



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2019
TO: Members of the Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force
FROM: Lourdes Leconte, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: April 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: August 09, 2019
Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Location: Miami-Dade College
Building 8, Room, Room 8525
300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132
Contact: Lourdes Leconte
Office: (786) 257-5173
Cell: (305) 401-3374
E-Mail: Lourdes.Leconte@myflfamilies.com

This taskforce has been active in the Miami 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!

401 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite N-812 Miami, Florida 33128

**MIAMI-DADE REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2019****ATTENDEES:**

Kerry Allen; Marielisa Amador; Sabine Balmir; Berta Cassidy; Diego Castro; Maria Dominguez; Monica Farias; Martha Ferrer; Emilie Goeser; Marja Gonzalez; Maria Hernandez; Caridad Mas-Batchelor; Regina Bernadin; Sylvia Loez; Kristina Montes; Elmer Morales; Sergio Mora; Eduardo Morras; Natalia Patino; Maria Penha; Cristobal Perez; Yeen Perez; Christine Reis; Edgar Tobon; ; Michelle Ramirez; Leydi Sosa; Evelyn Soto; Carmen Torres; Dorothy Martin; Ibis Valdes; Eugenia Nechyparenka; Luz Reyes; Grace Toapanta; Yadira Bello; Williams; Sandra Sierra; Lucy Tucker; Dr Cheryl White; .

INTRODUCTION:

Lourdes Leconte, DCF Refugee Services Community Liaison for the Southern Region welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION:

Regina Bernadin, Deputy Director, US Programs Florida; IRC – Program and Services
She provided an Update on the IRC office and the Services offered. The program is currently providing services to Human Trafficking victims. The service is open to all survivors of all forms of Human Trafficking. They also assist Unaccompanied Minors in the Miami Dade and Monroe Counties. They work to reunify UAC children that are not with their parents.

Evgeniya Nechyparenka, Program Coordinator; Hispanic Unity of Florida
Provided an overview of the Organization's vast array of programs Serving the Broward's diverse community. Hispanic Unity was founded more than 36 years ago by community leaders to ease the acculturation transition for newcomers from other nations. They serve diverse populations including all ages, faiths, cultures, and lifestyles. They provide a range of wrap-around services to help more clients of all ages, from preschoolers to adults. HUF offers 12 programs and services in four languages - English, Spanish, Haitian Creole. The organization has opened an office in the Miami area to provide immigration and citizenship services it provides citizenship services at libraries throughout Dade County

ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Discussion on World Refugee Day 2019

REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE (*Sent via E-Mail in March and April*)

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 9, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

SOUTH FLORIDA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES MINUTES – APRIL 2019

South Florida VOLAG Consortium
None

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 2019

Immigration and Legal Issues Sub Committee
Minutes for the meeting on March 6, 2019
By: Maria Rodriguez

Attendees: Berta Cassidy, Maureen Porras, Adonia Simpson, Augusto Del Valle, Amanda St. Jean, Brad Ginter, Miriam J. Garcia, Lourdes Leconte, Dorothy Martin, Haydee Canas, Amelia Ramirez.

The Immigration Subcommittee Meeting was held on March 6, 2019 at the office of Church World Service. Berta Cassidy provided USCIS updates, Augusto Del Valle provided CBP updates, and Amanda St. Jean provided EOIR updates, followed by questions.

USCIS

EXPANDING INFORMATION SERVICES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM:

As of March 18, 2019, the Information Services Modernization Program ends self-scheduling of Info Pass appointments and instead encourages applicants to use USCIS online information resources to view general how-to information and check case statuses through the USCIS Contact Center. Recent improvements to online tools provide applicants the ability to obtain their case status and other immigration information without having to visit a local field office.

REVISED I-539: USCIS has revised Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, and will publish the revised form on our website on March 8, 2019. USCIS will reject any Form I-539 with an edition date of 12/23/16 or earlier that is received by USCIS after March 21, 2019. Starting on March 22, 2019, USCIS will only accept the revised Form I-539 with an edition date of 02/04/19.

Every applicant and co-applicant must pay an \$85 biometric service fee. Every applicant and co-applicant will receive a biometric service appointment notice, regardless of age, containing their individual receipt number.

TPS: The TPS designations for Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador will remain in effect, as required by the preliminary injunction order of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in Ramos v. Nielsen, so long as the preliminary injunction remains in effect.

