least 18 years old and will be eligible regardless of gender, disability, or religion. The research is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families. It is offered in English and Spanish and provides child care for children ages 0-12 years old as well as meals for anyone.

GENERAL UPDATES/ ANNOUNCEMENT

Monica Araujo, CRS Case Manager Supervisor at CC informed the task force that the amount of asylees arriving with EADs is increasing; however, when they arrive without an EAD, it can take 5-6 months to receive one. During the month of June 2018, Catholic Charities completed 48 family assessments (97 individuals).

Debbie Cruz, Director of Comprehensive Refugee Services at CC stated that a \$5,000 grant is available for Financial Support/Financial Literacy through the Florida Literacy Coalition. She stated that the CRS Youth Program has fifteen youth graduating this year from high school. Two of those youth are also doing training in a warehouse. Others are getting experience through volunteering. The Adult Education Program has 62 students enrolled who will all end their session on June 28. The next session has 88 students

enrolled thus far. Regarding Legal Services, Vanessa McCarthy is now coordinating that program.

David Draper, DCF Community Liaison Manager, invited all Task Force Members to join the committee to plan and celebrate “Welcoming Week” in September.

Rosa Chaves, DCF Community Liaison for Central Florida, updated and invited all Task Force Members to the World Refugee Celebration on June 16th, 2018. She also announced an Oath Ceremony (Naturalization Ceremony) taking place on June 20th, 2018.

COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES

David suggested the task force form a planning workgroup to coordinate and plan the 2018 Welcoming Week celebration. Several members (listed below) volunteered to serve in the workgroup. The group agreed to conduct their first meeting in the month of July (specific date TBD). Rosa Chaves was tasked with facilitating the meeting and sending out invitations.

1. Weam Jabbar – Arab American community Center (AACC)
2. Representatives from Catholic Charities
3. Martha Ruiz – WIC/DOH Orange County
4. Kirsty Ortega – Summit Church

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, Aug 08, 2018

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Location: TBA

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