



Co- Chairs: Linette Escobar & Eva Iraheta

Secretary: Cristy

Dieterich

SF-CAIRS Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 11th 2011 – 12– 1:30pm

San Francisco Foundation, 225 Bush St. 5th Floor San Francisco

Welcome & Introductions – *Linette Escobar (BACR), (Cristy Dieterich (Newcomers Health Program), Eva Iraheta (DHS), Grace Lau (Refugee Transitions), Alysia Vigil (Sunset Russian Tobacco Project), Suyen Figueroa (Arriba Juntos), Nora Goodfriend-Koven (City College of SF Interpreting Program), Maria Gullen (SF Dept. of Aging and Adult Services), Ildar Hafizo v(Intl'Institute of the Bay Area), Hyun-mi Kim (API Legal Outreach)*

Review of March meeting - *Linette* – March highlights – Eva gave refugee arrival and benefits data. Guest panel: Employment Opportunities – Upwardly Global, Arriba Juntos, LEN Institute, Welcome Back Center, City College of SF Health Care Certificate program. Keep exploring funding options for the coalition. Agency announcement such as JOBS Now info.

State Announcements - *Eva* – Important CalWORKs benefit changes that take effect July 1. Impact on refugee benefits/CalWorks and RCA. Decrease 8% in cash-aid for everyone (see summary attachment). CalWORKs time limit reduction from 5 years (60 months) to 4 years (48 months) max, going retroactive. If the adults in the case had received 48 months of aid by June 2011, the adults will be discontinued but children will remain on program. FoodStamps may increase. The Disregard for the non-exempt earned income calculations will change. The Cal-Learn (pregnant and parenting teens)Program is suspended for a one-year period. Childcare services only for children under 10 years or younger. HSA/CalWORKs is currently reviewing individual cases. "Notices of Action" letters will be sent to participants via mail in limited languages and recipients may not understand the changes. There may be lots of confusion. Call Eva with any questions. 415-557-5638. (see attachment notice).

June Refugee Awareness 6/24 12-2:30pm at Arriba Juntos– Cristy–. Linette sent flyer via email for agencies to modify and promote among staff and clients. If you and your agency would like to participate at this event please let Cristy know the following by June 10th: cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org

- Your agency and how many staff members will attend
- If you will provide agency information and would like table space
- If you will bring cultural food to share
- If you/staff/clients will participate in the talent show (dance, sing or fashion)
- If you have a presentation
- If you have participatory activities

SF-CAIRS Website – *Cristy* – [googlesite/website](#) Intern needed! This site can have links to all member agencies, a list of immigrant resources (for agencies and clients) meeting notes, announcements etc. We need help setting it up. We are looking for an SFCAIRS member or an intern with interest in website development. Please let Cristy know. She will meet with them, provide guidance etc. To see the SFCAIRS site so far look here:
<https://sites.google.com/site/sfcairs/home>

**** GUEST PANEL: Social Services**

Maria Guillen, Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) - 1650 Mission St. 415-355-6784. maria.guillen@sfgov.org Website: <http://www.sfhsa.org/DAAS.htm>

The Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) coordinates services to older adults, adults with disabilities and their families to maximize self-sufficiency, safety, health and independence so that they can remain living in the community for as long as possible and maintain the highest quality of life. DAAS' Goal: that people are not prematurely institutionalized! Services are out there to help individuals remain in their own homes.

DAAS funds about 45 different non-profit agencies providing services to seniors over 60 including services for adults with disabilities (18 yrs and up).

DAAS has current funding for legal service providers to put together the publication: *Senior Rights Bulletin*, which covers all types of legal topics. Contact Maria for hard copies.

Adult disability services help individuals avoid home evictions through; case management, mental health services and support programs for Hoarders & Clutterers, home delivered meals, para-transit services and others.

DAAS has updated senior housing lists and is part of Senior Action Network, that helps with SRO accommodations, Chinatown cultural food pantry with food and assistance with delivery.

