



San Diego
Refugee Forum

SAN DIEGO REFUGEE FORUM

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. Membership and Attendance

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

African Coalition Workforce
Alliance for African Assistance
Alliance Health Clinic
CASA Cornelia Legal Services
California Museum of Women
Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego
Chaldean-Middle Eastern Social Services
County of San Diego, Health and Human Services
Crittenton Services for Children and Family
Episcopal Refugee Network
Family Health Centers of San Diego
Friendship for Hope/Refugee Assimilation Project
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Auxiliary
International Christian Adoptions
International Rescue Committee, San Diego
Jewish Family Services
Karen Organization of San Diego
Kurdish Human Rights Watch, Inc.
La Maestra Community Health Centers
License to Freedom
Molina Healthcare
Native Interpreting
New Americans Museum
Nile Sisters Development Initiative
Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
Public Consulting Group
ResCare
San Diego Unified School District
Somali Family Service of San Diego
Southern California Immigration Project
Survivors of Torture, International
Union of Pan Asian Communities
United Nation Association of San Diego
United Women of East Africa
University of California, San Diego – Department of Family Medicine and Public Health
Women’s Empowerment International

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Bonnie Copland

Nicole Keith

Oren Robinson

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

The San Diego Refugee Forum was attended by 225 different individuals from 80 different organizations in 2016.

II. Task Force Reports



ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

Background:

The Refugee Forum has had various ongoing task force meetings on issues such as Health Care, Domestic Violence, Employment, and Asylum/Asylee Seekers.

Task force members saw an opportunity to build on this foundation fully and the collective strengths of forum members to address issues that may not fit into an existing task force. As refugee resettlement, has become an election topic, founding members wanted to establish an ongoing effort to spotlight the need to reframe the narrative of refugees positively, educate the public, and dispel myths of resettlement in the U.S.

Purpose:

The purpose of this task force is to establish a framework for working together to advance the economic, social and civic inclusion of refugees in San Diego County.

As a task force, we will leverage the power of our Forum to advocate for more services, to lift up the civic engagement capacity of refugees, and to proactively create networks of mutual support and dialogue. As advocates, we will promote inclusive communities that are culturally vibrant with strong local economies reflective of refugees.

Monthly Meeting:

Every Third-Thursday of the Month

Participation and Membership:

Name	Organization
Mejgan Afshan	International Rescue Committee
Alexiz Martinez	Alliance for African Assistance
Rebecca Miranda	Global Voice for Autism
Artemisa Valle	Casa Cornelia Law Center
Kayleen Herron	Jewish Family Services
Naimo Ali	Somali Family Service
Megeney Mainguo	Mental Health America
Diana Rhoades	Karen Organization of San Diego
Amina Mohamed	Mental Health America
Robin Buchanan	Alliance for African Assistance
Ramla Sahid	Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans - PANA
David Murphy	International Rescue Committee
Nao Kabashima	Karen Organization of San Diego
Elaine McLevie	Episcopal Refugee Network
Arwa Zakir	Casa Cornelia Law Center
April Moo	Karen Organization of San Diego

ASYLUM/ASYLEE SEEKER TASK FORCE

Meetings: Varies Monthly, Doodle Poll Given to Determine Members Availability to Increase Attendance

Location: Survivors of Torture, International

Asylum seekers are one of the most underserved communities, and they are high-risk for homelessness as they have barriers to accessing resources due to their immigration status and not having documents to access financial benefits, work permits, and other supports to meet basic needs.

The Asylum Task Force team has been working on increasing the number of regular attendees as only a small number of organizations serve asylum seekers. The goal of increasing membership is to increase community partnerships to address asylum seeker's barriers to services. The Task Force worked this year on mapping resources available to asylum seekers and has partnered with 2-1-1 to have resources coded in their database to allow asylum seekers and providers to call 2-1-1 to learn about resources available to those with an asylum seeker legal status. The group also met to discuss the increase of arrivals at the US-Mexico Border and began to strategize how to serve an increase in asylum seekers once entering the United States.

The Task Force also presented at the Refugee Forum to increase awareness of the needs of this group within the refugee provider community, and to encourage ongoing support of this high-risk community.

Members:

Name	Title	Agency
Elizabeth Lopez, Chair	Executive Director	Southern California Immigration Project
Erika Hess, Co-Chair	Senior Mental Health Clinician	Survivors of Torture, International
Abdi Abdillahi	Refugee Coordinator	County of San Diego, HHSA
Carmen Kcomt	Director of the Legal Advocacy & Immigration Programs Social Services Department	La Maestra- Human Trafficking &
Tammy Lin	Immigration Attorney	Law Office of Tammy Lin
Aidee Roman	Community Partnership Manager	211
Donna Tang	MSW Intern	Survivors of Torture, International
Arwa Zakir	Attorney Director of Asylum Program	Casa Cornelia Law Center

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

The Domestic Violence Task Force team continues to recruit more community members to be a part of the task force's mission to finding solutions to the major challenges that refugees face here in San Diego (i.e. find more trauma informed resources, more awareness and education efforts on domestic violence dynamics and cycles). On May 7th, the task force was part of the refugee community forum in El Cajon to present and address domestic violence and healthy relationships. License to Freedom also participated at the Domestic Violence Hope Rally in October and invited members from the refugee communities to join the walk and to be part of the solution to end family violence. We also translated a lot of fliers and documents from English to Arabic. The DV Task Force met with another group to address the need for refugee mental health services as a top priority. Through the monthly meetings, we realized that it is extremely important to address mental health services and domestic violence. Since License to Freedom is the only organization that provides domestic violence services to the refugees, it creates a need for funding in order to expand services for refugees and immigrants. There is a lack of opportunities for mental health services for refugees and survivors of domestic violence due to a lack of funding and shortage of therapists who speak their language. We are in a process to plan for next year to conduct two domestic violence community forums with refugee youth to address healthy relationships for the new Syrian families to address domestic violence, child abuse, acculturation, and navigation through the American justice system.

EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE

Events Hosted By the SD Refugee Forum Employment Taskforce since April 2016:

4/19/2016 Evolution Hospitality Hiring Event held at the International Rescue Committee Offices Drew over 100 job seekers

Due to the success of the first Evolution Hospitality Hiring Event, a second Evolution Hospitality Hiring Event was hosted on **5/25/2016** at the Hilton Mission Valley drawing another 100 job seekers

7/19/2016 Walmart Hiring Event held at the South Metro Career Center drew over 150 job seekers

Due to the success of the first Walmart Hiring Event, a second Walmart Hiring Event was hosted on **9/14/2016** at the South Metro Career Center drawing another 150 job seekers

Causes:

Wage Theft, provided wage theft education, reporting, and prevention information to employment services providers.

Members:

Co-chair as of 4/2016 **Bonni Cutler**, Employment Supervisor, Catholic Charities

Co-chair **Renee Nasouri**, Navigator/Educational Case Manager, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

Jenny Daniel, Employment Coordinator, Jewish Family Services

Deona Dorsey, Operations Manager-Special Projects, San Diego Metro Region Career Centers

Ziad Eskharia, BBSD Employment Specialist, San Diego Metro Region Career Centers

Ilena Gudino, Job Developer, Jewish Family Services

Kirsten Moore, Senior Employer Relations Specialist, International Rescue Committee

Mohammed Tuama, Business Services Consultant, Public Consulting Group

Meetings:

3rd Monday of every month, various locations

HEALTH TASK FORCE

Early in 2016 the Health Task Force agreed to sponsor monthly health topics to share on the Forum website. Topics shared have included heart health, nutrition, and safety to name a few.

Our main project this year looked at how understanding medi-cal plans needs streamlining. The HTF agreed that medi-cal access could be clarified if the approved medi-cal case already had a plan requested for assignment, eliminating the need to contact medi-cal after the card is received; this led to the map project, which can be downloaded from the SD Refugee Forum website. The aim of the map is to assist in choosing a plan by identifying commonly used community clinics and which plans support them, language access and if transportation is included. After the hard copy maps were completed, an app was also produced to create another easy access to determining health plans that coordinate care with desired clinic locations. Christine Murto provided a presentation and demonstration for the July SD Refugee Forum meeting.

Mid-year co-chair Dianne Bourque changed positions and had to resign. Rebecca Paidá agreed to come on board and take her place. Since that time the task force has brainstormed on advancing the map/app and encouraging use. We have now formed a sub-committee that will continue enhancements to the app, as well as coordinating efforts with 211.

In September Rebecca Paidá was able to present the map/app to the Office of Minority Health 3rd annual United States Conference on Refugees and Immigrant Health with an oral presentation that included a demonstration of the many booklets used to select a plan, the basics of which are included in the app. The presentation was well received, including interest from the Substance and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) who see benefit for mental health.

We finished the year with a presentation on Healthy Homes, by Chris Lee from the City of San Diego lead abatement program, which helps to assess and provide assistance to make homes safer from lead. (we recommend a presentation to the entire SD Refugee Forum).

The HTF likes to plan forward, and with that in mind Madelyne Wagner has stepped forward to be the co-chair with Rebecca Paidá for the next term. The HTF is already considering priorities for 2017.

III. Events

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Planning for the 2016 World Refugee Day (WRD) Celebration began on March 1, 2016; when the WRD Planning Committee met for the first time to discuss this year's event. The Committee is made up of representatives from various organizations that serve the refugee populations in San Diego, including the County of San Diego, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Chaldean and Middle Eastern Social Services, El Cajon Collaborative, Jewish Family Services of San Diego, the Karen Organization of San Diego, ResCare Workforce Services, and Crittenton Services for Children and Family. The San Diego Refugee Forum (SDRF) sponsors the event each year, the total cost for the World Refugee Day 2016 celebration was only \$126.87 (for activity table materials) because the event was held at a public library that did not require a fee to use the space.

WRD celebrations have been held in various parts of San Diego over the past several years, including Balboa Park, the Jacob Center, and at Prescott Promenade Park in downtown El Cajon. Each year the Committee works together to choose a location that is not only easily accessible for all attendees, but also in an area where our refugee communities reside. The Committee determined that the City Heights Library was a great central location that would attract a lot of attendees from both the refugee and non-refugee community; additionally, the library had ample outdoor space and a stage with a sound system to utilize for speakers and performers. The event was held on June 25, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library, located at 3795 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105.

The goal of the 2016 WRD Celebration was to celebrate the diversity of San Diego's refugee population, showcase the cultures and customs of home countries, provide economic opportunity for refugees to sell their handmade items, and strengthen the understanding among community members to create a more welcoming community for all. With various vendors, resource tables, cultural performances, and community resource tables, WRD 2016 offered a culturally vibrant atmosphere to all those that attended the celebration.

The 2016 WRD event started at 1:00 PM, Deona Dorsey, a SDRF member and Planning Committee member opened the event by welcoming all that were in attendance and spoke about how the event's purpose was to celebrate our vibrant refugee community. This year's event was made even more special as San Diego Mayor Faulconer's Office presented us with a City Proclamation; Anthony George one of the Mayor's Community Representatives presented the Proclamation to Kathi Anderson, SDRF Chair and announced that June 25th is now World Refugee Day in San Diego. The SDRF was honored to have Anthony attend the event and present the Proclamation on behalf of the Mayor and as an individual from a refugee family himself.



Cultural Performances

The 2016 WRD celebration included performances from 4 different refugee groups including: traditional Burmese dance and music performances by the Karen Organization of San Diego, Chaldean culture dancing by the Tellskuf Chaldean Association, Congolese music and dancing from the Shekinah Ministries, and Vietnamese music and dancing by the Vietnamese Community of San Diego.

International Craft Market and Cultural Booths

A popular aspect of the WRD events are the vendor tables where refugees and/or organizations that support refugee communities sell handmade items. 2016 WRD had vendors from the Syrian, Vietnamese, Central American, Iraqi, Burmese, Ugandan, and Pakistani communities. In addition, we had cultural tables to showcase textiles, maps, photos, clothing and other items from the Iraqi, Burmese, Afghani, Vietnamese, and Kurdish communities. These cultural tables allowed the refugee communities to show the event attendees a piece of their homeland and proudly display items near and dear to them, their families, and culture. There were additional cultural tables that included hands-on activities for participants (especially children) such as henna tattoos, how to write "hello" in different languages, how to use a mortar and pestle, and how to tie an African skirt.

Unfortunately, there were no food vendors at the event this year; the Planning Committee for 2017 WRD will work to have food as an option for next year, as it is a draw to the event from the community.

Resource Tables by SDRF Member Organizations

7 community organizations participated the event by hosting resource tables at the event, they include: Alliance for African Assistance, Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services, Crittenton Services, Karen Organization of San Diego, License to Freedom, Native Interpreting, Survivors of Torture International, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA), and ResCare Workforce Services.

Outreach Efforts

Various types of outreach were done to inform as many individuals, organizations, communities, and groups as possible to generate interest and participation in 2016 WRD. Information and flyers were sent to the SDRF list-serve (which includes approximately 150 recipients), announcements were made at the SDRF meetings and at various community meetings throughout San Diego, representatives from various local government representatives were made aware of the event, and a Facebook advertisement was purchased in the month prior to the event (which reached 2,425 individuals). Flyers and event information was provided at many businesses (many of which are refugee owned) in the surrounding areas of the library to promote attendance and participation.



