



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

**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Mike Carrol**  
Secretary

---

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 18, 2017  
**TO:** Members of the Tallahassee Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** **Miriam Rosario (RS)**  
**SUBJECT:** January 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

---

**THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:**

**Date:** March 17, 2017  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Location:** West Palm Beach City Hall  
WPB, Florida 33401  
**Contact:** Miriam Rosario  
**Office:** (561) 227-6722  
**Cell:** (561) 459-6098  
**E-Mail:** [Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com)

This task force has been active in the Palm Beach 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!*

2383 Phillips Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32308

## **PALM BEACH AREA 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. 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. 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. Dr. Manzanero from Palm Beach State College also suggested their International Students as another possible resource for the YPS. Jesus introduced Aida Rueda, Patricia Guevara and Martin Reyes (Broward County not present) as the new case managers for the YPS.

### **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.

South County Mental Health Center-

Mr. Jose Zayas, B.S.S.W, Supportive Employment and Education Specialist, Navigate Program South County Mental Health Center was not able to participated but provided the information. Navigate is a new service to Palm Beach County. It is a free service that is evidenced based and person centered. The Navigate program is an intervention/prevention program at South County Mental Health Center, we do however provide county wide services. The program is designed to be in the community. Meaning, the Navigate team will visit with the person receiving service and their family in the community. Below is the link for the Navigate Program web page. On the web page you will find information on the program model. <http://navigateconsultants.org/>

“Navigate is a comprehensive program designed to provide early treatment to individuals 16-34 years old who have experienced a first episode of psychosis. The primary diagnosis must be Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective D/O, or Psychosis. The goal of the program is to help these individuals lead fulfilling, independent, and productive lives, in addition to reducing crisis that

can go along with mental illness". Please e-mail [zayasj@SCMHINC.org](mailto:zayasj@SCMHINC.org) or call (561)-637-7422 if preferred with any questions.

#### 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 PBC library system and RTF presentations. The members will like to have reviews presentations on topics such as: LGTB, Bulling and VISTA program. Immediately after Mr. Taddese provided an overview and discussion on the VISTA program and their successful implementation in other region of the state. Dr. Miriam Gould discussed the importance to introduce and ask question to the new families regarding emotional discomfort with children's mental health alert of depression and to offer family support resources.

#### **GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**USCIS** was not present, Mr. Fessehaye briefly discussed the effect of the Executive Orders on the local Refugee program. He 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-** Volunteers are currently being recruited from PBA.

**Adult Education:** Maybe moving in March, 2017.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Next Meeting:** Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2017  
10:00 to Noon  
West Palm Beach City Hall  
WPB, Florida 33401

**Contact:** [Miriam.Rosario@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Miriam.Rosario@myflfamilies.com) Phone: (561) 227-6722  
[Taddese.Fessehaye@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Taddese.Fessehaye@myflfamilies.com) Phone: (407) 317-7335