



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2017
TO: Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force
FROM: Miriam Rosario (RS)
SUBJECT: September 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: November 16, 2017
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Family Administration Division, Community Action Agency,
900 NW 31 St. Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
Contact: Miriam Rosario
Office: (561) 227-6722
Cell: (561) 459-6098
E-Mail: Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Broward area in the past few years. The participants are representatives of various government agencies, private not-for-profit organizations and volunteer groups. An average of about twenty to twenty-five 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, request for proposals, training, workshops, conferences, etc., at the local, state and national level; discuss refugee program service needs and possible solutions to meeting those needs. Meeting participants also 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!

Southeast Region - Circuit 15
111 South Sapodilla Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

BROWARD COUNTY REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held at the Family Success Administration Division. Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked the Family Success Administration of Broward County for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A presentation given by Ruth Valenzuela, Program Consultant, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Bureau of credentialing Services, Division of Motorist Services. DHSMV shared some important updates and changes taking place with Driver licenses and ID cards. Starting in August 2017, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles will begin issuing a new, more secure Florida driver license and ID card. By the end of December 2017, the new credential will be available at all service centers throughout Florida and online. Previous driver license and ID cards will still be in use alongside the new credential until replaced or phased out.

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN

Wilber Roney, Senior Human Services Program Specialist reported on Disaster Food for Florida Program. He shares information on the Disaster SNAP program which will help more than 7.5 million Floridians recover from Hurricane Irma. Due to setting up D-SNAP centers all over the state, ACCESS staff has been spread and temporary workers will be hired to assist at the DSNAP distribution centers. However, ACCESS hours have been extended from 7:00am to 6:00pm to assist with this overflow. We shared important Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) information and resources. Clients can locate a center near them online at: <https://fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers>

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

USCIS, Berta Cassidy indicated on a new partner she will be working soon. She briefly spoke about Haiti-the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation and the impact for Haiti and stated additional information should be soon. TPS for eligible nationals of Haiti (and eligible individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) through Jan. 22, 2018. TPS beneficiaries who re-registered may request a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Additional information available- <https://www.dhs.gov/tps> . Information appointment provided on the post-hurricane updates and all applicants who had interview scheduled during the hurricane period will be seen by the end November. Current delays on Info Pass and clients who had appointments will need to reschedule. He listed the upcoming outreach sessions and events at the Library Information Desk and USCIS. These sessions are free and open to the public. Additional information: to check the status of a pending application, petition, or request, go to Case Status Online, can also call us at 1-800-375-5283 (TDD for deaf and hard of hearing: 1-800-767-1833) or make an appointment at a local field office at infopass.uscis.gov.

ESS/DCF- Discussion regarding the different benefits such as DSNAP, RAP, TANF and each services criteria. Any concerns to be email to RS thru Miriam Rosario, SER CL.

DOH- Migdalia Diaz, DOH supervisor on leave however informed that RS-DOH appointments are up to date and she can be contacted via email at Migdalia.Diaz-Nieves@flhealth.gov with any questions.

West Regional Library Broward County – Welcoming Week.: The RTF members and community partners and volunteers will work on an annual event. Mary Cassell, Librarian Senior West Regional Library provided information on this new partnership and all the services the Broward Library can provided to RS providers and clients.

RS Contracted providers: Project RENEW (PR) Clara Jarramillo with PR reported on their registration process for winter program. PR have two intake sessions, no GED in been offer during these sessions. PR is doing strong outreach and is asking the community partners for referrals. **Church World Service (CWS)** –Edele Firm discussed his Legal services and referrals process, The IA and Information and Referral program are actively helping many new arrivals specially in the Haitian community. Their Haitian community is experiencing delays in EAD and is been help by community and faith base organizations. **Youth Co-OP, Inc. (YCI)** - Gladys Sanchez and Jeanette Alban reported on their Vocational Career Laddering, Youth Program which offers GED and Career planning and Educational Path. YCI also offers Credentials/translations services. YCI is experiencing a decline in new intakes, and referral are welcome for those eligible with less than five years of arrival in the USA. Catholic Charities (CCLS)- Peterson St. Philippe Attorney from Catholic Charites Legal Services reported on EAD delaying to average of 4 months, The CCLS is diligently helping these clients and providing direct services and referrals to alleviate these delays. No additional updates.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: **Thursday, November 16, 2018**
Time: 10:00 to 12PM
Location: Family Administration Division, Community Action Agency,
900 NW 31 St. Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

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