Celebrating World Refugee Day

San Diego 2016

*CULTURAL PERFORMANCES / YOUTH ACTIVITIES /
ARTISANS / CRAFTS / COMMUNITY RESOURCES*

Saturday - June 25, 2016

1:00 PM - 4:00PM

City Heights/Weingart Branch Library Performance Annex

3795 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105



San Diego
Refugee Forum

**SERVING ALL THOSE WHO SEEK
REFUGE IN SAN DIEGO**



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
@ SAN DIEGO WORLD REFUGEE DAY**



San Diego
Refugee Forum



World Refugee Day Celebration 2016

Public · Festival · Hosted by San Diego World Refugee Day

★ Interested

+ Going

✉ Invite

🕒 Saturday, June 25 at 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM PDT
about 4 months ago

📍 City Heights/Weingart Library and Performance Annex
3795 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, California 92105 [Show Map](#)

About

Discussion

GUESTS

127
interested

66
went

39
shared with

Details

Each year on June 20th, designated as World Refugee Day by the United Nations, the world honors the strength and perseverance of refugees.

On Saturday June 25th, join us to celebrate the diversity and strength that refugees bring to our local community at the 2016 San Diego World Refugee Day Celebration!

A fun, FREE family friendly community event at the beautiful Weingart Library Performance Annex in City Heights featuring:

- Cultural Performances
- Activities for Kids
- Artisans
- Crafts
- Community Resources & Information

Street parking is available nearby and bus lines 10 and 7 run to the location.

About San Diego World Refugee Day



IV. Financial Report



2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

2015 Balance	\$9,110.81
Membership Income	\$2,280.00
Credits	\$62.00
Total Income	\$2,342.00

EXPENSES	
World Refugee Day 2016	\$176.87
Refugee Achievement Appreciation	\$559.11
Trainings/travels from TaskForce	\$400.00
Miscellaneous/Supplies	\$527.60
Scholarship Fund w/ Copley-Price Family YMCA	\$250.00
TOTAL Expenses	\$1,913.58

2016 Balance (Dec 13, 2016)	9,539.23
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V. Meeting Minutes

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, January 19th, 2016, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

YMCA – 4300 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abby Maayah, Abdi Abdillahi, Afrah Abdulkader, Alexandra Huber, Ana Eykel, Bisma Coda, Beth Simon, Bob Walsh, Bridget de la Garza, Christine Murto, David Murphy, Diana Rhoades, Dianne Bourque, Elaine McLevie, Elizabeth Lopez, Eyal Bergman, Hugo Carmona, Jackie Kensey-Hardick, Jaime Schroer Colbert, Jason Martinez, Jane Hoey, Janie Hoover, Kathi Anderson, Kelli Fitzgibbon, Kim Forrester, Linna Wang, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Margaret Lujan, May Hasan, Mohammed Tuama, Monica Hua, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Nawar Yousif, Neda Rivera, Oren Robimson, Ramla Sahid, Rebeca McMillan, Rita Shamoan, Sara Ramos, Sheryl Ashley, Susan Davis and Waafa Shamoan.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introduction: 10:30 a.m.

- Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting.
- Congresswoman Susan Davis briefly discussed refugee related issues in San Diego County and the country, her work with the refugee community in San Diego, and the Senate Bills that are being introduced to congress this week. She also expressed her gratitude toward the attendees at the Refugee Forum and thanked everyone for the work they do with the refugee community.
- Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Nawal Alkatib (Treasurer) and Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Officer Elections

- Kathi Anderson announced that the Forum will hold elections today for Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Refugee Forum. She thanked Nawal Alkatib and Ute Maschke for their service as officers of the Refugee Forum for the past two years. The time and hard work that they dedicated to the Refugee Forum are greatly appreciated.
- Nao Kabashima (Nominations Committee Chair) explained the election process and allowed the nominees to give a quick speech about themselves. Only members of the Refugee Forum were allowed to vote in the election.
 - *Nominees: Carmen Kcomt (La Maestra Community Health Centers), Kirsten Moore (International Rescue Committee) and Bettina Hausmann (UNA-USA San Diego).*
- **Winners:**
 - Vice Chair: Kirsten Moore
 - Treasurer: Bettina Hausmann

4. Task Force Updates:

- Health Task Force: Dianne sent out a survey to Task Force participants to find a date, time and location that works for all participants. Once the results are analyzed, the Health Task Force will send out an announcement about their next meeting.
- Employment Task Force: The Employment Task Force will be meeting on Monday, January 25th for elections for Chair and Co Chair of the Task Force.
- Domestic Violence: The DV Task Force met January 4th at License to Freedom. The Task Force has decided to make this year's mission about raising awareness for refugee youth domestic violence and educating the youth on healthy relationships. The DV Task Force will meet on the first Monday of the month either at License to Freedom or Center for Community Solutions.
- Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force: Elizabeth Lopez will be sending out an email to the Refugee Forum to recruit participants and will send out an email with the date, time and location of the first meeting.

5. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- **Alliance for African Assistance:** Alliance for African Assistance has 76 arrivals for the month of January mostly from Iraq, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Somalia.
- **Catholic Charities:** No one from Catholic Charities was present.
- **IRC:** David Murphy announced that the IRC has had a strong pipeline of refugee arrivals the first quarter of the fiscal year and expects it to become stronger in the next nine months. Most of the arrivals are coming from Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Somalia.
- **Jewish Family Services:** JFS numbers are smaller than the other agencies, but are seeing many arrivals from Congo, Iraq and Somalia.

6. County Agencies/Committees

- **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** The County received a total of 244 arrivals for the month of December (Afghanistan: 76, Burundi: 10, China: 1, Congo: 21, Cuba: 16, Iraq: 97, Mexico: 1, Somalia: 19, Syria: 3). The County total for the current Fiscal Year is 746 arrivals (October 2015-December 2015). The refugee arrival data can be found on the Refugee Forum's website.
- **State Advisory Committee:** The State Advisory Committee did not meet this past month.
- **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine announced that the Rosecrans Center is up and running again as of this morning. She also reminded the Forum attendees to bring all new arrivals to the TB clinic for screening within one week of arriving. Refugee Health Services has partnered with UCSD to provide psychiatry screenings and referrals for newly arrived refugees.

7. Focus: State of California's Refugee Programs Bureau (Sacramento) – Sysvahn Kabkeo (Chief), Chong (Lisa) Vang (Analyst, County Operations and Performance Unit), Bao Her (Analyst, Funding and Data Unit), Julia Ortiz-Rios (Analyst, Policy Unit)

- Roles and Responsibilities of Bureau
 - Working with partners at the local, state and federal levels.
 - They are familiar with the partnering organizations and the work they do, the clients they serve and where their funding comes from.
 - Oversee the Refugee Elderly Services, Refugee School Impact Grant, Cuban/Haitian Program
 - Provide technical assistance to all partners for best practices.
- Trends

- Since 2012, the number of refugees waiting to be resettled or return to their home country has risen to over 1 million. This is the first time in over 30 years the number of refugees has been over 1 million.
- The number of arrivals for 2015 hit the maximum ceiling of 70,000. Of that 70,000, 5,700 arrivals were resettled in California. California recently approved to resettle 11,512 refugees for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, one third of which are expected to resettle in San Diego.
 - 5 years ago California resettled about 30,000 refugees, with San Diego resettling about 13,000.
- The United States is projected to receive 10,000 Syrian refugees this Fiscal Year, but the RPB is unsure how many are expected to come to California.
- Attendees of the Refugee Forum expressed that housing was the greatest obstacle of resettling refugees in San Diego. Sysvahn Kabkeo conveyed his awareness of this particular issues and it is something that they are exploring.
- There are currently a few cities in San Diego County that has expressed interest in becoming Welcoming Communities.
- Julia Ortiz-Rios announced that January is Human Trafficking Awareness month and if you think someone is a victim of trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1.888.3737.888. There is also more information on the website: www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

8. Community Updates:

- Cajon Valley Union School District currently has multiple job openings for bilingual candidates (Farsi, Swahili, Kurdish) for part-time, on-call positions. You can find the job posting on Cajon Valley Union School District's website.
- Ana Eykel from Crittenton announced that they are now one of two organizations in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program and have just opened an office in Old Town with 27 beds for foster children. They are working hard to recruit families from the San Diego area to foster children and they were hoping to connect with members of the Refugee Forum to brainstorm ways to find qualified foster families.
- On February 11th the County is conducting a Love Your Heart Campaign around San Diego County. The County of San Diego and its partners provide free blood pressure screenings to the public at select sites throughout San Diego. The goal of the campaign is for San Diegans to "know their numbers" and take charge of their own health. There will be a site at Price Charities on University Avenue and Scripps City Heights Wellness Center.
- Christine Murto announced the Refugee Forum's Health Task Force has put together a map for refugees to use for Medi-CAL early Registration. The map is intended to help refugees choose their Medi-CAL provider by picking a clinic in their area. The map includes information on the clinics that accept Medi-CAL and the languages that the clinics can provide. The maps are still a work in progress but the Health Task Force was hoping to use the Refugee Forum's logo on the maps.
- Samara from San Diego Youth Services will be holding a benefit concert for refugees and information about the venue will be emailed out to the forum. All proceeds will go to refugees.
- David Murphy from the IRC announced that there are 2-3 cities in San Diego that are considering becoming Welcoming Communities and he has been working with them to try to make this a reality.
- David Murphy from the IRC also announced that the House Bill 4038 that would stop all Syrian and Iraqi refugees from entering the county and other refugee related bills may be voted on this week by the Senate. There has been a sign on letter oppose this bill that many organization across the country have signed on to, including many in San Diego. The IRC also sent out a call to action today to its newsletter

subscribers and urges everyone at the Refugee Forum to contact their senators to express their disapproval of these bills.

- The Center of Diplomatic Council will have an open house in February. The date and time will be shared via email to the Refugee Forum.

Adjournment: 12:00 p.m. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 16th from 10:30 a.m. -12 p.m. at YMCA.

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
YMCA – 4300 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Afrah Abdulkader, Amy Vance, Andrew Holets, Anna Zakir, Anne Hoiberg, Artemisa Valle, Betsy Knight, Claire Henry Enemark, Diana Rhoades, Dana Richardson, Dan Nyamangah, Daniel Romero, David Murphy, Deona Dorsey, Elaine Rosas, Elizabeth Camerena, Elizabeth Lopez, Erin Tsurumoto Grussi, Heidi Knuff, Ismael Cortes, Jaime Schroer-Colbert, Jane Hoey, Jennifer Navala, Kayleen Herron, Katherine Parulha, Kelli Fitzgibbon, Kelly Wright, Keshav Damoor, Maggie Fenn, May Hasan, Mohammed Tuama, Naimo Ali, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Nawar Yousif, Neda Rivera, Rebecca Paidá, Rita Shamoón, Terri Foster and Ute Maschke.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions at 10:35 am

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force is a new task force that will meet for the first time on March 23rd, at 10 am at PANA (4089 Fairmount Avenue). The agenda for the first meeting involves developing shared principles and outreach strategies.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Task Force's next meeting is scheduled for February 29, 2016.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The task force is working on educating the youth on the domestic violence cycle.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force has elected two new co-chairs and the task force is in the process of scheduling a new meeting date and time.
- e. **Health Task Force:** No announcements.
- f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** No announcements.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** For the month of January, the Alliance resettled 89 arrivals from Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. For the month of March, they have already received 63 arrivals and project about 80 total.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** No one from Catholic Charities was present.
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** For the month of January, the IRC received 48 arrivals, the majority of which came from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somali. For the month of March, the IRC booked 80 arrivals. David Murphy also noted that the resettlement agencies can expect a large influx of refugees toward the end of the fiscal year.
- d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services reported an increase in Syrian arrivals.

