



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

SF-CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, July 11th 2012 – 12:15 pm– 1:45pm

Host:

Welcome & Introductions –Eva Iraheta (HSA-WDD), Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH), Daisy Reyes(LEN Institute), Suyen Figueroa (Arriba Juntos), Nate Dunstan, Alina Reynish, Rachel Taber (IRC), Margaret Cohen (IIBA), Danya Marshman (Arab American Cultural Center), Rosemarie Fan (USCIS)

Highlights from May 9th, 2012 Meeting –

- Eritrean Youth for Change (EYC), *Yonas Woldeab* presented Eritrean refugee/asylee historical and current trends and Bay Area support services through EYC.
- LEN Institute video from ABC's Focus on Solutions:
<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/video?id=8602451&syndicate=syndicate§ion=>
- SF-CAIRS Website sneak peak premiere –<http://www.sf-cairs.org/>

Special Topic:

“Basic Immigration 101” by Lucee Rosemarie Fan from USCIS San Francisco District, Community Relations Office.

630 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA 94111 lucee.r.fan@uscis.dhs.gov

- Send Rosemarie an email if you want to be on the e-advisory list and specify groups such as “refugee, asylee” announcements. lucee.r.fan@uscis.dhs.gov
- Rosemarie provided an overview of immigration process including green card and citizenship process.
- Take away message: Rosemarie is your bridge between community and USCIS process, inform community members to know the eligibility requirements, and to tell the truth on applications.
- Brochures were distributed in English, Spanish and Chinese, including “The Wrong Help Can Hurt” regarding immigration scams. Many other languages can be downloaded from www.USCIS.gov along with other useful and reliable info.
- **Deferred Action - not in action yet!** Check www.USCIS.gov for updated info.
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals provides work authorization and social security card, but is not a path to citizenship. Process expected to open mid-August and will last for 2 years depending on outcome of permanent reform.
- Whether to apply for Deferred Action is a personal choice as there is no guarantee what the situation will be in 2 years.

Agency Profile:

International Rescue Committee Northern California

Audra Brown, Development Manager - (Rachel Taber presented in place of Audra)

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

sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

New Website: www.sf-cairs.org



Audra Brown 510-452-8222 Audra.Brown@Rescue.org 405 14th St. #1415, Oakland, CA 94612
New ED Hans Van De Weerd.

- Network of offices located in Oakland, Sacramento, Turlock, San Jose.
- 650 refugees resettled per year served such as those from Burma, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Mongolia, Eritrea
- Employment services for refugees and asylees for first 180 days of receiving status, and resettlement services for refugees for first 180 days of arrival
- **Programs provided concurrently:** www.Rescue.org/NorthernCalifornia
 - o **Reception and Placement**-initial resettlement; provide refugees with essentials such as an housing, food access, Social Security card, health care, and then community resettlement such as ESL classes and other acculturation assistance. **IRC clients only.**
 - o **Employment-Matching Grant Program** job preparation and attainment. IRC new summer program for teens and children of refugees, asylees, and immigrants – **for IRC refugees or referred asylees.**
 - o Igor.Radulovic@Rescue.org Oakland office.
 - o **Career Training, Professional Recertification, and Scholarships, open to any refugee or asylee**
 - o **Immigration Assistance-** Low cost services: ESL citizenship classes- **open to all immigrant**
- **New Programs Coming:**
 - o **Financial Literacy**-Free 3 week introduction course; **open to any immigrant** who has been in the U.S. for less than 5 years
 - o **Health Access:** in Alameda county. Providing access to public health, mental health, and well-being, including home-visits with education related hygiene, and health self-sufficiency. Program will begin in September. **Serving refugees mainly for now**
 - o **New Roots Community Farm Program**-Food access and security, providing transportation to 3-acre plot in Pinole. Education on micro enterprise. **IRC can accept referrals of other immigrants as this program is also part of a larger community collaboration to serve low-income immigration populations.**
- **Referrals:**
 - Asylee or staff can contact Audra to access services be directed to the appropriate program.
- **If any agencies are interested in collaborating or have recommendations of organizations doing similar work in our new program areas please contact Audra**

Community Actions:

- Refugee Awareness Month - On **June 20**, **SF-CAIRS member Arriba Juntos** hosted a **Refugee Awareness event**. It was a great success with about 150 people in attendance, 12 performances, and many cultural costumes! Thank you to the members who participated –

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APILO, Newcomers, Red Cross, Sunset Russian Tobacco program. We'll plan again for next year!

Discussion Items:

- SF-CAIRS Website – any updates? Send email to Cristy : cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org
- Future guests and topics - Please let Eva or Cristy know if you have contacts at agencies that SF-CAIRS would like to invite or present at upcoming meetings.

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

- Newcomers Health Program: Anti-Human Trafficking trainings available at your site. Recommended for anyone working with vulnerable populations. Contact Cristy 415-581-2479
- SUNSET – Continuing work on policies for smoke-free housing. Staff can come out to site to speak with property managers. Contact Olga Radom for more info: oradom@bacr.org 415-682-1972.

Meeting Evaluation

Next meeting: **Wednesday, Sept 12th 2012 – 12:15pm– 1:45pm**

SFCAIRS Meeting Evaluation:

San Francisco Coalition for Asylee, Immigrant and Refugee Services

Meeting Date: [7/11/12](#)

N= 8

Format	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The time of the meeting was convenient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 (12%)	7(88%)
The location of the meeting was convenient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 (12%)	7(88%)
The length of the meeting was appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2(25%)	6(75%)
Time was used efficiently.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3(38%)	5(62%)

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What topics or panel would you like to see presented for future meetings? (If you know of a speaker on a specific topic, please provide the speaker's name and contact information if possible.)

- Notario Fraud
- Housing such as Compass or Radio
- ICE: What do we need to know about the "monster?"

* Are there other community partners or agencies who could add to the work of SF CAIRS?
If yes, who?

- Refugee Transitions
- Catholic Charities
- Arab Cultural Center

* What did you enjoy most about today's meeting?

- Update about USCIS
- Networking, Meeting new people
- Great information
- Presentations were productive/good use of time
- Immigration Topics
- Presentations were good length
- Learning more about immigration

Please share any additional comments:

- Great meeting
 - None/NA
-

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