

SF-CAIRS Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 9-11am

Host: American Red Cross

1663 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103

Welcome & Introductions – *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Grace Lau (RT), Grace Lau (RT), Victor Magallanes & Gustov Rivas (Arriba Juntos), Diana Landino (ORR-SF), Cameo Taylor & Nicoli Mischel (JVS), Naomi Pease, Karl Pfeifer, Mercedes Rodriguez (ARC), Alexandra Sajben & Rachel Goldman (Partnership for Trauma Recovery), Luis Quiroz, Jamie Richardson, Rich Whipple (OCEIA) Tony Tran (Family Caregivers Alliance), Jadma Noronha (Tahirih Justice Center)*

Partner Agency Presentations:

Refugee Transitions (RT) Programs in SF - Grace Lau, Program Coordinator

- Serving refugee, asylee, and immigrant communities and students throughout the Bay Area. Goal to assist newcomer families in becoming self-sufficiency in the US by providing services to help them attain the English language, life, job, and academic skills they need to succeed in their new communities. Three program areas: Education, Family Engagement, Community Leadership.
- *SF Program for Adults:* English, Life Skills, Vocational Home-based Tutoring/Mentoring and Computer Classes, Family Support & Community Building, Leadership Development.
- *SF Program for Youth:* Home-based Tutoring, After-School Tutoring, Family Support & Community Building, Youth Leadership, Summer Camps, Early Childhood Development Program.
- RT partners with SF and Oakland International High Schools for after school and home-based tutoring for students in the country less than 4 years.
- Partner with Good Samaritan Family Resource Center for English classes. Childcare and development classes available. Call Good Sam for enrollment 415-401-4253
- Oakland classes also available. Contact Sandra at 510-761-1946.
- RT enrolling students in SF for Home-based Tutoring, English Language & Life Skills classes.
- See attached for referral info for Home-Based Tutoring. RT will contact interested students and explain the programs and plan to assess ESL level for matching with a tutor.
- Staff Spanish, Chinese, Burmese, Arabic language capacity.
- Student application available in multiple languages.
- RT has 250 new and returning volunteers who make a minimum 6-month commitment.
- Volunteers can apply online. New Volunteer Orientations are held every other month. A ***new group of volunteers will be ready in February*** to be matched so send referrals.

New Online Immigration Help Tool:

Richard Whipple | Deputy Director - Programs

Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs | City & County of San Francisco

- OCEIA supports gathering of immigration services, and Language Access Ordinance policies. Ensure SF is a welcoming community to immigrants. Link between immigrant community and SF city services.
- Citizenship support with Pathways to Citizenship workshop – free legal assistance.

- Connections to other immigration legal services. SF Immigrant Legal Defense Council – attorney-of-the-day service.
- Challenges: Immigration and legal landscape changes constantly. People get bounced around to agencies. Need trusted providers.

Immigrant Support Hub website tool – direct support providers to assist immigrant communities to best legal referral.

- <https://immigrants.sfgov.org/> - Online tool to help people connect to free to low-cost immigration legal help in SF. Results are agencies that the city funds. No private attorneys.
- “Find Help” button to answer 4 initial questions for customized results. Filter by language.
- Citizenship eligibility, deportation counseling, Rapid Response hotline info for Bay Area counties.
- Results are sorted alphabetically. May be waitlists due to high demand.
- Contact OCEIA for any immigrant immigration services.
- The OCEIA team can come to your site to review with your staff.
- The unsigned leaked executive order has caused fear to access social services. Legal advice/General Immigration Screening is important in the changing immigration climate.

Announcements, Events:

- **Jadma Noronha, Tahirih Justice Center** – providing legal immigration services for victims of gender-based violence. Bay Area office opened in 2016. 100 clients, often referred by other agencies. Asylum cases, T and U-visas, VAWA. No waitlist. Staff are available to come to your agency for service overview. Office is in San Bruno, across from BART station. Serve all of Bay Area. Policy Department addressing barriers at national level.
- **Victor Magallanes, Arriba Juntos**, accepting referrals for new asylees, T-visa holders and other immigrants for ESL training program.
- **Tony Tran, Family Caregiver Alliance**; Funding for services for elderly and disabled. Focus is on caregiver support regardless of income. IHSS, respite, and support groups available. Low usage among Hispanic and API communities. Family consultant can do assessment. Qualifications:
Contract with legal consult for free or discount services. Tony is available to come to your agency to share info.
- **Alex and Rachel, Partners for Trauma Recovery** - free mental health services in 20 language capacity. Address individual needs with trauma-informed lens. No limit on sessions. Open to all asylees and refugees who have suffered international human rights abuses.
- **Cameo Taylor, JVS** – job skills and programs happening: Job Search Accelerator (monthly), paid Veterinary Assistant Apprenticeship (April 2018), CMA (March 2018), Tech Career (January 16) . Eligibility: can work in the US and pass ESL level, SF residents. Flyers attached.
- **Naomi Pease, American Red Cross’ Restoring Links** can help search for missing family members. Support for Families of missing migrants in disaster area and crossing southern border.

- **Nor-Cal Asylum Benefits Orientation** -. Friday, January 12th - 1:15pm. 75 Hawthorne St. SF. If you are not accompanying a new asylee please email Cristy.Dieterich@sfdph.org to get on the security list. The next one is February 9.

Networking & Meeting Evaluation

Evaluation questions with responses:

- * What topics or panel would you like to see presented for future meetings?

Information on recently approved asylum cases.

More opportunities to collaborate between counties.

Housing

- * Are there community partners or agencies who could add to or benefit from the network of SFCAIRS?

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

Hearing about different resources and agencies helping to support refugees from multidisciplinary team perspectives.

The collegiality and efficiency

The networking.

Connecting with other providers

Connect with other agencies.

The whole meeting and having the opportunity to network with other attendees.

Send group emails to: sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

2018 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 10, Apr 11, Jul 11, Oct 10

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 11, 2018– 9-11am

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