



Co- Chairs: Linette Escobar & Eva Iraheta

Secretary: Cristy

Dieterich

## SF-CAIRS Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 – 12pm– 01:30pm

San Francisco Foundation, 225 Bush St. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco

**Welcome & Introductions** – *Linette Escobar (BACR), (Cristy Dieterich (Newcomers Health Program), Douglas Vasquez (Welcome Back Initiative/Center), Eva Iraheta (DHS), Lobsang Thinley (Newcomers Health Program), Cecily Victor (Upwardly Global), Grace Lau (Refugee Transitions), Patricia Erwin (SF-DPH), Olga Radam & Alisa Vigil (Sunset Russian Tobacco Project), Daisy Reis (LEN Institute), Suyen Figueroa (Arriba Juntos), Nora Goodfriend-Koven (City College of SF Interpreting Program)*

**Review of last meeting** - *Eva* – New co-chairs and secretary announced. Revise list of special topics and guest speakers. 2010 Year-in-review. 2011 Meeting dates and times set.

**State announcements** - *Eva* – As county refugee coordinator, Eva receives updated info and will share with members. Eva distributed recent “refugee arrival” data from CA. The report does not include “asylees”. Eva will distribute the state form so that these numbers can be collected and submitted to the state to demonstrate needs and services. Eva reviewed RCA (refugee cash assistance) program, requirements and time limits. This information is posted on SF-CAIRS Google Docs RCA General Requirements. See link here:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=explorer&chrome=true&srcid=0B1cd70PIh2xQOTZmMDZkY2ltZDRmZC00MmJkLWJlZjUtMWMYzDA1MDBhMWUz&hl=en>

**June Refugee Awareness Planning** – *Cristy* – send an email to Cristy for publicizing your agency’s RAM events – including date/time/location/event or activity details/contact info. Cristy will follow up with IRC, Suyen at Arriba Juntos, and Cici at Survivors Intl’ for events to publicize among our group.

**Refugee Summit** April 13-14 in Sacramento – *Eva*

<http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/cdss/refugee11/index.htm>

\*\* GUEST PANEL: Employment training opportunities, strategies and educational support:

**Cecily Victor** Community Outreach & Job Seeker Services Advisor from **Upwardly Global** - when you refer a client to Upwardly Global, Cecily reaches out to the client right away. UpGlo works exclusively with professionals (must possess a bachelors degree from outside the US), 2 years professional experience outside US, fairly good English and have permanent work authorization. UpGlo provides comprehensive

job seeker training and practice, including resume writing tailored for immigrant professionals, interviewing skills, networking skills. Clients receive 1-1 support and mentorship with a volunteer in their field. Even if someone does not have English skills they will be referred to City College and will receive follow-up from UpGlo and can participate in the UpGlo program once they more comfortable with the language. UpGlo has a large Employer Network including employer training on hiring and working with immigrants. From January 1 – March 9 UpGlo has placed 28 people in permanent jobs with benefits as well as several in contract positions. This year UpGlo is focusing on placing Health Care professionals. UpGlo also looks beyond the person's immediate degree and examines what other skills they have for job placement. UpGlo has an upcoming workshop in San Jose. Encourage your qualified clients to complete the simple online application or call or email Cecily with their name and contact info. Cecily Victor 582 Market St. Suite 1207 San Francisco, CA 94104 Phone: 415-834-9901 [cecily@upwardlyglobal.org](mailto:cecily@upwardlyglobal.org)

**Suyen Figueroa**, Case Manager/Employment Specialist from **Arriba Juntos**

AJ works as part of the HSA/RCA program. Clients of RCA may be referred to AJ for services. AJ provides VESL classes, Certified Nurse Assistance and Home Health Aid training and basic computer skills, 1-1 support as well as lunch. The aim is to find a permanent job for Refugee clients. AJ has a network of placement agencies and partner agencies including the SF Food Bank in which each client receives a weekly bag of food. AJ provides access to interview clothing. AJ can refer clients to obtain rent support and other financial supportive service agencies. Free computer skills and ESL (level 1-5) classes are provided to all community members, not just refugees and asylees. AJ also provides after-school programs for clients. CalWorks recipients will receive childcare while client is in classes.

Classes and services are held 9-3:30 M-F. <http://arribajuntos.org/index.html>

**Daisy Reyes – LEN Institute**

LEN Institute also works with the HSA/RCA program. RCA or other agency must make referral to LEN. Clients served include: EDD, CalWorks, Department of Rehabilitation, Refugees. LEN focuses on ESL classes and vocational training. LEN also offers, computer classes, bookkeeping classes with QuickBooks, front desk medical office. LEN makes referrals to their employer network including Mercy Housing, Mission Neighborhood HealthCenter, Office Team (admin office and medical work). Many placements have been successful.

