



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 5, 2017
TO: Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: Debbie Ansbacher, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: May 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: July 12, 2017
Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Location: Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216
Contact: Debbie Ansbacher
Office: (904) 485-9540
Cell: (904) 524-1316
E-Mail: Debbie.Ansbacher@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Jacksonville 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 twenty-five to thirty 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, 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!

5920 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, Florida 32211

JACKSONVILLE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held at the Jacksonville Baptist Association. Debbie Ansbacher, Community Liaison represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program. There were 20 people in attendance. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Christine Stephens, Children's Home Society, Early Head Start, Program Director gave a presentation. There are 175 clients enrolled in Early Head Start this year of which approximately 60% are refugees. The presentation described the Health education provided to families enrolled in the program. The components include physical, nutrition, mental (social and emotional), safety, and oral. They do three screenings a year on the child to ensure they are meeting their milestones. The contact information for enrollment is email EHSINFO@CHSFL.ORG and phone numbers 904-493-7818 or cell 904-303-6049.

REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE

- **Youth Program:** Nina Frank, Youth Program Manager with Lutheran Social Services reported that the program is now accepting referrals for youth ages 16-19 who have been in the U.S. less than five years They are serving youth at Englewood High School providing tutoring through Booming Tutoring.
- **Adult Education:** Michelle Karolak, Director of Refugee Resettlement with Catholic Charities reported they continue to offer levels one through four adult education classes at four sites and levels five and above at FSCJ. Michelle reported there has been instances of students harassed on the bus on the way to school and these have been reported to Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

GENERAL UPDATES

- Agape Clinic at Kennerly was represented by Dr. Shanon Shea. They now have a direct phone line to make appointments. The phone number is 904-421-7801. Agencies were asked to identify if a patient is a newly arrived refugee when making the appointment so additional time could be scheduled for the intake. Dr. Shea also reported she has been researching options for swim lessons for parents and children to refer patients to as drowning prevention is crucial in Jacksonville.
- Tawanda Washington, TB/Refugee Nursing Supervisor reported that the Refugee Screening clinic is now stocked to provide immunizations for both adults and children. There was discussion on the importance of getting screening quickly for newly arriving school aged children to enroll in school.
- Debbie Ansbacher announced that The Project for Healing, founded by Christine Rothberg, received an award from Mental Health America for Innovation Program of the Year. Christine gave a speech at the award ceremony about how innovation comes from diversity and the value the refugees bring to the Jacksonville community. Christine was commended for bringing to the spotlight the great contribution of the refugees to our community.
- Patricia Ellis, retired FSCJ ESOL Director, and current St. John's Cathedral volunteer introduced The Rev. Raja B. Zabaneh and his wife Lilly from St. John's Cathedral. They are working with

the international community in Jacksonville and came to connect and share resources with the other agencies in the community. Members of the Task Force will be meeting with them.

- There was discussion of the need for adult dental cleanings and not just extractions. Members of the task force are going to research and share possible resources available in the community.
- The World Refugee Day event scheduled for June 19th at 11am was discussed. The event will include a naturalization ceremony followed by opening remarks by Patti Grogan and a reception and a photo exhibit organized by Elizabeth Gottlieb titled UnseenJax, photos of previous clients being naturalized presented by the Jacksonville Refugee Community Services, and children's artwork from The Healing Project. A workgroup will meet to finalize plans for the event.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2017
1:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M.
Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

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