Federal funds and general funds for aging services provide flexibility in services offered. DAAS has it's own commission that meets once a month. Funds current SFCAIRS member agencies IIBA and APILO. There is a hard copy of services at www.sfgov.org/daas see "Learn about Social Services for Seniors" and "Make a IHSS Referral".

Other DAAS services;

- Through Adult Protective Services; Elder Abuse and Neglect cases are assigned to a social worker and other agencies as cases need.
- Public guardian and public administration office takes care of Public Conservator program
- In-Home Supportive Services – helps keep people in their homes Funded Community Programs with \$600,000 (may be a cut of 1/3 depending on budget cuts):
- Naturalization program – help with citizenship process.
- Legal Services providers (APILO provides legal services) language access
- Asian Law Caucus – legal services

- IIBA – naturalization classes, ESL, citizenship prep classes, 1-1 and legal assistance, public presentations
- Jewish Family and Children Services – classes open to assistance to all immigrants, looking to expand African assistance
- Self-Help for the Elderly – large Asian population
- Mission Neighborhood Centers & Centro Latino – senior ESL and citizenship classes, including application assistance
- La Raza Centro Legal – classes, legal assistance

Current Three-Year Funding for:
 Senior Centers and nutrition/food sites
 Financial management services
 Case Management programs with cultural and language access.

Current RFPs for Senior Companions, Senior Day Centers (see sfgov website for RFPs).

Services at senior centers, food are open to all. Specific services may be available only for SF residents, depending on the agency contract.

Ildar Hafizov Director, Accredited Representative, SF Immigration and Citizenship Program, *International Institute of the Bay Area*. IIBA was founded in 1918 with a focus on refugee resettlement issues and has changed focus to family based immigration services with three offices; SF, Oakland and Redwood City. Activities include: family-based immigration legal services, ESL and citizenship classes, U-visas and VAWA cases, legal representation. IIBA staff provide Community Education to immigrants and agencies working with immigrants. Presentations cover updates on immigration law and policies, immigrant rights and responsibilities. Oakland office hosts “Deportation Clinics” for a nominal fee with private immigration attorneys who provide counseling, and eligibility checks, and connections with legal representatives for reduced cost or pro-bono options.

Any group or agency can contact IIBA for information or presentations.

Contact appropriate office program director to schedule a presentation for your agency.

- Oakland – family based immigration, citizenship, U-visa, VAWA, Deportation Clinic
- SF – family based immigration, citizenship, U-visa, VAWA, ESL and citizenship classes
- Redwood City – family based immigration, citizenship, U-visa, VAWA, inadmissibility waivers
- Contra Costa office –TBA in fall.

Staff language access includes English, Spanish and Russian, and staff will work with individual’s interpreters.

** Ildar Hafizov ihafizov@iibayarea.org 415-538-8100 x205

Cristy Dieterich, Newcomers Health Program. Located at SF General Hospital, Refugee Medical Clinic. We are funded to provide health assessments, health access and health education to refugees, asylees, parolees from Cuba and Haiti and certified victims of human trafficking, however we also help everyone gain access to necessary health care. We have 6 health workers, speak and professionally interpret 11 languages and half of our staff has personal experience with the asylum process. We provide

many resources and referrals to other agencies and community organizations and events as part of our view that good health is more than a medical check-up. To inquire or make referrals call our clinic site at 206-8608. Or email cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org or samira.causevic@sfdph.org

Agency updates, current initiatives, events, announcements etc.

- Suyen: Arriba Juntos has a current raffle. Fund will support a recent program cut. Tickets are \$25 with top prize a 2011 Honda Fit or \$16,000 cash. Plus \$6,000 in other prizes. Contact Suyen for tickets 415-487-7834 (See scanned flyer)
- 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
- Nora: City College of SF has summer classes this year! Special sessions for high school students/college prep.
- 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

Meeting Evaluation results below.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 13th 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.*