MIAMI ASC OFFICE: Be advised that the Miami ASC office has relocated as of February 19, 2019. The new location is at: **1620 NE 163rd Street, North Miami Beach, FL 33162.**

CBP

FACIAL RECOGNITION: U.S. Customs and Border Protection has rolled out the facial recognition biometric exit technology to all terminals at Miami International Airport (MIA). CBP will not be stamping any passports.

If the passenger is sent to Secondary, they will get their passport stamped.

Visitors and LPRs must get a CBP FOIA to obtain their travel history.

EOIR

JUDGES: Judge Ford Has retired. Currently Judge Siegel is detailed at Broward Transitional Center.

Judge Siegel's Non-Detained docket has been reset.

Judge Riggs has relocated to Charlotte, NC. No Replacement yet.

ISS: DHS (USCIS, CBP, & ICE) now have access to DOJ Interactive Scheduling System. DHS can access the Immigration Judge's calendar and provide an actual date on the NTA. The asylum office will be provided a date.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at American for Immigrant Justice, 6355 NW 36th Street, Suite 201, Miami, FL 33166, from 10:00 am to 12:00 PM. [Office is located inside the Televisa Building]

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 2019

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

April 12, 2019

- REVEST is enrolling students for the upcoming first Mini Term of Summer 2195 from May 13 to June 28, 2019. So far around 1000 VESOL students are enrolled program wide in this current Mini Term 79.2 Spring 2193, and around 700 are going to be enrolled for the first Mini Term 80.1 for Summer Term 2195. Approximately 240 students have been scheduled to test in our Orientation Sessions throughout this month.

- The REVEST Program has been able to process 910 vocational registrations for the contract year. Previous Term Fall 2187 there were 464, Current Term Spring 2193 there are 385 and next term Summer 2195 we have 61 registrations. We continue providing training and advisement to advisors to be updated about changing procedures and system issues.
- Faculty meetings were conducted with all REVEST instructors Feb. 21, 23, 2019. All CASAS testing procedures were reviewed with instructors to ensure a successful testing session. CASAS testing is taking place April 16 -26, 2019. We expect completion rates to remain steady. All REVEST students were trained to employ basic test-taking skills. Our Wolfson and Hialeah Centers are now using the ECASAS computer-based test. We are very proud of the hard work of our determined faculty and especially our students.
- REVEST is offering ESOL classes through scholarships at Community Education (Miami Dade College) Kendall and West Campus. This is allowing clients to be served by REVEST in a broader range of sites. Our current sites in Hialeah and Wolfson are also offering classes and we are ready to serve clients. REVEST is monitoring progress of our eight-week courses and our mini-term system. We are also monitoring students receiving scholarships in the Kendall and West Miami Dade College sites.
- REVEST staff attended the USCIS training on adult citizenship education on April 11, 2019. This event was highly informative and educational. We were able to network with other providers in the community, review all processes from applying to interviewing and obtain new instructional techniques. REVEST appreciates this important support offered by USCIS.
- In SAVES, current trimester (2018-2) ends on April 12, 2019. The total enrollment in the SAVES program during this trimester is 1,284 This number includes 432 new clients and 60 Success Management Academy (SMA) GED clients, 16 – 18 yrs. old.
- The next trimester (2018-3) will begin on April 15, 2019 and will end on July 31, 2019. We are asking every provider to refer clients to the SAVES program. We offer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), General Basic Education, and a wide range of vocational/technical programs.
- The SAVES program continues to serve clients at 14 schools where SAVES representatives are housed. Two other schools, George T. Baker Aviation and Technical College and Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College, accept SAVES vouchers for referred SAVES clients. Eligible SAVES clients can take advantage and the

opportunity to attend classes and complete a vocational program that can lead to a successful career.