5. County Agencies and Committees

- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. January 2016: 226 total arrivals (34 Afghans, 29 Congolese, 8 Cubans, 4 Egyptians, 5 Ethiopians, 1 Haitians, 119 Iraqis, 1 Mexican, 15 Somalians and 7 Syrians)

- b. State Advisory Committee (Maggies Fenn):** The State Advisory Committee meets quarterly. Community assessments are produced for the State of California with a separate survey for clients and survey providers. These will be available in Somali and Arabic.
 - c. Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.
 - 6. Focus Presentation: Welcoming Communities Panel** David Murphy (IRC), Erin Tsurumoto Grussi (Alliance San Diego) and Ramla Sahid (PANA)
 - a.**
 - 7. Spotlight Presentation: Resident Leadership Academy** presented by Dana Richardson of the Resident Leadership Academy.
 - a. Dana Richardson provides an overview of the Resident Leadership Academy. You can find the presentation on the Refugee Forum’s website under “Community Resources”
 - 8. Forum Business**
 - a. The Refugee Forum has created a new Google Group that will be used as the new email list. You can sign up for the email list by clicking “Join Our Mailing List” on the Refugee Forum’s website home page.
 - 9. Upcoming Presentations**
 - a. March 19, 2016
 - i. Focus Presentation: Childhood Lead Prevention Program presented by Jamie Schroer Colbert of the County of San Diego Childhood Lead Prevention Program.
 - ii. Spotlight Presentation: Project SHINE presented by Ismael Cortes of Project SHINE.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at YMCA

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
YMCA – 4300 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Afrah Abdulkader, Amina Mohamed, Artemisa Valle, Besma Coda, Bill Sutton, Carmen Kcomte, Carmen Kamf, Dalia Mohammad, David Murphy, Deona Dorsey, Diana Rhodes, Dianne Bourque, Elizabeth Lopez, Erin Tsurumoto, Holly Hough, Ismael Cortes, Jackie Kersey-Hardrick, Jamie Schroer Colbert, Jane Hoey, Juan Estrada, Kathi Anderson, Kelli Fitzgibbon, Laura Dalsted, Leticia Cazares, Linda Cimmino, Lisa Dumolt, Luis De La Torre, Madelyne Wagner, May Hassan, Megeney Maingua, Mohammed Tuama, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Neda Rivera, Nikki Middleton, Ramla Sahid, Renee Nasori, Robin Buchanan, Sophie Tarazi, and Waimo Ali.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions at 10:35 am

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and announced the following:
 - i. Today marks the fifth anniversary of the Syrian war.
 - ii. The City of Encinitas officially became the first Welcoming Community in the County of San Diego.
 1. Ramla Sahid discussed the challenges the City of Encinitas faced to become a Welcoming Community. The city council voted three to two, with the Mayor of the city voting against the Welcoming Community and refusing to sign the measure.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force is a new task force that will meet for the first time on March 23rd, at 10 am at PANA (4089 Fairmount Avenue). The agenda for the first meeting involves developing shared principles and outreach strategies.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Task Force will be producing brochures that will include mapping of resources for asylum seekers such as housing and legal resources. The next meeting will take place on Monday, May 8th at Survivors of Torture, International.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No announcements
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force has elected two new co-chairs and the task force is in the process of scheduling a new meeting date and time.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force has been developing maps of Medi-CAL clinics for the Central and East Regions of the County. The maps will allow refugees to easily choose a health clinic based on the proximity to their home and the languages that the clinics offer.
- f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** The planning committee for World Refugee Day will be meeting on April 7th from 3-4 pm at the Karen Organization. This year's World Refugee Day will take place in June at Balboa Park.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** For the month of February, the Alliance resettled 92 arrivals from Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Burma. For the month of March, they have already received 63 arrivals and project about 80 total.

- b. Catholic Charities:** For the month of February, Catholic Charities received 30 arrivals and expect the number to increase in March with more Iraqi refugees arriving from Jordan.
 - c. International Rescue Committee:** For the month of February, the IRC received 48 arrivals, the majority of which came from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somali. For the month of March, the IRC booked 80 arrivals. David Murphy also noted that the resettlement agencies can expect a large influx of refugees toward the end of the fiscal year.
 - d. Jewish Family Services:** No one from Jewish Family Services was present.
- 5. County Agencies and Committees**
- a. County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i.** February 2016: 183 total arrivals (64 Afghans, 8 Burmese, 11 Congolese, 12 Cuban, 2 Haitian, 4 Iranians, 40 Iraqis, 36 Somalis, and 6 Syrians)
 - ii.** The Iraqi numbers for the month of February 2016 (40) are the lowest San Diego County has seen.
 - iii.** Afghan arrivals are increasing,
 - iv.** In terms of Syrians, for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 there is a total of 29 Syrian arrivals.
 - v.** Total refugees arrived into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (from Oct. '15- Feb. '16) is 1,155 (36% - Iraq, 28% - Afghanistan, and 11% - Somalia).
 - b. State Advisory Committee (Maggie Fenn):** Maggie Fenn was not present.
 - c. Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.
- 6. Focus Presentation: Childhood Lead Poisoning Among Refugees presented by Jamie Schroer Culbert of the County of San Diego Childhood Lead Prevention Program**
- a. Jamie Schroer Culbert provided an overview of childhood lead poisoning among refugee children. She discussed the following topics surrounding lead poisoning:**
 - i.** The history of lead poisoning.
 - ii.** How lead gets into the body, the symptoms that occur when a person has lead poisoning and how to get tested for lead poisoning.
 - iii.** How refugees and refugee children are at an increased risk.
 - iv.** The products and materials that contain lead.
 - v.** CDC Recommendation for lead poisoning prevention education and outreach for refugees.
 - b.** You can find the presentation on Childhood Lead Poisoning Among Refugees on the Refugee Forum's website.
- 7. Spotlight Presentation: Project SHINE presented by Ismael Cortes of Project SHINE**
- a.** Ismael Cortes provided an overview of the services that Project SHINE offers to the community, which includes health literacy programs, employment services, ESL classes and community integration.
 - b.**
- 8. Community Updates**
- a.** The Karen Organization is holding a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the purchase of a new van by the St. Augustine Foundation tomorrow, March 17th from 12:30 – 1:30 pm at the Karen Organization.

- b. The Karen Organization announced a Refugee Symposium of the U.S-Japan-Korea: An Exchange of Good Practices for Refugee Social Integration on April 5th from 1-5pm at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. Learn more at www.karensandiego.org.
- c. David from the IRC announced that this Wednesday, March 16th, the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee plans to markup "The Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act" (bill number TBA). As currently drafted, this bill would drastically reduce and cap refugee admissions; place refugees under continual surveillance after they have arrived; and create new procedures that would significantly and potentially indefinitely delay resettlement for many refugees whose lives are in danger, including but not limited to Central Americans, Syrians and Iraqis. The bill would allow state and local governments who "disapprove" of refugees to veto resettlement in their localities. Under the guise of prioritizing religious minorities from countries of particular concern, the bill could effectively prevent many Muslim refugees from being resettled in the United States. The bill would keep refugees from adjusting to Lawful Permanent Residency until they have been here for three years, which would delay family reunification and integration opportunities. It would also revoke the refugee status of any refugee who returns to their country of origin to visit loved ones or rebuild their communities. David encouraged everyone to contact their Judiciary Committee Members about the bill.
- d. The San Ysidro Health Centers are now working with the Chaldean-Middle Eastern Social Services.

9. Forum Business

- a. The Refugee Forum has revamped their website to include information about upcoming presenters, task force meeting dates and times and county and community resources.
- b. The Refugee Forum made a motion to purchase a new laptop to be used for presentation and minutes. The Forum will spend no more than \$500 on the laptop and software. Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) made the motion and Kirsten Moore second the motion. Kathi Anderson put the motion to a vote for members and the motion passed.

10. Upcoming Presentations

- a. April 19, 2016
 - i. Focus Presentation: Know Your Rights on Search and Seizure Presented by Alex Landon from The National Lawyers Guild
 - ii. Spotlight Presentation: The International Rescue Committee will present on their VESL Plus Program

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at YMCA

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
YMCA – 4300 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abby Maayah, Abdi Abdillahi, Abdilahi Mohamed, Afrah Abdulkader, Artemisa Valle, Besma Coda, Bettina Hausmann, Bill Sutton, Bob Walsh, Carmen Kcomt, Claire Henry Enemark, Dalia Mohammad, David Murphy, Diana Rhodes, Elaine McLevie, Elizabeth Lou, Emma Reyes, Holly Hough, Ismael Cortes, Jamie Schroer Colbert, Jane Hoey, Jessica Mier, Kayleen Herron, Kelly Wraight, Kim Forrester, Laurel Dalsted, Lindsay Winters, Maria Matnioudahis, Mohammed Tuama, Naimo Ali, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Neda Rivera, Nichole Keith, Nikki Middleton, Nora Bota, Ramla Sahid, Renee Nasori, Rita Shamoon, Sharmaine Moseley, Sophie Tarazi, Sysvanh Kabkeo, Vernita Gutierrez, and Warsan Mohamoud.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions at 10:35 am

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and called for a vote for a revision to the Refugee Forum's bylaws to include the new Advocacy Task Force. The motion was approved.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bettina Hausmann (Treasurer), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force just had their first meeting about two weeks ago, which had a great turnout. The Task Force discussed their three to five-year vision and how they would like to see the community transform in this time period. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 21st at Jewish Family Services.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Seeker Task Force will meet on May 8th from 3:30 to 5:00pm at Survivors of Torture International.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force meets the first Tuesday of every month at Center for Community Solutions. The next meeting will be on May 3rd at 10 am.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force held a career fair for the metro area at the IRC today. The Task Force is also looking into planning a job fair for the east county region in the future.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force has finished developing maps of the Medi-CAL clinics for the Central and East Regions of the County. The maps will allow refugees to easily choose a health clinic based on the proximity to their home and the languages that the clinics offer. These maps will be emailed out to the Forum's email list and added to the Refugee Forum website. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 11th from 1-3 pm at Price Charities.
- f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** The planning committee for World Refugee Day is currently working on reserving the venue for the event at Balboa Park.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Alliance for African Assistance expects 74 arrivals for the month of April from Iraq, Congo, Syria and Burma.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities has seen lower numbers than expected in the past few months, but the majority of their arrivals are from Iraq and Burma.
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** David Murphy announced that we are halfway through the Federal Fiscal year and the US is behind in terms of reaching their 85,000

admission ceiling. In order to meet this number, the State Department has instituted a surge program to move more Syrians and Iraqis from Jordan, as well as from Nairobi, Kenya to the United States. Resettlement agencies can expect this increase in the last quarter of the fiscal year.

- d. Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services expects about 30 arrivals for the month of April and are preparing for the surge in arrivals in the last quarter.
5. *County Agencies and Committees*
- a. County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. March 2016: 245 arrivals (40 Afghani, 25 Burmese, 23 Cubans, 11 Ethiopians, 11 Iranians, 79 Iraqis, 43 Somali, and 12 Syrians)*
 - ii. Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Oct. '15-March '16) is 1,400 (35% Iraqis, 26% Afghans, and 12% Somalis)*
 - b. State Advisory Committee (Maggies Fenn):** The State Advisory Council is a quarterly meeting, which met on the second of April. At the most recent meeting, a new chair for the council was elected. This council was created to advise the state of California's Refugee Programs Bureau on issues regarding refugee resettlement in the state. There are currently some vacancies within the council that need to be filled. At the most recent meeting they discussed the following three items:
 - i. Affordable housing*
 - ii. "Brain waste" of professional refugees*
 - iii. The potential impact of the upcoming increase in refugee arrivals.*
 - c. Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.
6. *Focus Presentation: Understanding Your Rights About Search and Seizure presented by Alex Landon of the National Lawyers Guild*
- a.** Alex Landon provided an overview of the first, fourth, fifth and sixth amendment rights.
 - i. First Amendment: Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and right of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the government.*
 - ii. Fourth Amendment: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures.*
 - 1.** Law enforcement needs probable cause to search and seize. Law enforcement must obtain a legal search warrant.
 - 2.** This amendment would also apply to the search and seizure of offices that are serving the refugee population.
 - 3.** This amendment has also been extended to protect against unreasonable search and seizures of cell phones.
 - iii. Fifth Amendment: The right to remain silent*
 - iv. Sixth Amendment: The right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State.*
 - 1.** Innocent until proven guilty.
7. *Spotlight Presentation: An Update from Sysvanh Kabkeo, Chief of the State of California's Refugee Programs Bureau*
- a.** California's Refugee Program's Bureau expects an influx of refugee arrivals in the next few months. They are expecting between 11,000-12,000 refugees.

- i. San Diego is the top destination for the new arrivals within the state due to the existing infrastructure. The Refugee Programs Bureau anticipates about one-third of the arrivals into the state to be resettled in San Diego.
- b. The state of California’s Refugee Programs Bureau has created a brand new vision statement which includes the safety, empowerment and self-sufficiency for all in California. The reason for the word “all” being put into the vision statement is because the Bureau provides services to refugees and U.S. citizens who are abroad. The Bureau assists U.S. citizens that are abroad and unwell to travel back to the U.S.
- c. Sysvanh acknowledge all of the things that the San Diego refugee community has accomplished, particularly Encinitas becoming a Welcoming Community within the past few months.

8. Community Updates

- a. Mohammad Tuama announces that the Employment Task Force’s career fair at the IRC was a success.
- b. On the third Tuesday of every month, the San Diego Women’s Museum conducts an event to highlight the stories of refugee women. The event starts at 6pm and the museum is located in Liberty Station.
- c. The IRC is having their 8th annual International Documentary Film Series. The films will be shown at the Hillcrest Landmark theatre starting on May 9th. Previews and tickets for the film can be found at rescue.org/films.
- d. Child Welfare Services is doing outreach to educate the community on child welfare laws and resources. If you are interested in more information contact Neda Rivera at neda.rivera@sdcounty.ca.gov.

9. Forum Business

- a. The Refugee Forum has a balance of \$9,280.81 as of April 13th.
 - i. Expenses:
 - 1. Purchase of laptop: \$447.62
 - 2. YMCA Scholarship donation: \$250.00
- b. Bettina Hausmann (treasurer) announced that she will be reaching out to all 2015 members that haven’t paid their annuals dues for 2016.

