

Co- Chairs: Linette Escobar & Eva Iraheta

Secretary: Cristy Dieterich

SF-CAIRS Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 13th 2011 – 12– 1:30pm

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

Welcome & Introductions – (*Cristy Dieterich (Newcomers Health Program), Eva Iraheta (DHS), Suyen Figueroa (Arriba Juntos), Cecilia Lipp (Survivors International), Hyun-mi Kim (API Legal Outreach), Douglas Vasquez (Welcome Back Center), Adoubou Traore (African Advocacy Network)*)

Review of last meeting - Social Service Panel guests. See past emailed notes and attachments for details and info.

- Maria Guillen, Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)

- Ildar Hafizov Director, Accredited Representative, SF Immigration and Citizenship Program, *International Institute of the Bay Area*.

State announcements – Eva will continue to send State updates to the email list. See attached Calif Refugee Arrivals announcement. SF numbers are expected to increase. Eva will be requesting data from agencies to report refugee and asylee numbers to the state.

See attached USCIS info, specifically Citizen Awareness Initiative initiative. And #8 Haiti TPS extended 18 months.

Refugee Awareness Month event – wrap-up –Eva Arriba Juntos hosted the event, which was attended by 250 individuals. There was a fashion and talent show. AJ is looking to host it again next year and implement feedback received. Thank you SF-CAIRS member Arriba Juntos who worked very hard for a successful event!

**** Guest Panel: Domestic Violence & Mental Health Resources**

- *Survivors International (Cecilia Lipp, Program Director)*

SI provides clinical services to survivors of torture and gender based violence in SF and East Bay. Referrals come from attorneys often to obtain psych evaluations conducted through a network of clinicians. SI also provides psych assessments and history documentation during 3 hour sessions. After assessment, clients may continue with long-term therapy, and SI helps with additional links to social support services. SI provides both immediate psych evaluation as well as 6, 12, 18 month check-ins with clients to assess their status.

SI does not have drop-in hours for therapy but their doors are open to clients as a means of providing connections and support.

SI's Gender-based violence project includes a monthly facilitated groups of Latina DV survivors, not necessarily currently victims but with violence and issues from the past, loss of family connections, resettlement, asylum applicants.

Other treatment centers tend to only focus on torture.

SI works primarily with asylees and asylum seekers, and are not limited to documented refugees. Their network allows for multi-service referrals.

Majority of SI clients have co-occurring issues with domestic violence, such as political prosecution, violence,

Referral process: agency or client refers - may call or use the form on the website. SI coordinates with the referring agency to work out logistics. Turn around time from initial referral to complete reporting is within 6-8 weeks.

Staff language capacity is Spanish, Eng, French, Portuguese. SI work with interpreters provided by agency or client.

SI is always looking for volunteer interpreters.

<http://www.survivorsintl.org/>

- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach/Asian Anti-Trafficking Collaborative (Hyun-mi Kim, legal case worker and educator on human trafficking).

APILO has 9-10 staff attorneys working on DV programs, representing clients in DV and sexual assault cases related to restraining orders, child and spousal support, VAWA act and U-visa applications. They also help with paperwork for social service referrals.

APILO works with Narika (East Bay) and Asian Women's Shelter who refer many clients. Everyday a staff attorney conducts phone intake and the staff decides to take cases on pro-bono or sliding scale.

- Legal letters are provided so that clients may apply for benefits. Letters and advocacy statements are provided to the Dept of Human Services for those in filing process.
- Community education activities: violence is not just an immigrant issue, but is a problem to be addressed by everyone in the US. Youth DV Prevention program focuses on health relationships via events and other teen outreach through local school districts.

As a social justice agency, low-income, mono-lingual immigrant communities are priority. APILO refer clients to partner agencies for other services. APILO has SF and Oakland office with 8-10 languages on staff and is part of The Asian Anti Trafficking Collaborative – along with Asian Women's Shelter and Narika – and is the only legal organization that provides comprehensive legal services to trafficking victims.

Clients are commonly referred by law enforcement or self-referral. APILO is able to write legal declarations, filing with legal offices, taking case to court, preparing and accompany clients for court, help to obtain legal status and adjustment of status and link to social service benefits, housing, ESL and vocational training, family reunification cases.

APILO offers free drop-in legal clinics in Daly City and SF. (SCHEDULE?)

APILO also has an attorney on staff that deals in elder abuse cases.

Referral Process: the client or agency may call, but APILO will want a direct meeting with the client as soon as feasible. If APILO cannot provide service, they always provide a referral.

* APILO is focused on prevention in trying to change policies and consciousness about violence and human trafficking, immigrant and labor rights and addressing what policies are the cause these issues.

www.apilegaloutreach.org

SF Mental Health Resource List (Cristy) – A UCSF resident at the Refugee Medical Clinic created an Adult and Child Mental Health Resource list, which has been extremely useful at the clinic. Please let Cristy know if you have any resources to add. See attached lists.

Agency updates, current initiatives, events, announcements etc.

Arriba Juntos – the raffle for a car or \$16,000 is still on! Drawing is on 7/29. Contact Patricia 415-551-1963 for tickets.

African Advocacy Network : 2nd anniversary on June 15th. Current priorities are **Legal Services** based on community needs of the African and Afro-Caribbean communities. AAN helps with adjustment and immigration documents, which are sometimes not seen as priority for many community members who think of themselves with “temporary residency” and plans to return to Africa. The African communities in the Bay Area are quite small and segregated and they deal with many racial and immigration issues. AAN focuses on community organizing, building trust, helping with immigration papers, community education and networking.

AAN is current waiting for legal “V/BIA certified”

Outreach efforts via radio, churches and mosques, many associations,

AAN is the only African organization in SF providing Free legal services, including evening hours. AAN has 11 languages on staff.

http://africanadvocacynetwork.org/AAN/About_Us.html

SFCAIRS invites any member agency to come to a meeting and provide an agency profile, community profile and/or community issue. The information will be shared among the entire SF-CAIRS network.

Meeting Evaluation

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 14th 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.*