



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 21, 2019
TO: Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force
FROM: Miriam Rosario (RS)
SUBJECT: May 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: July 18, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Children Services Council
6600 W. Commercial Blvd. Lauderhill, FL 33319
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 Family Success Division, Community Administration Action Agency (FSCAA), Miriam Rosario (MIR), Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked FSCAA for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves, services and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Jaime Cruz, Red Cross Military & International Services, South Florida provided a presentation on the Restoring Family Links program. This focuses on helping family members find their lost family member anywhere in the USA and outside USA. The presenter distributed flyers (in Spanish, Creole and English) regarding this program which focuses on connecting families in the US with long-lost family members overseas (Restoring Family Links program). The program is free and is available all over Florida. Please share with anyone who could benefit. Other Red Cross services and their importance was also discussed (including natural and man-made disaster preparedness).

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN

Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison, RS DCF discussed the development of a **strong outreach plan (OP)**. Members discussed their collaboration to help refugee clients and this year newly arrived asylees. The Broward Outreach Planning Team met and discussed collaboration and outreach strategies. A flyer focused on asylees was discussed and was distributed.

World Refugee Day (WRD)- WRD will be part of the Broward outreach plan to educate the community and develop resources for the refugees in Broward. Broward College/Project RENEW (BC/PR) is hosting WRD event again at their OMNI Auditorium, North Campus. Members discussed the Refugee Award program and the USCIS Naturalization Ceremony in Broward. Clara Jaramillo, PR/BC Director has reserved WRD for June 18, with a Refugee Award ceremony and distributed the WRD nominations forms.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

USCIS, Berta Cassidy Community Relations Officer (CRO) introduced Roketa Mansfield as a USCIS new CRO in the South Region. Ms. Mansfield will also represent the Southeast Region and has many years of experience with immigration and USCIS. Beta reminded all about Information Services Modernization –This program ends self-scheduling of InfoPass appointments and instead encourages applicants to use USCIS online information resources and the USCIS Contact Center. As a reminder, individuals needing in-person service must make an appointment through the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283.

ESS/DCF- Wilber Roney; discussed RAP/ACCESS benefits eligibility.

DOH-Migdalia Diaz Nieves, Supervisor representative from Department of Health (DOH), informed the task force of the importance of referring asylee clients as soon as possible to the health department (since there is a 90-day deadline for the health screening). DOH suggested that asylees are given RS/DCF Welcome Brochures that include DOH information.

Jose Sanchez stated that during the USCIS Asylum Orientations in Miami, CWS provided detailed information and distributed the Welcome to Florida brochures during those orientations. Also, the asylees were given the national 800 number to access local refugee services. It is important to inform all new asylees of the timelines of RS benefits.

CSCB- Jaime Connelly, Community Liaison CareerSource's Broward spoke about the new programs and Career Laddering services available thru CSB and distributed informational material.

RS Contracted providers:

CWS Oscar Rivera, reiterated that there are still delays with Employment Authorization Documents (EADs). **Project RENEW (BC/PR)**, Clara Jaramillo indicated that Adult Education is starting the Summer class sessions in May and registration is ending now.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: **Thursday, July 18, 2019**
Time: 10:00 to 12PM
Location: Children Services Council of Broward
6600 W. Commercial, Lauderhill, FL 33319

Contact: Miriam.Rosario@myflfamilies.com Phone: (561) 227-6722
David.Draper@myflfamilies.com Phone: (407) 317-7335