

SF-CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 11, 2017 9-11am

Host: American Red Cross

1663 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103

Welcome & Introductions – *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Eva Iraheta (SF-HSA), Daisy Reyes (LEN Institute), Claudia Gey (JVS), Evan Xu (DOR), Derek Polka and Francesca Costa (SF/Marin Food Bank) Vlad Komanovsky, (SF-HSA), Amy Lee, (Jubilee Immigration Advocates), Naomi Pease, Isabel Charles, Elyse Tran (American Red, Loren Krame (RAMS), Erin Quinn (ILRC), Hatixhe Grbeshi (MHRC), Rosalinda (MLVS)*

Via phone: Bowa Tucker (ORR), Sysvanh Kabkeo (Refugee Programs Bureau)

Partner & Agency Presentations:

American Red Cross “ Restoring Family Links” - Naomi Pease, Naomi.pease@redcross.org
American Red Cross helps families to reconnect with their families and alleviate suffering of families who were separated internationally by war, disaster, immigration and other humanitarian agencies. If you are interested to start an inquiry you can email American Red Cross at nccrfl@redcross.org or you can call 1-844-21-6710 in the Northern Coastal Region. Other Restoring Family Links services are: Certificate of Detention, Travel Documents, Holocaust & WWII tracing, and Health and Welfare.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center - Erin Quinn – Bequinn@ilrc.org

For case immigration question support you can email them at “attorney of the day” aod@ilrc.org and they will get back to you within 2 to 3 days. They prefer email than a phone call.

If you need “Rights Red cards” go to www.ilrc.org to request free cards to share in order to protect undocumented and in transition immigrants of their rights not to be questioned by immigration. Card are available in print form in Spanish and English, you can download PDFs and print your own in other languages.

Q&A and info to share with community members:

Sanctuary City status: local enforcement will not cooperate with federal enforcement.

- Federal enforcement would be challenged in SF.
- Asylee applicant can be arrested and held.
- Instant deportation
- Pending refugees, asylee, etc. can be detained, but not deported and have right to court hearing. Affirmative cases then become defensive cases.
- Immigration cases can take up to 5 years. So not necessary to take voluntary departure. Don't sign!
- Immediate Deportation only for those already deported, order of deportation, have no fear of returning to home country.
- Federal Immigration laws take many years to change.
- Email ILRC/“Attorney of the Day” with questions or more info.

Erin from ILRC leads a quarterly **liaison meeting with CBO and the USCIS office**. Participation from CBOs is needed and it's a great opportunity to have face time with the UCCIS SF lead office. Next meeting is 4/13. Please email Erin to receive announcements. equinn@ilrc.org

American Red Cross “Emergency Kits” – American Red Cross, International Services and Service to the Armed Forces - Isabel Charles – isabelle.charles@redcross.org and Elyse Tran elyse.tran@redcross.org

American Red Cross are setting and presenting community disaster preparedness like the “Pillow Case” program that they work with elementary students, “Red Cross Ready” working with the elderly at retirement homes. They also have “Home Fire Campaign” Install fire alarm and they teach you how to be prepared and prevent home fires.

Email for a presentation at your organization. They have translators as well.

elyse.tran@redcross.org

ARC has a surplus First Aid kits. If you are interested in getting some of this kit email Isabelle and tell her how many kits you need. isabelle.charles@redcross.org

SSI/SSDI program – Hatixhe B.Grbeshi, J.D, MHRS. – Disability (SSI & SSDI) Claimant's Representative- Hatixhe@santaclaralawgroup.com - Santa Clara Law Group <http://santaclaralawgroup.org>
Phone: (408) 453-3500

Provides services regarding SSI/SSD program services and the overlap with medical waiver services

Lots of misunderstanding of eligibility and enrollment of these program.

Outreach to individuals to support them to become productive community members. Ensure there is clear understanding that one can collect SSI and still work.

Services and support are a form of prevention and promoting health, inclusivity, individuality, contributions.

Hatixhe is available to provide longer more detailed presentation to your agency.

Please contact Hatixhe to work on advocacy efforts to improve Social Security community understanding through community relations meetings. County and state level welcome. (see powerpoint)

Department of Rehabilitation - Evan Xu, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor– Wxxu@dor.ca.gov. Employment services to help immigrants with disabilities to get work. To be eligible you must, authorized to work, issues preventing from obtaining work such as mental

and/or physical barriers, and be motivated to join the workforce. Services include:

Assessments and support including trainings to re-join workforce.