10. Upcoming Presentations

- a. *Focus: Live Well San Diego*
- b. *Spotlight: San Diego Public Libraries*

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at YMCA

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
YMCA – 4300 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Afrah Abdulkader, Alicia Delton-Torres, Andrew Holets, Andrew Koppert, Anne Holberg, Bill Sutton, Bonnie Copland, Bridget de la Garza, Claire Henry Enemark, David Murphy, Elizabeth Lopez, Iman Bakour-Aziz, Jalili Shafiqullah, Jane Hoey, Jennifer Geran, Jennifer Navala, June Williams, Katherine Rogers, Kathi Anderson, Kirsten Moore, Krupa Achaya, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Margaret Lujan, Megan Villamin, Mohammed Tuama, Munigith Alhadjaj, Naimo Ali, Nawal Alkatib, Paola Guzman, Petros Alemeselassie, Rita Shamon, Stepan Harmonlikien, Sharmaine Moseley, and Stephanie Rivera.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions at 10:35 am

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and announced the following:
 - i. Today will be the last meeting held at the YMCA. Starting in June, the Forum will meet in the IRC's classroom (5348 University Ave. Suite 205). The Refugee Forum is grateful to the YMCA for hosting us since March of last year.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** A representative for the Advocacy Task Force was not present.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Seeker Task Force is working to gather information for a resource guide for asylum seekers. The Asylum Seeker Task Force will meet on June 6th from 3:30 to 5:00pm at Survivors of Torture International. Please email Elizabeth Lopez for the address (elolaw27@gmail.com).
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force meets the first Tuesday of every month at Center for Community Solutions. The next meeting will be on June 7th from 10-11:30 AM. The DV Task Force's goal for the year was to do more outreach to families and youth. They recently met with Camp HOPE, a camp for children who have witnessed domestic violence and sexual assault, to discuss the possibility of including refugee children in the program. A link with more information about Camp HOPE will be emailed out to the Forum.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force met yesterday. The Task Force is planning another hiring event on May 25th and will send a flyer out to the Refugee Forum via email.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force has finished developing maps of the Medi-CAL clinics for the Central and East Regions of the County. The maps will allow refugees to easily choose a health clinic based on the proximity to their home and the languages that the clinics offer. These maps will be emailed out to the Forum's email list and added to the Refugee Forum website. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 8th from 1-3 pm at Price Charities.
- f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** The planning committee for World Refugee Day met last week. The event is scheduled for June 25th from 1-4 PM. The location has not been secured yet, but an application has been put in for the City Height Library with the backup plan being the Colina Park behind the IRC.

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
 - a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Alliance for African Assistance expects 69 arrivals for the month of May (Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan). For the month of May, they assured 34 arrivals (Congo, Iraq, Somalia, Syria).
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities was not present.
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** The IRC expects 72 arrivals for the month of May (Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan). They are now seeing an uptick in Syrian arrivals, with 20 Syrians this month and 25 for the month of June.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** For the month of April, Jewish Family Services had two Syrian families and expect one more family for the month of May.

5. *County Agencies and Committees*
 - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. April 2016: 201 arrivals (18 Afghans, 13 Congolese, 8 Cuban, 17 Ethiopian, 10 Iranians, 56 Iraqis, 25 Somalis, and 47 Syrians)
 - ii. Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Oct. '15-April '16) is 1,601 (34% Iraqi, 24% Afghan, and 12% Somalis)
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggies Fenn):** No updates.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.

6. *Focus Presentation: Live Well San Diego presented by Margaret Lujan, Program Direction of Community Action Partnership (CAP) of HHSA*
 - a. Provided an overview of Live Well San Diego.
 - b. Vision: A region that is Building Better Health, Living Safely and Thriving.
 - c. Mission: Create the opportunity for all residents – regardless of geographic location, age, group, gender, race/ethnicity, or socio-economic level – to achieve the *Live Well San Diego* vision by engaging community, strengthening existing services, and serving for results.
 - d. Website: <http://www.livewellsd.org/>

7. *Spotlight Presentation: San Diego Public Library presented by Jennifer Geran, Branch Manager, City Heights/Weingart Library*
 - a. Jennifer Geran provided an overview of the services provided by the San Diego Public Libraries.
 - b. Books available in a variety of languages (Arabic, Cambodian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese)
 - c. Website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>

8. *Community Updates*
 - a. Mohammed Tuama discussed a volunteer based Newcomers Group. Their mission is to assist newly arrived refugees obtain employment here in San Diego. They offer a lot of different resources and guidance in the process of obtaining employment and are looking for connections and community partners. If you are interested in more information about the Newcomers Group or are interested in becoming a partner, please contact Mohammed Tuama at mtuama@pcgsd.org.
 - b. The Alliance for African Assistance is offering a workshop for refugees who have been here for less than 3 years and are out of the Wilson Fish Program. For more information, contact the June at Alliance for African Assistance.
 - c. The Women's Museum of California will be hosting an event *Community Stories: Conversation with Immigration Attorney Lilia Velasquez* tonight, May 17th from 6:00-7:30pm.

- d. The International Rescue Committee will be holding a Healthcare Career Educational Workshop on Wednesday, June 1st from 3:30-5:00 PM at the IRC in El Cajon (131 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020). All are welcomed to attend this FREE workshop to learn about careers in healthcare.
 - e. The International Rescue Committee's Career Development Department is holding an open orientation for a pre-apprenticeship program for a five month long constructions trade class. The class is a work readiness training that will help refugees get an union apprenticeship in the construction field. There will be a \$100 per week stipend for participates of this class.
- 9. Forum Business**
- a. The Refugee Forum unveiled their new logo, which can be found on the Refugee Forum's website.
 - b. Kathi reminded everyone of membership dues. The membership form can be found on the Refugee Forum's website. All checks will be mailed to Bettina Hausman.
- 10. Upcoming Presentations**
- a. *Focus: Refugee Awards Ceremony for World Refugee Awareness Month*
 - b. *Spotlight: An Update from Sysvanh Kabkeo, State Refugee Program's Bureau Coordinator and Bowa Tucker, ORR Region IX Representation from San Francisco.*

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at IRC (5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105).

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abby Maayah, Abdi Abdillahi, Alicia DeLeon-Torres, Ana Lazano, Artemisa Valle, Asya Anderson, Becky Morena-Estrada, Besma Coda, Bettina Hausmann, Bob Walsh, Bowa Tucker, Bridget de la Garza, Carla Croft, Carmen Kcomt, Cassie Murray, Claire Henry Enemark, David Murphy, Diana Rhoades, Elaine McLevie, Elizabeth Lopez, Elizabeth Lou, Erin Grussi, Hayblu Maeywa, Hsit Hsa Paw, Jennifer Navala, Juana Yu, Judy Becko, Kathi Anderson, Kelli Fitzgibbon, Kimberly Roesler, Kirsten Moore, Krapa Achaya, Lizbeth Diaz, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Margaret Lujan, Maria Mathiodakis, Mariana Venesas, Martin Zogg, Mohammed Tuama, Mu Aye, Mygan Atshen, Nada Bakir, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Neda Rivera, Nicole Levin, Paola Guzman, Ramy Kaufler, Rebecca Paida, Samara Alghazali, Samuel Tsoi, Sara Hirad, Sophie Tarazi, Sysvanh Kabkeo, Vernita Gutierrez, Viviane Mejia,

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions at 10:35 am

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and announced the following:
 - i. Bettina Hausmann announced that only 24 members have paid this year's dues and reminded previous members to pay their dues for the 2016 calendar year.
 1. The Forum has a balance of \$9543.93.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bettina Hausmann (Treasurer), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** A representative for the Advocacy Task Force was not present.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Seeker Task Force is working to gather information for a resource guide for asylum seekers and encourages anyone with information on resources to attend the next meeting. The Asylum Seeker Task Force will meet on July 11th from 3:30 to 5:00pm at Survivors of Torture International. Please email Elizabeth Lopez for the address (elolaw27@gmail.com).
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force meets the first Tuesday of every month at Center for Community Solutions. The next meeting will be on July 5th from 10-11:30 AM.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force met yesterday and discussed wage theft and how they could combat this issue. The Task Force is also exploring the idea of another employment/recruitment fair that will focus on high level placement for clients and are currently looking for employers to join. The Employment Task Force meets the third Monday of every month at Catholic Charities. Their next meeting will be on July 18, 2016.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 13th from 1-3 pm at Price Charities. The Health Task Force will be presenting on their Medi-cal registration maps at the next Refugee Forum meeting.
- f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** World Refugee Day will be on June 25, 2016 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library and Performance Annex.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Alliance for African Assistance was not present.
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities was not present.
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** The IRC expects 143 arrivals for the month of June (100 Syrians, followed by Afghans and Somalis). As of a week ago, the U.S. has brought in 45,000 refugees and is still expecting to meet their goal of 85,000 by the end of September. They are expecting modest growth in July and an influx in August and September, with an uptick in Syrian arrivals.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** For the month of June they expect 44 arrivals with Syria making up about half of those numbers. Bracing for a busy summer
5. *County Agencies and Committees*
- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. *May 2016: 156 arrivals (20 Afghans, 5 Colombians, 11 Congolese, 10 Ethiopian, 4 Haitian, 5 Iranians, 33 Iraqis, 6 Somalis, and 47 Syrians)*
 - ii. *Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Oct. '15-May '16) is 1,757 (33% Iraqi, 23% Afghan, and 11% Somalis)*
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggies Fenn):** Marty Zogg (*Chair of the California State Advisory Committee on Refugee Assistance and Services*) announced that the California Endowment awarded the IRC in Los Angeles with a grant to promote collaboration among organizations serving refugees. Starting next year, the IRC will begin a re-granting effort to solicit information on Syrian refugees from other refugee resettlement agencies. They are looking to collect demographics along with information on security of the Syrian refugees and their case workers. In exchange for sharing information with the IRC, each resettlement agency will receive a grant of \$5,000 and be required to attend an in-person meeting. The money is intended to go toward travel expenses for these in-person meetings, and towards helping some of the Syrian refugees. The grants will be awarded to agencies that are receiving a high number of Syrian refugees and experiencing a high burden, although the criteria for this has yet to be set. This is the first time anything like this has been tried, and the first that a state agency has provided an initiative of this kind.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.
6. *Focus Presentation: Refugee/Asylee Awards Ceremony*
- a. The San Diego Refugee Forum honored the following refugees/asylees for their accomplishments and contributions to the community.
 - i. Samara Al Ghazali, Sara Al Ghazali and Sally Al Ghazali
 - ii. Nada Bakir
 - iii. Hsit Has Paw
 - iv. Adenike Odumade
 - v. Geovani Rosales
7. *Spotlight Presentation: An Update from Sysvanh Kabkeo, Chief of the State of California's Refugee Programs Bureau; Bowa Tucker, ORR Region IX Representative*
- a. Six Guiding Principles of ORR
 - i. Appropriate Placements and Services
 - ii. Client-Centered Case Management
 - iii. Newly Arriving Refugees
 - iv. Health and Mental Health Services
 - v. Outreach

- vi. Data-Informed Decision Making
- b. For more information, visit the Office of Refugee Resettlement's website.
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>

8. Community Updates

- a. Large number of Haitians at the San Ysidro border who are fleeing instability and violence. They estimate that there is somewhere between 300-600 individuals currently detained at the border. The migration flows are changing and many migrants are being sent west because the smuggling routes are changing.
- b. Aja Project is an organization that provides photography based programming. Over the past few months, Aja has been working with a group of women who have designed an art installation that will be on display at the Museum of Photographic Arts on July 15th.
- c. Cajon Valley Union School District is launching their summer school program next Monday. The district accepts enrollments throughout the summer. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.cajonvalley.net/ExtendedDay>.
- d. The IRC's free culinary program begins in August 2016. The Culinary 101 program is 8 week long job readiness and hands-on skill training. To find out more, attend the orientation on Friday, July 8th from 3pm-4pm at The IRC in San Diego (5348 University Avenue, Suite 108, San Diego, CA 92105).
- e. The IRC offers loans and business counseling to help refugees start or grow a small business. For more information, contact Mohammed Al-Ani at Mohammed.alani@rescue.org or Zachary Bezold at Zachary.bezold@rescue.org.
- f. The IRC also offers loans and financial counseling to help refugees build credit history and financial skills. For more information, contact Michelle Harati at Michelle.harati@rescue.org or Farah Albanna at Farah.almarode@rescue.org.

9. Upcoming Presentations

- a. *Focus:* Christine Murto will present on the Medi-CAL registration maps. These maps were created by the Health Task Force in collaboration with other organizations, including the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.
- b. *Spotlight:* Said Osman Abigow will present on the Somali Bantu Association and the services they offer.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at IRC (5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105).

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Afrah Abdulkader, Agnes Hajek, Ana Lozano, Becky Moreno-Estrada, Bernaro Doean, David Murphy, Carla Croft, Daniel Hasenjisd, Diana Rhoades, Elaine McLevie, Elizabeth Lopez, Eric Quiroz, Ifrah Salad, Iman Bakour-Aziz, Jaleen Udarbe, Jennifer Navala, Joyce Liou, Juan Estrada, Juana Yu, Kathi Anderson, Kayleen Herron, Kelly Wraight, Kim Forrester, Kirsten Moore, Lejla Voloder, Luis Mora, Maggie Fenn, Madelyne Wagner, Manpreet Mumman, Marisa Alvarez, Marisa Meno, Marsha Choco, Mejgan Afshan, Munaith Alhajja, Nadine Topozada, Nancy Sasaki, Neda Rivera, Neil Havland, Phillip So, Rita Shamoan, Sahro Nor, Said Abiyow, Susan Itagos, Vernita Gutierrez and Yana Ermiloua.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions at 10:35 am

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force will be meeting this Thursday, July 21st from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at PANA. At the upcoming meeting they will be discussing what project the Task Force should focus on. They will also be planning a series of Open Mic Nights for refugee and immigrant artists.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Task Force will be meeting again in August and will continue to work on a resource guide for asylum seekers. They are currently seeking more resources for housing options for asylum seekers.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force has gone dark for the summer and will pick back up again in September.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force held a recruitment fair for refugee clients with Walmart. The attendance was excellent and we will have firm results at the next meeting.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force is going dark for the month of August and will pick back up in September.
- f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** The World Refugee Day Task Force is going dark for the remainder of the year and will pick back up in 2017.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** The Alliance for African Assistance had 99 arrivals for the month of June and expect 65 arrivals for the month of July. The majority of the arrivals are from Syria, Afghanistan, Congo, Iraq and Iran.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities had 95 arrivals for the month of June from Somalia, Syria, Iraqi and Haiti.
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** The IRC had 144 arrivals for the month of June, 100 of which were Syrians. The IRC currently has 80 arrivals booked for the month of July. David Murphy discussed that they are still hearing that there will be a surge in refugees in the next few months.