- SAVES continues to work closely with the M-DCPS Office of Public Relations, the Marketing Department, and SAVES schools to reach out to the community and disseminate information about the SAVES program. SAVES is currently advertising via mail-out, newspaper, radio, career fairs, and opening of school meetings.
- SAVES schools administrators and SAVES school contacts will continue to engage in a machine marketing campaign to recruit students by participating in open-houses and distributing flyers to the public at supermarkets, churches, and community agencies. They will continue to present at students' orientation and go on the public announcement system to promote their schools and the SAVES program. Many schools participate in the Viernes Culturales that is held at Calle Ocho the last Friday of every month. The English Center frequently publishes articles in newspapers and social media to promote the SAVES program.
- The SAVES Success Management Academy (SMA) program for students 16-18 years old continues to be implemented in seven SAVES locations. New procedures were established for 2018-2019 school year to ensure more student/parent involvement, empowerment, and participation. These procedures are paying huge dividends with higher completion rates and students' participation in higher education and vocational classes.
- SAVES continues to collaborate with other agencies in the community to provide additional services to the clients. On our next meeting to be held on May 29, 2019, the program director of the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Ms. Monica Farias, will present. SAVES is also collaborating with Career Source, Administrative Office, on a new referral program. Two representatives, Daniel Gilbert and Ibis Valdes, have been invited to present at the May 29th SAVES meeting.
- SAVES Students' success stories are shared at the SAVES District meetings and published on the SAVES website www.savesdadeschools.com. We invite everyone to read them.
- The next SAVES District meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2019, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Center. Please let us know if you would like to attend and share any information with SAVES school personnel.
- If you have any questions about our program, you can call us at (305) 823-5020 or visit the SAVES website at www.savesdadeschools.com.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REPORT – APRIL 2019

None

USCIS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2019

**USCIS Miami & Caribbean District
April 2019 Update**

- ❖ **Information Services Modernization** – On March 18th, the Information Services Modernization Program expanded to all Miami and Caribbean District Field Offices. 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. This includes individuals needing a stamp in their passport for travel/work, emergency advance parole requests, local filings and motions.

- ❖ **Expanded Fee Payment System** - On March 18th, all Miami and Caribbean District field offices rolled into a new expanded fee payment system. Under this new payment system, we will only accept personal, attorney or business checks as well as debit/credit cards. Please note: this change only applies to locally submitted filings.

- ❖ **Updated Forms** – We recently updated Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status and I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. Please visit our website at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms> for the latest information on form revisions.

- ❖ **Outreach Sessions**

Below is a listing of our upcoming outreach sessions and events. These events are free and open to the public. If you need additional information, please contact – Berta.M.Cassidy@uscis.dhs.gov .

Date	Time	Type of Event	Location
April 3, 2019	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	South Dade Regional Library 10750 SW 211 St. Cutler Bay, FL 33189
April 4 th , 2019	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Shenandoah Branch Library 2111 SW 19 St. Miami, FL 33145

April 8 th , 2019	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Doral Branch Library 10785 NW 58 St. Doral, FL 33178
April 9 th , 2019	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Dade Regional Library 9445 Coral Way (SW 24 St) Miami, FL 33165
April 9 th , 2019	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	California Club Branch Library 700 Ives Dairy Road Miami, FL 33179
April 16 th , 2019	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Stephen P. Clark Government Center 111 NW 1 st Street Miami, FL 33128
April 16 th , 2019	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Weston Branch Library 4205 Bonaventure Blvd. Weston, FL 33332
April 17 th , 2019	1:00 – 4:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Kendall Driver's License Center 11735 SW 147th Ave. Suite #23 Miami, FL 33196
April 18 th , 2019	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Kendale Lakes Branch Library 15205 SW 88 Street Miami, FL 33196
April 18 th , 2019	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Arcola Lakes Branch Library 8240 NW 7 th Avenue Miami, FL 33150
April 18 th , 2019	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Naturalization Information Session	Northeast Dade – Aventura Library 2930 Aventura Blvd. Aventura, FL 33180
April 20 th , 2019	10:00 – 11:30 am	Naturalization Information Session	Sunny Isles Beach Library 18070 Collins Ave Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
April 23 rd , 2019	12:30 – 3:30 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Mall of the Americas Driver's License Center 7795 W. Flagler St. Suite #82C Miami, FL 33126

April 23 rd , 2019	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Miramar Branch Library 2050 Civic Center Place Miramar, FL. 33025
April 23 rd , 2019	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Southwest Regional Library 16835 Sheridan Street Pembroke Pines, FL 33028

❖ **Upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies**

Below are scheduled dates for upcoming administrative N-400 naturalization ceremonies and the corresponding field offices where the ceremonies will take place (unless otherwise listed). Please note that although these dates are current on the date of issuance of this update, the dates are subject to change without notice.

- **Miami Field Office – April 5, 12, 19 and 26**
- **Hialeah Field Office - April 13 and 27**
- **Oakland Park Field Office - April 19 and 26**
- **Kendall Field Office - April 19, 20, 22, and 27**