Individualized Plan for Employment and Training

Career education/training, Job search/interview skills, Job coaching, on-the-job training.

Placement in various fields/janitorial, security, HR, medical assistant.

1-2 years follow-up with case manager.

Clients to prepare medical documentation and know type of skills/education they want to gain.

Referrals: Schedule intake with DOR: 415-904-7100 – www.doe.ca.gov

301 Howard Street, 7th fl, San Francisco. (see powerpoint)

Refugee Programs Bureau Chief, Sysvanh Kabkeo

Refugee Programs Bureau, State Refugee Coordinator Sysvanh.Kabkeo@dss.ca.gov

Updates: US arrivals 25,671 refugees to 28,000 by 1/2019.

- SF County has continued funds of \$164,000.

- SFUSD receiving refugee schools impact grant with provider orientation and TA for school providers.
- Contra Costa County funds to be redistributed to other 8 Nor. Cal counties
- CA Refugee Summit planned for 8/29-30 in San Diego. Planning committee opportunities available. Email Sysvanh.Kabkeo@dss.ca.gov
- ORR Career Pathway grant approx \$3million to organization that help refugee professionals qualify for US licenses, certificates, etc. Contact RPB for more info.
- Syrian Support program from CA Endowment Martin Zogg/IRC – for Refugee Resettlement Agencies to focus support on all refugees, with emphasis on Syrian population.

Agency Updates and Announcements

SF / Marin Food Bank CalFresh Outreach Program - Francesca Costa – fcosta@sfmfoodbank.org

– Provides assistance to low income households. CalFresh Hotline -

CalFresh alleviates financial stress, increases access to healthy food but CalFresh is an underutilized program! Only about 50% of eligible SF/Marin are receiving benefits.

CalFresh is NOT a public charge benefit.

SF-Marine Food Bank provides:

- Direct Services: outreach, prescreening, application assistance, available for follow-up, advocacy, questions. Collaborate with the county social services and can follow up on cases.
- Extensive trainings for intake, case managers. One day training at food bank.
- Assistance trouble shooting and advocacy, case information.
- Agencies can send referral on behalf of client.
- \$50 per approved application.
- Myth busters

415-549-7021. Apply online – www.getcalfresh.org or www.mybenefitscalwin.org

(see powerpoint) outreach materials in Spanish, English, and Chinese were shared.

JVS – “**Bank Works**” - Claudia Gey cgey@jvs.org – New program Bank Works is offering training for careers in financial services. Eight-week training program starts 1/23. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am-4pm classes. Eligibility: have authorization to work, high school diploma, and 6 months customer service / cash handling experience. JVS has 7 bank partners and a 75% placement rate. To apply online – jvs.org and go to link financial services for applications. Assessment on basic math and English skills.

Charles Mingyi Zhu charles9@stanford.edu – Grad student from Stanford – “United Invitations” Hosting dinners for refugees and immigrant for networking, community and integration.

“We are a group of four Stanford MBAs and Computer Science majors taking the Design for Global Challenges course focused on refugees and asylees. We're inspired by a simple idea that's been effective in other countries - dinners to melt cultural barriers(see NYT [writeup](#)).”

Do you know of asylees and refugees in the area looking to learn more about the Bay Area? Let us invite them over for a free dinner to help with long-term integration into the area.

We're hosting a dinner on Stanford campus and would love to welcome one or two families in an intimate setting for a dinner to test the experience. We're looking for someone who might

be interested, can make it down to Stanford, and can be flexible in terms of timing. Can you help us invite a family? Email charles9@stanford.edu.

Evaluation questions with responses:

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

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness, any presentation about services and programs for asylee, immigrant, and refugee children.

Refuge/asylee/immigrant youth in school, ie, SFUSD, Oakland, services available, needs.

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

MEDA – Mission Economic Development Agency

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

Resources!

Presentations! Thank you for the opportunity.

Very relevant presentation considering today's political climate.

Summary of info.

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

2017 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 11, Apr 12, Jul 12, Oct 11

Next meeting: Wednesday, Apr 12, 2016– 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*