



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 13, 2019
TO: Members of the Orlando Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: David Draper, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: Dec 11, 2019 Task Force Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2019
Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
Location: Senior Resource Alliance
3319 Maguire Blvd. Orlando, fl. 32803
Suite 100.
Contact: David Draper
Office: (407) 317-7335
Fax: (407) 245-2766
E-Mail: David.Draper@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Orlando 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 thirty to thirty-five 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 at the local, state and national level, request for proposals, training, workshops, conferences, discuss refugee service needs and explore solutions to those needs. Meeting participants 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!

400 W. Robinson Street, S1111C, Orlando, Florida 32801

ORLANDO AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

This meeting was held at Summit Church Facilities (735 Herndon Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803). Approximately 26 people were in attendance. David Draper, Community Liaison Manager, represented the Florida Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Rosa Chaves, Community Liaison for the Central Region, was also present. Everyone introduced themselves and the agencies that they represented.

Special presentation

- I. Pakistan Minority Rights Commission (PMRC) – Khaan Junaid Saqib/Chairman and founder PMRC.
 - The presenter gave an overview of PMRC and discussed its Vision and Mission. The presenter also shared his own personal story and journey which motivated him to found PMRC.
- II. **DCF Refugee Services – David Draper/Community Liaison Manager**
 - The presenter provided information on Child Support Enforcement Cooperation when applying for DCF Benefits. The presentation discussed ‘absent parents’ residing overseas. The presentation instructed members of the task force on how to properly complete a DCF benefits application when one or more parents are residing in another country.

GENERAL UPDATES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pastor Gabriel Ipasu, Africans family and Community Outreach (AFCO)** announced their Annual Dinner scheduled to take place on January 18, 2020. He also discussed a community survey that his agency has been working on. He will send out the results to the task force when the survey is complete.
- **Rae Wilburn, AmeriCorps Vista Program at Catholic Charities** explained that she is working with Catholic Charities to build their refugee mentoring program. The program will focus on youth and young adults (ages 15-24) and will assist with job training development, educational skills support, life skills, and tutoring.
- **Weam Jabbar, Dar Al Arab** invited the task force to a seminar occurring on December 14, 2019 titled “Teaching how to start your own business”. She also invited the task force to their annual dinner on December 15.
- **Sandra Algarin, Community Health Centers** announced that they will have a new CEO in January (Dr. Debra Andree). They are also opening a clinic and extending services to Bithlo, Florida.
- **Debbie Vega, Catholic Charities of Central Florida** announced that they have served fewer Cubans and Venezuelans lately. They did recently resettle a family in Titusville, Florida. Catholic Charities is also sponsoring a “Breakfast with Santa” on December 14.

- **Julius Jonas, AmeriCorps Vista Program at Catholic Charities** indicated they he is assisting the agency in developing new outreach strategies to ensure that all eligible clients are aware of services. They will focus outreach in Osceola, Pinehill, and Oak Ridge.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday February 12th, 2019

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Location: Senior Resource Alliance
3319 Maguire Blvd. Orlando, Fl. 32803. Suite 100

Contact: David.Draper@myflfamilies.com (407) 317-7335
Rosa.Chaves@myflfamilies.com (407) 317-7336