**Douglas Vasquez - San Francisco Welcome Back Center (SFWBC) / Welcome Back Initiative (WBI)**

The Welcome Back Initiative (WBI), with 9 Welcome Back Centers replicated across the U.S., was first developed in San Francisco in 2001 to build a bridge between the pool of internationally-trained health professionals (ITHPs) living in California and the need for linguistically and culturally competent health services in underserved communities. WBI assists immigrants and refugees, previously trained in healthcare professions in their countries,

to navigate the licensing process so that they may re-enter their chosen professions in the communities where they and their families reside.

Please refer any internationally-trained health professionals to Douglas

[dvasquez@ccsf.edu](mailto:dvasquez@ccsf.edu) . <http://welcomebackinitiative.org/sf/>

Douglas Vasquez, Management Assistant, San Francisco Welcome Back Center

[www.welcomebackinitiative.org](http://www.welcomebackinitiative.org) Office: 415-561-1833 Fax: 415-561-1948

### **Nora Goodfriend-Koven – Health Care Interpreter Certificate Program at City College.**

Upcoming orientations are being held on 4/27 and 5/4 in the Multi-Use Building Room 140. The program is for those with proficient English and their other language and culture. Health care knowledge is not necessary but health terminology is covered in courses. The two semester program is offered in evenings and Saturdays. There are currently 13 languages in the program and there is a need for new language programs including Farsi, Urdu/Hindi. Estimate cost is \$36 per unit, program is 15 units.

Graduates receive a CCSF certificate. Part of the program includes internships where some students end up being hired. The program also invites language service vendors to graduation to help students network. See webpage and curriculum:

[http://www.ccsf.edu/Departments/Health Education and Community Health Studies/new%20hci/hci-prog/interp.html](http://www.ccsf.edu/Departments/Health_Education_and_Community_Health_Studies/new%20hci/hci-prog/interp.html) Contact Nora for more details: [ngoodfri@ccsf.edu](mailto:ngoodfri@ccsf.edu)

### **Funder panel proposal - Funding trends and opportunities for member agencies- *Linette***

In past meetings and through work of the resources group, there were discussions for both seeking formal funding for SFCAIRS as a coalition as well as holding a discussion with Bay Area Funders about the current immigrant services in SF and needs that still need to be met. Patricia and Cristy shared that SFCAIRS did write a proposal a few years ago, but it was not submitted due to lack of collective need on behalf of SFCAIRS. As part of Linette's research on bringing funders to SFCAIRS, she contacted the Marin Community Foundation (MCF) about the idea. MCF recommended that individual agencies invite current funders to hear about what current agencies are doing. Linette invited members to consider inviting their funders to an SFCAIRS meeting to learn about what is being done for the community and to see how your own agency is a part of a bigger coalition of partners. Discussion will continue around agency, SFCAIRS and funder needs.

### **Agency updates, current initiatives, events, announcements etc.**

- Eva:SF is sponsoring programs to increase employment during recession – JOBS Now –version 2 provides up to 6 months salary/\$5000 to non-profit employers to hire eligible applicants. The agency pays for any benefits. Available to CalWorks participants. <http://www.sfhsa.org/1537.htm> Contact Bernadette Santos 415-401-4849, [Bernadette.Santos@sfgov.org](mailto:Bernadette.Santos@sfgov.org)
- Nora: Alameda County Behavioral Health Services –offering Free Mental Health Interpreter Training. Participants must live and work in Alameda county. Call Agnes 510-383-1502

- Nora: *Voice of Love* - Current development for interpreter and provider training for those who interpret for survivors of extreme circumstances (torture, war). Provides support to the interpreters.
- Linette: Sunset Tobacco Project is looking for housing managers to support non-smoking housing. Contact Linette with housing leads or contacts with low-income housing managers: [lescobar@bacr.org](mailto:lescobar@bacr.org)

Meeting Evaluation

**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 – 12pm– 1:30pm**

### **SF-CAIRS Mission**

*SF-CAIRS aims to serve San Francisco Bay Area asylee, immigrant and refugee communities and its service providers by:*

- ❖ *Expanding knowledge and access to health, employment, social, education and legal services;*
- ❖ *Supporting advocacy efforts through coalition-wide networking, information sharing, cross-referrals and community education; and,*
- ❖ *Identifying and addressing challenges faced by immigrants at personal and societal levels.*