



Co- Chairs: Linette Escobar & Eva Iraheta
Secretary: Cristy Dieterich

SF-CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, November 14 2012 – 12:15 pm– 1:45pm

Host: SF Foundation

Welcome & Introductions –*Eva Iraheta (HSA-WDD), Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH), Linette Escobar, Daisy Reyes (LEN Institute), Zaw Phan (Newcomers Health Program), Clarisa Sanchez (Catholic Charities), Patricia Erwin (SF-DPH), Suyen Figuera (Arriba Juntos), Rebecca Randel (Sunset Project/BACR), Nate Dunstan (Compass Family Services/Family Shelter)*

Special Topic:

We had a delicious and diverse pot-luck lunch to celebrate during the final SF-CAIRS meeting of 2012! Pupusas, Chinese noodles, Burmese salads, pasta salad, green salad, veggies, cookies, brownies... Thank you everyone for a wonderful lunch!

SF-CAIRS 2012 Topic & Meeting highlights include:

- SF-CARIS website thanks for Elena Zlobina, volunteer from Upwardly Global. Check it out: www.sf-cairs.org

Lots of guest speaker panels on a variety of topics

- **Education:** CCSF, ESL, Catholic Charities programs
- **Legal Services:** Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC), MEDA Tax Program for low-income filers , “Basic Immigration 101” by Lucee Rosemarie Fan from USCIS San Francisco District, Community Relations Office,, Asian Law Caucus -Overview of Security Communities and TRUST Act Bill
- **Mental Health Services:** Survivors International, RAMS, Inc. (Richmond Area Multi-Services)-
- **Community member speakers** – Burma Refugee Family Network, Eritrean Youth for Change (EYC),
- **Community Services:** International Rescue Committee Northern California
- **Event:** June Refugee Awareness Month event at Arriba Juntos, talent/fashion show

Member Voices:

- *Daisy Reyes*-LEN Institute: shared how she has a better understanding of refugee needs and services that helps her with her work of job training for refugee students.
- *Linette Escobar* – co-chair: expressed appreciation for the educational Burmese and Eritrean community presentations.
- *Patricia Erwin* –former co-chair and co-founder of SF-CAIRS is happy to see the continued success of SF-CAIRS!
- *Suen Figuera*-*Arriba Juntos* shared that by being an SF-CAIRS member she has learned a lot and is better able to serve clients and the communities served by Arriba Juntos.
- *Nate Dunstan*: being an SF-CAIRS member is a great way to stay connected with refugee services, providers and news.

Program Updates:

* Members may share info and resources by sending an email to the group at:

sf-cairs@googlegroups.com
New Website: www.sf-cairs.org



Attending members provided program updates including:

Nate Dunston – Compass Family Services/Family Shelter. Nate is the new director of the Family Shelter: <http://compass-sf.org/programs/family-shelter> The 22-room shelter provides housing and 6-months case management services to families with children under 17, or women at least 7 months pregnant. Recent families include Ethiopian and Eritrean families (non-refugee).

Zaw Phan – Newcomers Health Program – program provided 204 health assessments and supportive health services to asylees and refugees this past year. Newcomers helps asylees and refugees connect with other resources through partner agencies. Asylees made up 89% of those seen this past year with fewer refugees. Top countries/languages this past year were China, former Soviet Union, Spanish-speaking, Nepal.

Clarisa Sanchez (CCCYO) - If you know of any young men and women who may qualify for deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), CCCYO is holding informational/document review workshop every Wednesday (10am & 2pm) at 180 Howard. Fee is \$40, with waivers available. More information and resources are available at <http://community.cccyo.org/>. New San Mateo office is now open holding immigrant workshops and providing low cost legal services.

U-visa clinic/workshop held at the Women's Bldg. Open to all including service providers to learn and share info.

Linette Escobar: - is the new English Literacy teacher at the Wellness Center based at SF-General Main hospital, 2nd floor. Classes will be conducted in English (at a learning level) to learn about various health topics. Dates TBA soon.

Eva Iraheta: One Stop centers are within agency settings. Send email to Eva for locations: eva.iraheta@sfg

SF-CAIRS will be inviting Mission Asset Fund: a nonprofit organization helping financially excluded communities - particularly low income and immigrant families become visible, active, and successful participants in the US, financial mainstream. Their program, [Lending Circles for Dreamers](#) is a social loan and match savings program that helps remove the financial barriers to applying for deferred action. Mission Asset Fund is offering San Francisco Area participants the chance to get a 33% match that will reduce the cost of applying for deferred action. Here is the link: <http://missionassetfund.org/about>

Rebecca Randel: Sunset Russian Tobacco project continue work for smoke-free buildings and policies. Contact Rebecca to meet with building project managers to discuss policies and enforcement. RRandel@bacr.org

Daisy Reyes: Classes at LEN Institute are ongoing and open to all to learn business and computer skills.

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Suen Figuera: Arriba Juntos is receiving food donations and is able to now provide breakfast and lunch to clients as well as continue the community food pantry on Thursdays. ESL classes are offered in the evenings along with after-school care.

Discussion Items:

- SF-CAIRS Leadership roles for 2013 are open! See Linette’s email and the leadership role descriptions. One planning meeting by phone is needed to prepare the next SF-CAIRS meeting. Contact any of the current leaders with questions. They will provide support through leadership transitions. It’s a fun way to stay connected!
- SF-CAIRS Website – updates – Refugee Awareness Month photos are posted - check out all the great resources by category! www.sf-cairs.org and your agency listing under “About Us”. Any feedback or changes, please contact Cristy – cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org
- Eva Iraheta, SF Refugee County Coordinator, and Co-Chair of SF-CAIRS reminded everyone that she is the liaison for any request to Sacramento for refugee support.
- Nate provided SFUSD contact for “transitional students/family” support. He can be invited to present services and learn about SF-CAIRS member services
- Continue using the list-serv to share info and activities, including HHS announcements
- Proposed January 2013 topic: Various DACA services, financial assistance, fraud information. Presenters TBA.

Upcoming Year Plan:

- New Leadership roles
- Continue the “theme/topic” meeting style.
- Survey members for topics and guests, use list from evaluations
- establish action committees
- Delve into what are the challenges and possible links for collaborations
- More participating member for Refugee Awareness Month
- And More!

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 9th 2012 – 12:15pm– 1:45pm – Host: SF Foundation

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