



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2017
TO: Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force
FROM: **Miriam Rosario (RS)**
SUBJECT: January 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: March 16, 2017
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Urban League of Broward County
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 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 Department of Children Families Headquarters Office. Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison and Taddese Fessehaye, RS Community Liaison Manager represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked the Children Services Council of Broward for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A power point presentation given by Jesus Garcia, Program Coordinator, Youth Services, Inc. (YCI) provided an overall and introduction to their new Youth Pathway Services (YPS) program. The new youth services program will provide assessments and referrals, to those educational and career services. The population to serve are youth from 16-19 years old. The YPS program has two components; academic including tutoring services and career including employment and vocational training (all services are via referrals). YCI is working closely with the Palm Beach public school system, GED, transportation services and private tutors as resources. All participants were aware of the new program and were encourage to refer to YCI. According to the new highlighted program YCI will do the assessment and eligibility determination for the YPS and referrals to other free youth resources in the community. Jesus introduced Martin Reyes as the new case managers for the YPS-Broward and Aida Rueda, Patricia Guevara (for not present-PBC). Jesus emphasized to the members to make referrals to the new YPS and YCI will determine eligibility.

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN

Interpreter Services- Southeast Region-

Beginning January 17, 2017, Southeast Region Refugee Providers may begin utilizing the attached Client Ids to request interpreter services from Language Line. The Client ID is unique to each user, however the call in number (1-866-874-3972) remains the same. The new criteria and information collected were discussed. Miriam Rosario had emailed all providers the new ID. Any further questions can be email to Miriam and she will follow-up with the RS Contract Managers supervisor.

Year End Review-

Mr. Taddese lead to an Open discussion of the Task Force previous accomplished goals such as last year WRD celebrations, partnership with the CSCB and RTF presentations. The members will like to have reviews presentations on topics such as: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and SSA. Miriam stated that any question regarding Social Security Administration (SSA) can be address to her and she will forward to Maria Diaz, Public Officer Miami the SSA in the southern region. SSA has restriction on traveling. and previous issued involving DCF Authorized signature to SSA had been address thru Maria the Southern SSA officer. Berta Cassidy will provide the name of the Community Relations Officer, South Florida, ICE contact number. Immediately after Mr. Taddese provided an overview and discussion on the VISTA program and their successful implementation in other region of the state. Silvio Padilla

discussed the importance to provide accurate information. He discussed the year overview of the Integration Assistance program and the increase in the Haitian community in the SER. He introduces the CHEP program and answered questions thru the Information & Referral to offered family support resources.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

USCIS, Berta Cassidy from USCIS briefly discussed the changes on the DHS policies; such as Cuban “Wet Foot and Dry Foot” Cuban Medical program been eliminated. DHS will assess each situation on a case by case. Haitian Family Reunification and Cuban Family Reunification are still entering the country. All members were advised to go online at my.uscis.gov for further information. Discussion around the effect of the Executive Orders on the local Refugee program. Taddese stated that due to the Orders and reduction of official number of refugees to arrive after the ban, RS did not expect to have new high number of arrivals at least up until the next Federal Fiscal Year, Oct 2017. Department of Children and Families would continue to provide services thru their contracted services programs such as the Adult Education, Employment and school tutoring needs of the youth, more intense recruitment of employers that offer on-the-job training, career laddering, and mentorship/internship, and further community outreach. The DCF has available to the RS providers an update map with the zip codes of higher potential refugees’ client to help with their outreach efforts.

DOH- Migdalia Diaz, supervisor on leave however informed that she can be contacted via email at Migdalia.Diaz-Nieves@flhealth.gov with any questions.

ESS/DCF- Ileana Bustelo, RS Deputy Director discussed on the importance for benefit recipients if DCF determines the applicant is required to register for work, to work register, either thru YCI, One Stop Service Tracking (OSST) or Career Source of Broward. Discussion regarding the different benefits such as ABA, RAP and TANF and each services criteria. RS did review cases ESS/DCF for these services discussed and provided ESS/DCF Unit training. Any additional concerns to be email to RS thru Miriam Rosario, SER CL.

CSB- Keisha Hall of Career Source of Broward provided brief overview differences between their Welfare Transition (WT) Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Informational Material distribute. CSB-HQ will be moving to the new address 631 Cypress, FTL.

RS Contracted providers: YCI-Jesus informed on their free Tax Filling services available in their Broward location. No additional updates.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: Friday, March 17th 2017
10:00 to 12PM /Urban League of Broward/ 560 NW 27 Ave. FTL, FL 33311

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