The State Department is still trying to hit 85,000 arrivals (10,000 of them being Syrian) by September 30, 2016.

- d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services had 43 arrivals for the month of June. The arrival numbers for Jewish Family Services is increasing, and they also mentioned that there has been a lot of travel changes for their arrivals due to the recent situation in Turkey.

5. *County Agencies and Committees*

a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**

- i. June 2016: 359 arrivals (26 Afghans, 4 Congolese, 13 Cubans, 5 Ethiopians, 30 Haitians, 5 Iranians, 112 Iraqis, 6 Sudanese and 158 Syrians)
- ii. Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Oct. '15-June '16) is 2,116 (33% Iraqi, 20% Afghan, and 14% Syrians)

b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggies Fenn):** No report

c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** No report

6. *Focus Presentation: Medi-Cal Managed Care Mapping and Registration Tool presented by Christine Murto, County Refugee Health Coordinator.*

- a. Christin Murto provided an overview of the Medi-Cal Managed Care Maps and App.
- b. The Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans and App are available of the San Diego Refugee Forum's website under the *Resources* tab.

7. *Spotlight Presentation: Somali Bantu Association presented by Said Osman Abigow*

- a. Ifrah Salad and Abdi Abigow provided an overview of Somali Bantu Association's services. For more information, visit their website at <http://sbaaa.org/>
- b. The Somali Bantu Association of America will be holding their annual celebration on September 17, 2016 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM at Colina Del Sol Park (5319 Orange Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105). This will be a cultural celebration featuring music, dance and delicious cuisine of the Somali-Bantu community. Tickets cost \$25.00 and all proceeds will benefit the Somali Bantu Association's programs impacting refugees in the community.

8. *Community Updates*

- a. The IRC San Diego's Microenterprise Program offers loans and business counseling to help you start or grow a small business. For more information, contact Bryndan Stueve at Bryndan.stueve@rescue.org.
- b. Nile Sisters Development Initiative will be holding Immigrant and Refugee Feminism Workshops for research purposes on July 27th and August 10th from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. To sign up, contact Marisa Meno at marisameno8@gmail.com.
- c. The County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services will be holding a Emergency Preparedness Workshop on Monday, August 15, 2016 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the Price-Charity Building in City Heights. For more information, contact Juan Olmeda at Juan.olmeda@sdcounty.ca.gov.
- d. The Karen Organization has a summer school program for Burmese youth. If you have any Burmese clients who would be interested in participating, contact the Karen Organization at 619.582.0783.
- e. The Lemon Grove City Council will be voting on the Welcoming Community Initiative today at 5:45 PM.

9. *Refugee Forum Business*

- a. Website Analytics this week: 163 Unique Visitors per week and 445 page views per week.
- b. Financials
 - i. Balance as of July 15,2016: \$9,046.32
 - ii. Current Paid Membership: 26 organizations/individuals

iii. Missing Payments: 16 organizations/individuals from 2015

10. Upcoming Presentations

- a. *Focus: Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination* presented by Branden Butler of the Legal Aid Society of San Diego.
- b. *Spotlight: AjA Project* presented by Dave Mathieson

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at IRC (5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105).

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2016 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Agnes Hajek, Alejandra Solorzano, Ana Lozano, Andrea Frost, Artemisa Valle, Bernard Dogan, Bill Jenkins, Bill Sutton, Branden Butler, David Murphy, Diana Rhoades, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Elaine McLevie, Erin Tsurumoto Grussi, Jennifer Navala, Kathi Anderson, Kelli Fitzgibbon, Kelly Wraight, Kirsten Moore, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Maria Mathioudakis, Marie Saint Louis, Melinda Chiment, Mohammed Tuama, Nawal Alkatib, Nikki Middleton, Paola Guzman, Rita Shamon, Sahra Nor, Sheeren Masifi, Susan Hagus, Tania Hormozi, and Vernita Gutierrez.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions at 10:35 am

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
 - i. July's meeting was being recorded by someone in the audience, which made members uncomfortable. Kathi requested that the meetings not be recorded by anyone.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** A representative for the Advocacy Task Force was not present.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force will meet again on August 25th at 3:30pm at Survivors of Torture International. Contact Elizabeth Lopez for the address.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force will meet again on September 6th. The meeting will focus on planning for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October and the upcoming Domestic Violence rally and walk.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** This month the Employment Task Force had a job fair to place job applicants with Walmart.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force did not meet for the month of August. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be September 14th from 1:00-3:00 PM.
- f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** The World Refugee Day Task Force is going dark for the remainder of the year and will pick back up in 2017. There is a new Co-Chair, Laurel Dolsted of IRC, to assist Maggie Fenn.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** The Alliance for African Assistance has 159 arrivals scheduled for the month of August and expect the arrivals to increase to over 200 by the end of the month.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** A representative for Catholic Charities was not present.
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** The IRC has 290 arrivals to date for the month of August.
- d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services has 95 arrivals scheduled for the month of August.

5. County Agencies and Committees

- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**



- i. *July 2016: 371 arrivals (40 Afghans, 1 Burmese, 52 Congolese, 17 Cubans, 6 Eritreans, 14 Ethiopians, 58 Haitians, 7 Iranians, 85 Iraqis, 12 Somalians, and 79 Syrians)*
 - ii. *Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Oct. '15-July '16) is 2,487 (31% Iraqi, 19% Afghan, and 15% Syrians).*
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggie Fenn):**
 - i. The Refugee State Coordinator for California convened a meeting with five other State Refugee Coordinators across the nation. At this meeting, Maggie Fenn presented on San Diego's Live Well vision and Kathi Anderson and Kirsten Moore presented on the Refugee Forum.
 - ii. The State Advisory Committee met in July. While the arrivals numbers for San Diego are high this month, the nation is still under the 2016 arrival ceiling of 85,000.
 - iii. The California Department of Social Services has created a new housing division aimed to address the overarching housing issues in the state. This division is not specific to refugees.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** No report
- 6. *Focus Presentation: Fair Housing presented by Branden Butler, Senior Attorney, Legal Aid Society of San Diego*
 - a. Branden Butler provided an overview of fair housing protections and rights. The PowerPoint presentation has been posted to the Refugee Forum's website.
- 7. *Spotlight Presentation: Aja Project presented by Melinda Chiment, Aja Project Executive Director*
 - a. Melinda Chiment provided an overview of how they use photography-based programming to transform the lives of youth and the community.
- 8. **Community Updates**
 - i. At the upcoming Imperial Beach City Council meeting on August 17th, the Mayor will proclaim the city as a Welcoming Community. The meeting will start at 6pm and the proclamation is first on the agenda. If interested in intending, please arrive by 5:45. The meeting is located at 825 Imperial Beach Boulevard, Imperial Beach, CA 91932.
 - ii. Tania Hormozi is conducting a research study for her Doctorate in Psychology (Marriage and Family Therapy) at Alliant International University on first generation Iranian refugees. She is looking for first generation Iranian refugees who are 18 years and older for interviews. For more information about the study and interview process, please contact Tania at thormozi@alliant.edu.
 - iii. License to Freedom will be bringing more legal services to San Diego for victims of crimes. More information about these services, including the dates and times will be emailed out to the Refugee Forum.
 - iv. Pastor Bill from the United Methodist Christ Ministry Center in Normal Heights briefly spoke about his church's work with the influx of Haitian migrants that have crossed the U.S.-Mexico Border. The church has become a "virtual refugee camp," with over 1,200 Haitian passing through the church since May of this year. The church has offered food, shelter, and other services to the refugees, along with helping them connect with friends and family in the United States.
 - v. San Diego Future's Foundation is offering a Digital Literacy Program for seniors 62+. They offer two classes to learn and enhance computer skills. The classes are offered at no cost. For more information, visit their website at <http://sdfutures.org/>

9. Upcoming Presentations

- a. *Focus: Citizens' Review Board on Police Practices presented by Sharmaine Moseley, City of San Diego*
- b. *Spotlight: A presentation on the Episcopal Refugee Network by Elaine McLevie*

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at IRC (5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105).

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:35 am

Present

Abby Maayah, Abdi Abdillahi, Afrah Abdulkader, Ana Lozano, Anne Hoiberg, Bill Sutton, Bob Walsh, Carmen Kcomt, Claire Bergstresses, Dalia Mohammad, David Murphy, Diane Rhoades, Donna Tang, Elaine McLevie, Gladys Martinez, Guerline Martinez, Jane Hoey, Jeff Bibler, Jessica Mier, Joel Day, Kate Morrissey, Kathi Anderson, Kelly Wraight, Kim Forrester, Kirsten Moore, Lauren Dalsted, Lisa DuMolt, Madeline Kristoff, Madelyne Wagner, Mariana Venegas, Michele Estill, Mohammed Tuama, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Neil Hovland, Nikki Middleton, Nora Bota, Oliver Cabana, Paola Guzman, Renee Nasori, Rita Shamoon, Sahro No, Sara Ramos, Sharmaine Moseley, Shlyn Guarian, Stephanie Rivera, Wendy Gelernter,

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
 - i. Kathi encouraged everyone to become a member of the San Diego Refugee Forum. Becoming a member allows you privileges, one of them being the opportunity to vote in the upcoming officer election in November, another being able to serve as an officer.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** A representative for the Advocacy Task Force was not present.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Task Force is still working on collecting all of the resources that are available for asylum seekers. The Task Force will be presenting to the Refugee Forum at the next meeting on October 18th.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The DV Task Force has been working on planning the Hope Rally. The Hope Rally will be on October 28th.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force had a job fair last Wednesday with Walmart. The event was successful, but they are still waiting for the numbers. The Task Force is also working on another job fair with the Marriot in El Cajon. The Task Force encourages anyone with a contact at the Marriot in El Cajon to contact the Task Force.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force is continuing to work on and distribute the Medi-Cal maps. The Health Task Force will meet again on November 9, 2016 from 1pm-3pm at Nile Sisters Initiative.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** The World Refugee Day Task Force will pick back up in January 2017.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Alliance for African Assistance has had 193 arrivals to date for the month of September.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** A representative from Catholic Charities was not present.
- c. **International Rescue Committee:**
 - i. IRC expects 390 arrivals for the month of September. For this Federal Fiscal Year, the IRC has had 1,365 arrivals (450 Syrian, 340 Iraqi, 180 Somali, 180 Afghan and 180 Congolese. The Federal Fiscal Year ends next week.
 - ii. David Murphy made the following announcements:

1. The sitting President, in consultation with Congress, determines how many refugees the United States will bring in for the next fiscal year. Obama is expected to announce sometime today that the U.S. will resettle 110,000 refugees next year, up from 85,000 last year.
2. However, it is up to Congress to approve appropriations for the Bureau of Refugee Population and the Bureau of Refugee Resettlement. With the increase in numbers for the upcoming year, there will need to be an increase in the budget which is expected to be around a 1-billion-dollars. Congress must agree on this budget.
3. There are many misconceptions about the refugee program here in the United States, one of those being the vetting process for refugees. David states that refugees entering the U.S. through the refugee program are the most thoroughly vetted people to enter the country.
4. The United States has been trying to take on more of a leadership role when it comes to refugee resettlement. Historically, the total number of refugees the U.S. resettles totals the amount the rest of the world resettles.

d. **Jewish Family Services:** A representative for Jewish Family Services was not present.

5. *County Agencies and Committees*

a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**

- i. August 2016: 741 arrivals (24 Afghan, 11 Burmese, 137 Congolese, 4 Cuban, 14 Eritrea, 2 Ethiopian, 79 Haitian, 17 Iranian, 102 Iraqi, 1 Rwandan, 15 Somali, 1 Sri Lankan, 8 Sudanese, 260 Syrian, 9 Ugandan, and 57 Zaire)
 1. This is the largest number of arrivals that the County of San Diego has seen in a single month.
- ii. Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Oct. '15-August '16) is 3,228 (27% Iraq, 20% Syria, 15% Afghanistan and 38% other).

b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggie Fenn):**

- i. Maggie Fenn was elected to the Vice Chair of the State Advisory Committee, while Mohammed Tuama was also elected as a community member.
- ii. The meetings will be held on a regular basis and the committee will be reporting out on the trends. They are acutely aware that housing is the biggest obstacle that new arrivals face, along with low literacy and high PTSD rates.
- iii. San Diego was first for arrivals in the state of California, with Sacramento behind it.
- iv. Obstacles that providers are facing with the Syrian population in San Diego:
 1. Many Syrian refugees do not speak English – some Syrians do speak French.
 2. Many Syrian refugees do not read or write in Arabic.
 3. Housing – particularly difficult for Syrians because many Syrians entering the U.S. have large families (around 10-14 children).
- v. San Diego has the largest Syrian population in the country.

c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.

