



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: September 18, 2015
TO: Members of the Tallahassee Refugee Task Force
FROM: Theresa Leslie, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: September 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: December 8, 2015 Tuesday
Location: Early Learning Coalition-Training Room
1940 N. Monroe St. Suite 70
Tallahassee, FL

Contact: Theresa Leslie
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This task force has been active in the Tallahassee area for several years. The participants are representatives of various government agencies, private not-for-profit organizations and mutual assistance associations. An average of 20 people attends 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, and help create good communication among service providers. The Meetings are also held to become informed about upcoming community events, training, workshops, conferences, etc., at the local, state and national level; to 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 next meeting!

TALLAHASSEE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MINUTES

Mission Statement: Helping Refugees to settle, integrate and thrive through support, education and community.

This meeting was held at Early Learning Coalition Training Room located at 1940 North Monroe St. in Tallahassee, Florida. Theresa Leslie, Refugee Services Community Liaison for the Northwest Region represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF). A total of 19 were present during this meeting. Theresa called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

Presentations:

A Presentation was given by Katie Addison from Pacific Interpreters – Language Line Solutions

Refugee Services Update:

- As previously announced during the spring International Rescue Committee (IRC) became the Comprehensive Refugee Services (CRS) provider for the Tallahassee area beginning on April 1, 2015.
- In June at the World Refugee Day event, the IRC Case Manager, spoke on behalf of their work with local refugees and anticipated plans for new arrivals coming later in the fall. The majority of the refugee caseload is in Tallahassee, but there are however 5 to 6 families in Bay County: Panama City and Panama City Beach that he is also working with.

General Updates

Comprehensive Refugee Services in Leon County: This is to report that IRC will not be accepting refugees in their Resettlement Program during the first six months of their official contract with DCF-Refugee Services that began on April 1, 2015. IRC will use this time to develop employment and housing resources and also become familiar with other community resources.

Upcoming Task Force Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the Early Learning Coalition

Task Force meetings for the remainder of 2015 are scheduled as follows:

December 8, 2015 and March 8, 2016 at the Early Learning Coalition Training Room, Tallahassee, FL.