6. *Selection of Nominations Committee*

- a. *According to the by-laws, there must be a Nominating Committee consisting of three members chosen from the floor. Kathi Anderson opened this up to the floor:*
 - i. *Nao Kabashima, Diane Rhoades, Nawal Alkatib and Maggie Fenn all volunteered.*

7. *Focus Presentation: What is the Citizens' Review Board on Police Policies – presented by Sharmaine Moseley, MBA, Executive Director, Citizens' Review Board on Police Practices, The City of San Diego*
 - a. Sharmaine Mosesly and Doug Case provided an overview of the Citizens' Review Board on Police Practices
 - i. Reviews and evaluates serious complaints brought by the public against officers of the San Diego Police Department of the City of San Diego.
 - ii. Reviews all officer involved shootings and in-custody deaths
 - iii. Reviews and evaluates the administration of discipline arising from sustained complaints.
 - b. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/citizensreviewboard>

8. *Spotlight Presentation: Episcopal Refugee Network – presented by Elaine McLevie, Episcopal Refugee Network Board of Directors President*
 - a. Elaine McLevie provided an overview of the formation of the Episcopal Refugee Network, the work that they do and how they collaborate with the San Diego community to serve refugees.
 - b. For more information, visit their website: <http://refugee-net.org/>

9. *Community Updates:*
 - a. PCG, in collaboration with other organizations, is offering a Small Business Workshop for Entrepreneur Newcomers on September 24, 2016 at 10am at 201 S. Magnolia Ave, El Cajon, CA 92020. To RSVP, email info@newcomersSD.org.
 - b. Alliant University is inviting Middle Eastern refugees to participate in a research interview for trauma research. Participants must be from a Middle Eastern country, at least 18 years of age when they left their home country and able to speak English, Farsi, or Arabic. For further information, please contact Sara Hiram at sarahiram@yahoo.com or 858-361-9228.
 - c. Joel Day is the new Executive Director of Human Relations Commission and International Affairs Board for the City of San Diego and is looking to partner with organizations in the community.
 - d. The Women's Museum of California is having a conversation with Dilkhwas Ahmed about her work with Yazidi women. The event starts at 6pm tonight. On Thursday the Women's Museum will be holding another event on the International Issues of Importance: Feminisms, Gender, and Islam in Asia. This event also started at 6pm on Thursday, September 22nd.
 - e. The District Attorney's office of San Diego has recently opened a CARE Community Center in National City. The CARE Center is a product of community collaboration with the DA's office aimed at actively linking individuals in the community to community-based prevention and intervention services with the goal of building strong community relationships and reducing crimes. This space is free to the community. For more information, contact their office at info@sdcarecenter.org or 619-356-4489
 - f. County of San Diego Child Welfare Services (located at Price Charities) has been conducting outreach in the community to communicate what their organization has been doing. They offer training to the community on how to identify child abuse. For more information, call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-344-6000

10. *Upcoming Presentations:*
 - a. A panel on Services for Asylum Seekers
 - b. A presentation on La Maestra by Carmen Kcomt

Adjournment: 12:00 pm Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at International Rescue Committee (5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105).

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Abby Maayah, Abdi Abdillahi, Alejandra Solorzano, Alex Gunn, Ana Lozano, Anne Hoiberg, Annie Ruttenber, Artemisa Valle, Arwa Zakir, Bernard Dogan, Bob Walsh, Carmen Chavez, Carmen Kcomt, Chris Chase, Dahlia Alzendi, David Murphy, Elaine McLevie, Elizabeth Camarena, Elizabeth Lopez, Erika Hess, Farrah Rahman, Guerline Jozer, Henri Migala, Jackie Kersey-Hardrick, Jane Hoey, Joyce Liou, Juan Estrada, Kate Morrissey, Kirsten Moore, Kim Forrester, Kris Jacobs, Kristen Maher, Laurel Dalsted, Madeline Kristoff, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Margaret Lujan, Marisa Alvarez, May Hasan, Mejgan Afshan, Michele Estill, Nawal Alkatib, Nicole Keeley, Niki Kalmus, Oliver Cabana, Rita Shamoan, Roberto Sarmiento, Scott Castillo, Sheri Easterly, Zach Bunshoft, Zsuzsa Kasermann,

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
 1. Balance: \$9,389.23
 2. Expenses: \$400 expense from the Health Task Force
 3. Incoming: Membership Dues: \$60.00
 4. Membership: 36 organizations and 2 individuals
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** A representative from the Advocacy Task Force was not present.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** Elizabeth announced that 211 wants to partner with the Asylum Seeker Task Force and is offering a tour of their offices to the task force and the Refugee Forum. Information about the date and time of the tour will be emailed out to the Forum. The Asylum Seeker Task Force is also still seeking resources and information for their resource guide. If anyone knows of any resources for Asylum Seekers please email Elizabeth Lopez at elowlaw27@gmail.com.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** A representative from the Domestic Violence Task Force was not present.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force will be meeting next week to discuss about creating resources that are available to the public via the Refugee Forum website. The task force also held a successful job fair at Walmart and plan to schedule another fair for assembly and warehouse jobs. If you have any contacts in this industry, please contact the Employment Task Force.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force did not meet in the month of October. The next Health Task Force meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9th from 1pm to 3pm at Nile Sisters.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** The World Refugee Task Force plans to meet in November and will send out the meeting information to the forum.

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** A representative from Alliance for African Assistance was not present.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** A representative Catholic Charities was not present.

- c. **International Rescue Committee:** *The month of September was busy for all and the IRC ended with 353 arrivals and are looking at 110-120 for the month of October – Syrians and Iraqi are the top arrivals followed by congo, somali and afghans*
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** A representative from Jewish Family Services was not present.
- 5. **County Agencies and Committees**
 - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. September 2016: 856 arrivals (76 Afghan, 10 Burmese, 1 Burundi, 77 Congolese, 3 Cuban, 2 Eritrean, 21 Ethiopian, 33 Haitian, 16 Iranian, 241 Iraqi, 3 Pakistani, 145 Republic of Congo, 74 Somali, and 156 Syrian).
 - 1. This is the largest number of arrivals that the County of San Diego has seen in a single month.
 - ii. Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Oct. '15-September '16) is 4,084 (27% Iraq, 19% Syria, 14% Afghanistan and 39% other).
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggie Fenn):** There aren't any updates from the State Advisory Committee. The Committee meets quarterly and the next meeting will be held sometime in December or January.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto did not have any updates.
- 6. **Nominations Committee, Maggie Fenn**
 - a. The Refugee Forum is now accepting nominations for the three open officer positions – Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The Nominations Committee will stop accepting nominations this Friday, October 21st. The Nominations Committee is also exploring the idea of allowing members who cannot attend the meeting vote online.
- 7. **Focus Presentation: A panel on Asylum Seeking and Services for Asylum Seekers**
 - a. Panelist: Elizabeth Lopez (Director, Southern California Immigration Project), Tammy Linn and Erika Hess (Senior Mental Health Clinician, Survivors of Torture, International).
 - b. California has the highest number of pending asylum cases in the nation – 95,101 pending cases.
 - i. 4,249 pending cases in San Diego County
 - ii. 3,612 pending cases in Imperial County
 - iii. As of March 2016, there has been a backlog of 144,000 cases national for Affirmative Asylum cases – which looks like a 5 year wait for affirmative. They are presently interviewing cases filed in 2011.
 - c. **What is the difference between Asylum Seekers and Refugees?**
 - i. A refugee and an asylum seeker are both defined as a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war or persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. However, refugees are assigned their legal status as a refugee abroad, while asylum seekers apply for their legal status as an asylee in the United States and demonstrate that their fear of persecution in their home country is well-founded.
 - ii. Asylum Seekers need certain evidence to get granted asylum, including but not limited to physical and psychological evaluations.
 - iii. Asylum seekers do not receive benefits from the United States Government until they are granted asylum, while refugees are eligible for benefits when they arrive in the US because they have already been processed outside of the US.
 - d. **What is the procedure for non-detained individuals?**
 - i. Non-detained means the person is free to have their case heard without remaining in detention.
 - ii. Non-detained cases take about 4-5 years on average.

- iii. Non-detained individuals can apply for work permits, which must be renewed on an annual basis.
 - e. Survivors of Torture, International serves both refugees and asylum seekers, although the majority of their cases are asylum seekers. Survivors serves about 250 peoples per year in office and 252 children through an after school program with El Cajon Valley Union School District.
 - i. Survivors offers medical and psychological evaluation to assist in collaborating evidence for court proceedings.
 - ii. They also offer case management and mental health services.
 - f. Children are eligible for the full scope of medical regardless of their immigration status
- 8. *Spotlight Presentation: A presentation on La Maestra by Carmen Kcomt*
 - a. Carmen Kcomt provided an overview of the services that La Maestra offers and their Human Trafficking program.
 - b. For more information on the services they offer, visit La Maestra's website: <https://www.lamaestra.org/>
- 9. *Community Updates:*
 - a. IRC will be hosting the annual fundraiser on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Hilton San Diego/Del Mar. Tickets are \$75 per person and \$400 for a group of 5 tickets. For more information, please contact Laurel.Dalsted@Rescue.org or 619-641-7510.
 - b. Women's Museum of California Events:
 - i. October 18th at 6:00 PM: Community Stories: Conversations with Refugee Women – How is San Diego Welcoming Syrian Refugees
 - ii. October 26th at 6:30 PM: WOSM Free Film Night: Making A Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA
 - c. Southwestern College will be holding a Refugee Awareness Week on campus on November 14-18 from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM at the Student Union Center.
 - i. Monday: Awareness Day for Students and Faculty
 - ii. Tuesday: School Supplies Donation Drive
 - iii. Wednesday: Refugee Organizations Fair
 - iv. Thursday: Refugee Festival with guest speaker: Pastor Bill Jenkins and food, drink and cultural performances.
 - d. The Newcomers Collaborative meets the second Tuesday of every month at the HHSA-East Region, 367 N. Magnolia in the large conference room. The Newcomers Collaborative is arranging and planning a Newcomer Fair for the Latino community. More information will be sent out to the Refugee Forum.
 - e. Marisa Alvarez from San Diego County Border Health announced that there will be another Emergency Preparedness workshop on November 30th and more information will be sent out through the Google Group.
 - f. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program offers legal help for immigrant and refugee victims of crime. For more information, call 619-564-6944.
 - g. Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services will be hosting their 6th Annual Family Nutrition- Health and Wellness Fair on Friday, November 18th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at St. Michael Chaldean Catholic Church. For more information, please contact Nawal Alkatib at Nawal.Alkatib@syhc.org.
 - h. Kirsten Hill Maher is a Political Science Professor at SDSU and will be teaching an upper-division course on immigration politics in the spring, including a special focus on issues specific to refugees and asylum-seekers here in San Diego. She is designing a service learning component so students can have first-hand experiences outside the classroom that will hopefully also meet the needs of organizations serving these populations. She will have about 45

students, all junior and senior political science or pre-law majors with a basic background on immigration policy and asylum/refugee law, who will be asked to commit a certain number of hours to service as part of the course. Ideally, they could fill roles that would give them some insight into refugee/asylee experiences. For more information, please contact Kirsan at kmaher@mail.sdsu.edu

10. Upcoming Presentations:

- a. *November 15, 2016*
 - i. *A panel on Refugee Resettlement: Similarities and Differences in VOLAGs*
 - ii. *Refugee Forum Officer Elections*

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: November 15, 2016 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105).

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Abdioahman Saeed, Aidee Roman, Annie Ruttenber, Artemisa Valle, Awichu Akwamya, Bisma Coda, Bethlehem Degu, Bill Sutton, Bridget de la Garza, Bob Moser, Celeste Caton, Dalia Alzendi, Danakur Lander, David Murphy, Diana Rhoades, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Elaine McLevie, Elizabeth Camarena, Elizabeth Lopez, Elizabeth Lou, Elizabeth Speech, Elizabeth Terrazas, Etleva Bejko, Eyal Bergman, Guerline Jozer, Habib Ali, James Gutierrez, Jane Hoey, Jennifer Navala, Jody Crimi, Joel Day, Joyce Lious, Juan Estrada, Kate Morrissey, Kathi Anderson, Kelly Wraight, Kevin Mitchell, Kirsten Moore, Kristelle Dealea, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Maha Abdulkader, Margaret Lujan, Mariana Venegas, May Hassan, Mejgan Afshan, Michele Estill, Mohammed Tuama, Monica Emery, Nadine Topozada, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Neil Hovland, Nora Bota, Oren Robinson, Phil Lunninghan, Rand Al-Urfali, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shamoon, Roberto Sarmiento, Sandra Candler, Scott Castillo, Sesen Negash, Shannon Wills, Sharon Steinbronn, Sysvahn Kabkeo, Vernita Gutierrez

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions

- a. Kathi Anderson (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
 - i. Treasurer Report: \$9,339.23 in the bank with 38 members.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers Kathi Anderson (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Madelyne Wagner (Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Sacramento Update from Sysvahn Kabkeo, Chief, State of California's Refugee Programs Bureau

- a. Sysvahn began by briefly discussing the election results and mentioning the following statement on the Governor of California's website: "In California we will do our part to find common ground whenever possible."
- b. In the 2016 Federal Fiscal Year, the United States resettled 84,945 refugees nationwide.
 - i. 12,000 were resettled in the State of California
 1. Of the 12,000, 1,450 were Syrians
- c. ORR will give a one-time addition of \$1.3 million dollars to California for refugee resettlement.
- d. The state of California is still awaiting the funding for the Refugee School Impact Grant.
- e. San Diego is projected to receive the same amount of funding for refugee resettlement as the 2017 Federal Fiscal Year.
- f. For more information and updates please go to the California Department of Social Services website: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/default.htm>

4. Election of Officers

- a. Nao Kabashima (Nominations Committee Chair) explained the election process and allowed the nominees to give a quick speech about themselves. Only members of the Refugee Forum were allowed to vote in the election.
- b. Rebecca Paida, Oren Robinson and Bridget de la Garza were elected as officers

5. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force will meet next Thursday, November 17th at 12:00 PM at Alliance for African Assistance.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylum Task Force did not have any updates.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** This year the Domestic Violence Task Force has brought a lot of resources to the refugee community and the goal next year is to work with youth.

- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force did not have any updates.
 - e. **Health Task Force:** Rebecca Paida announced that Madelyne Wagner was welcomed in as the new Co-Chair. Rebecca also reminded the Forum that the Medi-Cal registration maps are available on the website.
 - f. **World Refugee Day:** The World Refugee Task Force plans to meet next year and will send out information to the Forum.
6. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Alliance for African Assistance had 66 arrivals for the month of October and has 112 scheduled for the month of November.
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities resettled 850 refugees in the 2016 Federal Fiscal Year (1,100 if you include the number of Haitian migrants). Catholic Charities had 93 arrivals for the month of October and 52 scheduled for the month of November.
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** International Rescue Committee resettled 1,335 refugees in the 2016 Federal Fiscal Year. The IRC had 119 arrivals for the month of October and expect to have a similar amount of arrivals for the month of November.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services resettled 502 refugees in the 2016 Federal Fiscal Year. JFS had 45 arrivals for the month of October and expect 49 arrivals for the month of November.
7. *County Agencies and Committees*
- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. October 2016: 371 arrivals (46 Afghan, 29 Democratic Republic of Congo, 14 Cuban, 8 Ethiopian, 26 Haitian, 6 Iranian, 108 Iraqi, 2 Moldovan, 7 Republic of Congo, 36 Somali, 10 Sudanese, 76 Syrian, and 3 Ukrainian).
 - i. Total refugee arrivals into San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Oct. '16-Oct '16) is 371 (29% Iraq, 20% Syria, 12% Afghanistan and 38% other). The San Diego County Resettlement Agencies' arrivals report is a little higher than the state's arrivals report. Resettlement Agencies' reports include primary arrivals (tied and untied) and Asylees, Cuban/Haitians, Secondary Immigration and SIVs. For example, for October 2016, the 371 arrivals include 320 primary arrivals and 51 (asylees, Cuban/Haitians, Secondary Immigration, and SIVs). Please note that State reports these in different reporting category. That is why the monthly San Diego County resettlement agencies report is always a little higher than what the state reports on its arrivals.
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggie Fenn):** The State Advisory Committee meets quarterly and the next meeting will be held on December 8th. The meeting will be a public telephone conference and Maggie will send out the information to the Forum.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.
8. *Focus Presentation: Similarities and Differences among San Diego's Four Resettlement Agencies - Panelist: Bob Moser - Catholic Charities, David Murphy – International Rescue Committee, Etleva Bejko – Jewish Family Services and Elizabeth Speech – Alliance for African Assistance*
- a. 65 million people are displaced around the world, with one-third of the displaced being refugees.
 - b. Every year the U.S. President makes a determination of how many refugees will enter the country and the number is set to 110,000 for 2017. This number is broken down by region and then the U.S. State Department with further define those numbers by countries.
 - c. Refugees tend to be members of opposition groups, journalists, survivors of gender based violence, minorities and anyone who is in the most need of protection.
 - d. In the United States, there are nine refugee resettlement agencies (San Diego has four). The resettlement agencies meet on a weekly basis to discuss how the cases will be allocated out across the county. This is typically determined by if/where they have family in the county, if

there is an existing population in a certain city and/or if there is the appropriate infrastructure and resources such as mosques and churches.

- e. Bob Moser provided a brief overview of the refugee resettlement process in San Diego. You can find the overview on the San Diego Refugee Forum website under the resources tab.

9. *Community Updates:*

- a. December 10th is International Human Rights Day and PANA will be hosting a day of action. For information visit their website at www.panasd.org
- b. The Karen Organization is celebrating their 5-year anniversary on Friday, November 18th from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM at their office. It will be a community potluck event, so they ask you to please bring something to share.
- c. Intrepid Theatre Company is developing a project with the San Diego Unified School District to work with refugee students in a creative capacity, building a public art performance installation that would provide a more personal context for those who might be most directly affected by any major changes to immigration. This project will culminate in one public performance at the Horton Grand Theatre and then be transformed into a touring performance which will go into schools throughout the County. Tiffany Tang was looking forward to attending the meeting today to get a clearer context of the population to make sure that we are serving the community in the most constructive way and to get a better idea of the resources we can partner with as we move forward.
- d. Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services is hosting their annual health and wellness fair on Friday, November 18th from 1:00-4:00 PM at St. Michael Chaldean Catholic Church Hall.
- e. The Vision Justice Collaborative is providing free legal help for immigrant and refugee victims of crime. For more information, call: 619-654-6944
- f. May Hassan announced that the refugees that are currently staying in the hotels are in need of basic needs. Please contact May Hassan for collaboration: mayhasan@guhsd.net
- g. Cajon Valley Union School District has open part-time position for on-call Pashto, Farsi and Dari speakers. They will also have an upcoming open position for a community liaison.
- h. KPBS is putting together a Community Liaison Council in City Heights. They are looking for residents and community members to provide feedback. If you know of anyone in this community, please contact Tarryn Mento at tmento@kpbs.org
- i. Grossmont Union High School District is looking for a temporary Spanish interpreter and translator.
- j. Public Consulting Group will be having a job fair on Friday, December 9th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the PCG office in El Cajon. They are hiring for a few positions that are available at both offices.

- 10. The October minutes were approved.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: January 17, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (5348 University Aveue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Survivors of Torture, International

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bettina Haussman, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore, Madelyne Wagner, Nawal Alkatib, Ute Maschke

1. Transitioning Officers
 - a. Kathi, Nawal and Bettina will set up an appointment with Mission Credit Union to get new cards and add new signatures to the account.
 - b. All Refugee Forum documents can be found in the DropBox. Madelyne is working to add everything from the laptop to the DropBox.
 - c. The By-Laws should be revisited.
 - d. Lessons Learned from Nawal and Ute
 - i. Maintain a good relationship with the YMCA to continue to use the space for meetings.
 - ii. Continue to survey refugee forum participants and attendees to ensure a feedback cycle.
 - iii. Prepare presenters by familiarizing them with the Refugee Forum audience to ensure more depth in the presentations and conversations.
 - iv. World Refugee Day needs to be planned further in advanced. World Refugee Day should educate the public on refugee related issues, especially this year with the heightened awareness of the refugee crisis.
 - v. Ute believes that the Forum should bring in a refugee as an officer. The Forum officers agree that a refugee should be included as the "Officer at Large" and be in charge of social media.
 - e. Website: Madelyne will take over the website.
2. February Meeting
 - a. Focus: Resident Leadership Academy
 - b. Spotlight: San Diego Chapter of the National's Lawyers Guild on basic rights
3. Forum's Listserv
 - a. Madelyne will shut the Listserv down and start a new one. An email will be sent out to the current Listserv to notify them of the change.
4. Delegation from Japan and South Korea will be coming back April 3rd -9th

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 5, 2016, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
International Rescue Committee

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Kathi Anderson, Kirsten Moore, Nao Kabshima

1. Banking updates:
 - a. Banking will be the agenda for the next meeting. There was a discrepancy about Bettina's name on her driver license and on the credit card. It appears that the names were a little different. Will be discussed at the next meeting, so all is accurately recorded in our minutes.
2. New Google Group:
 - a. There were some concerns with registering to Google account instead of using members' own work email. We will be discussing this concern with Madelyne regarding which email address members would sign on the new listserv.
3. Purchasing on new laptop:
 - a. Attendees decided to hold on this topic to be discussed at next officer meeting
4. Plan for spotlight and presentations for this year:
 - a. Kathi mentioned that there will be a panel discussion at the next general meeting. The panel will consist of David Murphy of IRC, Erin from San Diego Immigration Rights Coalition, and Ramla Sahid of PANA regarding the Welcoming Communities. David Murphy already agreed, but Kathi still needs to confirm with Erin and Ramla.
 - b. Dana Richardson will be on the spotlight presenting RLA (Residence Leadership Academy).
5. World Refugee Day:
 - a. Nao discussed that this year's Refugee World Day to be held at Balboa Park. This was decided during after debrief discussion with the committee who organized last year's World Refugee Day.
 - b. Nao will ask Forum members at the next general meeting if anyone is interested in joining this year's World Refugee Day committee.
 - c. We may have a short meeting after the general Forum meeting with committee members who will be interested regarding the location, the date, and time for this year's World Refugee Day.
 - d. There will be a second meeting that will follow. During this meeting we will be discussing who will be the co-chair for the World Refugee Day.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 26, 2016; 4pm-5pm
United Nations Association, San Diego

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bettina Hausmann, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. Banking detail to be noted in our minutes
 - a. It is to be noted that Bettina Hausmann's official name is Bettina Seitz for banking purposes.
2. Google Groups/new listserv
 - a. The Google Group is up and running with increasing participants and few technical difficulties.
3. Minutes from last meeting
 - a. Abdi and Kirsten will submit the February meeting minutes to the officers for review.
4. Purchasing of new laptop
 - a. Madelyne will make a motion for the Forum to purchase a new laptop and necessary software at the next general meeting. Madelyne will research and provide an estimate for the laptop and software.
5. YMCA scholarship fund request
 - a. The Refugee Forum has been using the YMCA's community room for one year at no cost. Andrew Holets from the YMCA approached the Refugee Forum for a scholarship fund request of \$500, but the officers decided to donate \$250.
6. Bettina's sponsorship request from the UNA
 - a. The UNA is hosting an event featuring Ken Kennedy, the UN Assistant Secretary General and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syrian Crisis, who will speak on the work of the United Nations in Syria and neighboring countries. Bettina asked the forum officers if they would like to sponsor this event. The officers decided to support this event behind the scenes, but not sponsor it.
7. Focus Presentations
 - a. March: Live Well San Diego
 - b. April: Know Your Rights by National Lawyers Guild – Spotlight – Sacramento
 - c. May: TBD
 - d. June: Refugee Spotlight Month – Refugees who have gone above and beyond and accomplishments
 - e. IDEAS: Legal Aid – Housing Rights and Renter Discrimination, Refugee Health in San Diego, ORR D.C., Panel of VOLAGs, Health Department on Lead Poisoning, Meet the Funders Panel,
8. Spotlight
 - a. IDEAS: San Diego Library, Episcopal Refugee Network San Diego, Mental Health America, Project Shine (Possibly March), Somali Bantu Association, Workforce Partnership, Care, San Diego Future's Foundation
9. Website
 - a. Madelyne will revamp the website.
10. Welcoming America – City of Encinitas is now officially a welcoming community, which makes it the first city south of Los Angeles as of Wednesday, February 24th
 - a. There is also the option to become Welcoming Organizations – San Diego Refugee Forum is considering becoming a Welcoming Organizations – which is \$50 per year fee.
11. Remind organizations to pay their membership dues
 - a. Remind all Chairs of Task Forces that they must be members of the Forum in order to chair the Forum. A deadline of 30 days will be given to the task force chairs.
 - b. Bettina will email all of the chairs

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 1, 2016; 4pm-5pm
United Nations Association, San Diego

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bettina Hausmann, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. The meeting minutes have been reconstructed by Madelyne and sent to the Forum Officers to review.
2. All of the officers thought both presentations were great. The officers are grateful that Jaime Schroer Colbert could present on such last minute.
3. There will be a meeting with State Department officials at Catholic Charities in San Diego on April 12th at 3pm. The agenda has not yet been announced.
4. Madelyne will purchase a new laptop, Microsoft Office and a laptop case and submit the receipt for reimbursements. The Refugee Forum will donate the old laptop to the San Diego Future's Foundation.
5. Finalizing April meeting
 - a. Focus Presentation: Understanding Your Rights About Search and Seizure by Alex Landon of the National Lawyers Guild
 - i. Kathi contacted the FBI to inform them of the upcoming presentation topic and invited them to attend the meeting.
 - b. Spotlight: Update from Sysvahn Kabkeo, Chief of the State of California Refugee Programs Bureau
6. The Forum needs to send out an email to member organizations asking them to submit nominations for either refugees or asylum seekers to be recognized for their accomplishments. The nominees have to have lived here for five years or less.
 - a. Kathi will send out an email announcement next week.
 - b. Madelyne will create certificates for the winners and purchase frames (will submit receipt for reimbursement).
 - c. Bettina will purchase visa gift cards for the winners.
7. Reviewing this year's members and finances
 - a. Bettina will construct a list of the members that have paid their 2016 dues and will email the members that haven't paid.
 - b. Finances will be made more transparent.
 - c. Madelyne will create a list of the Task Force's Co-Chairs and send the list to Bettina. Bettina will ensure that every Co-Chair belongs to member organization.
8. Changing by-laws to allow for new task force (Advocacy)
 - a. Add Advocacy Task Force to By-Laws and put the amendment to a vote at either the May meeting.
 - b. Madelyne will email Ramla to get a description of the Advocacy Task Force.
9. Updating logo (Madelyne)
 - a. Madelyne proposed updating the Refugee Forum's logo to reflect the professionalism, reputable reputation and accomplishments. The proposed budget is \$5-\$15.
10. The officers will brainstorm short films (30-40 minutes) as a back-up plan for last minute cancellations
 - a. The officers will think of 30-40 minute videos to show
11. Kirsten will write thank you notes to all of the presenters.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 3, 2016; 3pm-4pm
United Nations Association, San Diego

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. May Meeting
 - a. Confirmation received from Dale Fleming from Live Well San Diego (Focus).
 - b. Confirmation received from Jennifer Geran from San Diego Libraries (Spotlight).
2. Client Recognitions in June updates
 - a. The Forum needs to get more nominations, as we currently have two. Kathi will send out another email reminder, announce at the next meeting and print the guidelines on the back of the agenda.
3. Meeting venue
 - a. Forum officers will look into new potential meeting spaces since we're running out of space.
 - b. The IRC could potentially host the meetings. Kirsten will confirm via email. The meeting in May will stay at the YMCA and we will move to the IRC in June.
4. Law Enforcement
 - a. Invite the FBI to present at a Forum meeting sometime in the fall.
5. Logo
 - a. Madelyne will change the colors of the Logo and announce the change at the next meeting.
6. Ideas for Videos
 - a. Film: A Boy Called Zain – Kirsten will send an email to the officers about the film and how we can get it.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 3, 2016; 4pm-5pm
United Nations Association, San Diego

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Betinna Hausmann, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. June meeting
 - a. New location: IRC 5348 University Avenue Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.
 - i. Kirsten will post signage at the IRC so everyone will be able to find the classroom.
 - ii. Kathi will contact Andrew Holets for him to notify the front desk at the Y of the venue change. Kathi will also put up a flyer on June 21 with the IRC's address.
 - b. Selection of nominees: Accepted all nominations
 - c. Madelyne will create certificates and frames (7).
 - d. Bettina will get visa gift cards for the nominations (5).
 - e. Kathi will send follow-up notifications to the nominators.
 - f. The Forum Officers will have everyone sign a photo release at the meeting.
 - g. Spotlight: Sysvahn Kabkeo and Bowa Tucker
 - h. Focus: Panel of refugee nominations with five questions for them to answer.
2. Finances:
 - a. Task Force Annual Allowances: \$500 per year
 - b. Number of members: 23 paid members
 - c. Bettina will send out another email to the previous members that have not paid.
 - d. Bettina will cross check with the Task Force co-chairs to ensure that they are all members.
 - e. W-9 requests: The Refugee Forum is not a 501c3, and not offering a service, therefore we cannot issue a W-9.
 - f. Bettina will give the treasurer's report verbally at the next meeting. We could add a password protected page to the Refugee Forum website that only members would have access to. This could include resources such as the financial reports.
3. World Refugee Day
 - a. The biggest obstacle this year is that the current location will not allow food to be sold at the location. Maggie is trying to figure out a way to have food at the event. They are thinking that maybe we could have people donate food.
 - b. We cannot set up the event until 12pm on the day of the event.
 - c. Entertainment is completely set up and booked.
 - d. Maggie is contacting both the Mayor and City Council member to speak at the event.
 - e. The flyer should be ready by Monday. Abdi will email this out to the officers.
 - f. Madelyne will add the San Diego World Refugee Day Facebook page to the website.
4. Finalize plan for rest of year (July thru November) – focus presentations, spotlights, special presentations, officer nominations for next year, other?
 - a. Focus Presentations:
 - i. July: Health Task Force, tentative
 - ii. August: Fair Housing - Branden Butler, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
 - iii. September: Citizen's Review Board on Police Practices – Sharmaine Moseley, City of San Diego
 - iv. October: Panel about Asylum Seeking and Services for Asylum Seekers, Elizabeth Lopez, Co-Chair of Asylum Seekers Task Force
 - v. November: Panel about Refugee Resettlement: Similarities and Differences among the VOLAGs, David Murphy, IRC; Bob Moser, Catholic Charities; Etleva Bejko, Jewish Family Services and ???, Alliance for African Assistance
 - b. Spotlight Presentations:
 - i. July: Somali Bantu Association, Said Osmann Abigow

- ii. August: AjA Project, Dave Mathieson
- iii. September: Episcopal Refugee Network, Elaine McLevie
- iv. October: La Maestra, Carmen Kcomt
- v. November: Officer Elections – no spotlight

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 15, 2016; 4pm-5pm
Survivors of Torture, International

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. Finalize August meeting
 - a. Focus: Legal Aid Society has confirmed.
 - b. Spotlight: Aja Project has confirmed.
2. Debrief July meeting
 - a. Medi-CAL mapping and Somali Bantu Association were successful presentations.
3. PANA's report/request for special meeting
 - a. Kathi informed PANA that the officers need to see the report before agreeing to host a special meeting.
4. World Refugee Day 2017
 - a. World Refugee Task Force has a new Co-Chair – Laurel from the IRC. The Task Force will need to find one more Co-Chair.
 - b. Will ask the Forum at the next meeting if someone would be interested in Co-Chairing the World Refugee Day Task Force.
5. Finances
 - a. Pool of candidates for the election will be small due to low membership.
 - b. Will bring membership forms to next meeting.
6. The Refugee Forum needs to purchase a virus protector for computer
7. SCORR will be here in San Diego and wants to have a lunch with the Refugee Forum Officers
 - a. Officers will do a conference call on Monday with Maggie Fenn to plan.
8. Next meeting date – August 26th

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 29 2016; 4pm-5pm
Survivors of Torture, International

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. Finalize August meeting
 - a. Focus: Legal Aid Society has confirmed.
 - b. Spotlight: Aja Project has confirmed.
2. Debrief July meeting
 - a. Medi-CAL mapping and Somali Bantu Association were successful presentations.
3. PANA's report/request for special meeting
 - a. Kathi informed PANA that the officers need to see the report before agreeing to host a special meeting.
4. World Refugee Day 2017
 - a. World Refugee Task Force has a new Co-Chair – Laurel from the IRC. The Task Force will need to find one more Co-Chair.
 - b. Will ask the Forum at the next meeting if someone would be interested in Co-Chairing the World Refugee Day Task Force.
5. Finances
 - a. Pool of candidates for the election will be small due to low membership.
 - b. Will bring membership forms to next meeting.
6. The Refugee Forum needs to purchase a virus protector for computer
7. SCORR will be here in San Diego and wants to have a lunch with the Refugee Forum Officers
 - a. Officers will do a conference call on Monday with Maggie Fenn to plan.
8. Next meeting date – August 26th

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 29, 2016; 4pm-5pm
Survivors of Torture, International

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bettina Hausmann, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. Next meeting – September 20, 2016
 - a. Focus Presentation: Citizens’ Review Board on Police Practices presented by Sharmaine Moseley, City of San Diego – **CONFIRMED**
 - b. Spotlight Presentation: A presentation on the Episcopal Refugee Network by Elaine McLevie – **CONFIRMED**
2. November elections and Nominations Committee
 - a. The By-laws state that a Nominations Committee must “consist of three members chosen from the floor. The Nominating Committee will meet beginning in September, at which time it will prepare a slate of officers to be presented to the membership meeting in November, when open nominations will also be solicited from the floor. Candidates must be nominated by a third-party; self-nominations will not be accepted.”
 - b. The officers will review the by-law position descriptions. Inform the Nominating Committee of the responsibilities and expectations for the Chair and Secretary positions.
 - i. Officer positions descriptions should be more detailed in by-laws.
 - ii. Bettina suggested the idea of creating a Membership/Outreach officer position to encourage more participation in the Forum from organizations and company outside of refugee service providers.
3. Debrief August meeting
 - a. Fair Housing and Aja Project were both excellent presenters.
 - b. Officers noted that the audience should be reminded that the presentation material will be posted on the website, and will also be placed in the back of the room.
4. Memberships/Finances
 - a. Membership dues: \$240.00
 - b. Expenses: \$101.97 (Antivirus)
 - i. Madelyne needs to email Bettina the refund receipt from the antivirus.
 - c. Total: \$9,458.34
5. Ramla’s request – updates?
 - a. Kathi still hasn’t received a copy of the report and Ramla has not contacted Kathi about the event in a while/
 - b. September 15th at 10 am at TBD – Next Advocacy Task Force

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 5, 2016; 4pm-5pm
Survivors of Torture, International

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bettina Hausmann, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore and Madelyne Wagner.

1. Next Meeting: October 18, 2016
 - a. Focus: Panel on Asylum Seeking and Services Asylum Seekers
 - b. Spotlight: An overview of La Maestra
 - c. Nominations Committee Meeting: Thursday, October 7th at 1pm at Karen Organization.
2. Debriefing Previous Meeting: September 20, 2016
 - a. Some Task Force Co-Chairs have not been present at the past few meetings. The officers believe it might be helpful for the officers to meet with the Task Force Co-Chairs quarterly to assess their work and whether or not the task force has been effective.
 - b. The Officers should maybe write out guidelines for the Task Force Co-Chairs – Bettina will find a template.
3. Finances/Memberships
 - a. Women’s Empowerment, Crittenton Services for Children and Family, New Americans Museum
 - b. Health Task Force Expense of \$400
4. Other Items/Updates
 - a. Abdi brought up the news that Texas pulled their Refugee Program and San Diego is expected to resettle more refugees due to this.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 4, 2016; 4pm-5pm
Survivors of Torture, International

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Kathi Anderson, Kristen Moore, Madelyne Wagner and Maggie Fenn

1. Nominations updates and discussion with Maggie Fenn
 - a. The Nominations Committee currently has three nominations for the three open positions. All three nominees expressed that they weren't very interested in the Chair position. Maggie and Abdi will be doing some more targeted outreach this week.
2. Planning November meeting
 - a. Sysvanh Kabkeo, Chief of the State of California's Refugee Programs Bureau will provide a brief update at the next meeting.
 - b. Kathi sent a confirmation email to all of the presenters and has only heard back from IRC and JFS.
 - c. Kirsten will confirm with David Murphy to give a general overview
3. Debriefing October meeting
 - a. The Asylum Seeker panel was a popular presentation that elicited many questions from the audience. The officers noted that many people are not aware of the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee.
4. Transition planning
 - a. November 17th meeting at 4pm
 - b. At this meeting, the officers will brainstorm presentation ideas.
 - i. Department of Labor
 - ii. Legal Aid
5. Other items?
 - a. Madelyne will have the Annual Report done by December 1st.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2016; 4pm-5pm
Survivors of Torture, International

Present: Bettina Hausmann, Bridget de la Garza, Kathi Anderson, Kirsten Moore, Madelyne Wagner, Oren Robinson and Rebecca Paida

1. Identifying upcoming challenges and areas of success to build on
 - a. Membership and attendance has grown in the past two years, which is both a success and a challenge. The IRC has been a wonderful place to host the meetings, but the room has quickly become too small for the amount of people attending.
 - i. When looking for a new meeting space is important to keep in mind the follow: parking, technology and central location.
 - b. Task Forces – some of the challenges surrounding the Task Forces include:
 - i. Co-Chairs of the task force’s must be members of the Forum.
 - ii. At least one of the Co-Chairs or task force members needs to attend the general meetings to provide an update on task force activities or provide one of the officers with a written update.
 - iii. Officers might want to consider quarterly meetings with the task force to determine their overall effectiveness.
 - c. By-laws – the new officers should consider either editing the by-laws or creating standards of practice.
 - d. Additional Successes:
 - i. The Refugee Forum’s website, logo and listserv have been updated.
 - ii. A new laptop has been purchased for the Refugee Forum.
 - iii. A lot of press has been attending the meetings. It is important to be aware and ensure that no one is recording or filming the meetings.
 - e. Suggestions from outgoing officers:
 - i. Kathi suggested that it is important to maintain contact with Sysvahn and the new ORR representative in San Francisco.
 - ii. Bettina suggested that the World Refugee Day event should strive to have a broader reach in the San Diego community and go beyond being an event for refugees and service providers. She suggested that holding the event in a more public place that has more foot traffic like Balboa Park.
 - iii. Madelyne suggested that everyone keep detailed records on the Refugee Forum’s laptop because a lot of information has been lost in the transition of officers in the past (i.e. Facebook and Twitter login information).
2. Determining who will have which officer roles
 - a. Rebecca Paida will assume the position of Chair from Kathi Anderson.
 - b. Oren Robinson will assume the position of Treasurer from Bettina Hausmann
 - c. Bridget de la Garza will assume the position of Secretary from Madelyne Wagner
3. Future Presentation Ideas
 - a. Members of Congress
 - b. Department of Labor
 - c. Legal Aid

