

# SF-CAIRS Meeting Notes

January 8, 2020 – 9am– 11am

Host: Office of Refugee Resettlement – SF office  
90 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SF  
one block from the Civic Center BART station, between Market and Mission  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Welcome & Introductions** – *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Diane Landino, Bowa Tucker, Julie Munro (SF-ORR office), Hadley Aeckmann (Oasis), Erika McClorey (Arriba Juntos), Grace Lau (Refugee & Immigrant Transitions), Andy Beetley-Hagler (SF-HSA), Andrew Ciscel (CCSF's CHW program), Rich Whipple (OCEIA), Niki Mobini, Casandra Lopez (Tahirih Justice Center), Andy Beetley-Hagler (SF-HSA), Go Funai, Juliana Jaynes, Christine Medeiros, Ola Alani (ARC), Atif Javed (Tarjily), Wendi Ellis (ACF-HHS)*

## Partner Agency Presentations:

### **American Red Cross (ARC) - Restoring Family Links, International Services**

Christine Medeiros, Restoring Family Links Regional Lead, Disaster Action Team Lead  
American Red Cross, International Services

ARC provides support for immigrant families through International Services. ARC also has a Service to the Armed Forces to help veterans and families.

Family reunification when there is major US disasters including preventive and restorative services. ARC is the largest humanitarian organization in the world with fundamental principles to relieve the suffering of humanity. 190 national societies. 9000 families supported and connected with 90 coordinated countries.

International Services programs in the US: Restoring Family Links, International Humanitarian Law, Youth Action Campaign.

**Restoring Family Links** – connecting families who have been separated by war, disasters, forced migration or any humanitarian crises

Services include:

- Tracing inquiries to locate and connect missing family members (“family” widely defined)
- Red Cross family messages – including photos and documents.
- Attestations & Travel Documentation – ARC can show proof of detainment if person at Red Cross participating facility. Can obtain travel documentation to leave US for another asylum country when there is no valid passport or visa.
- Referrals to other resources if outside scope of ARC.
- Free multi-lingual helpline 844-782-9441.
- Online form or Local Red Cross Office or Partner Referral –
  1. Request initiated by a client, info and as much detail provided to begin search
  2. ARC Headquarters to send to:
  3. ICRC or a National Society
  4. Service is delivered to local caseworker
  5. News is shared – good or bad, along with mental health provider support to share

Service limitations may exist such as conflict, geography, county without Restoring Family Links reciprocal service.

Christine is doing outreach to schools, agencies, forums, community centers, outreach events. Contact Christine to schedule a Learn & Lunch events with program staff.

[christine.medeiros@redcross.org](mailto:christine.medeiros@redcross.org)

### **Disaster Preparedness for Newcomers –**

Wendi Ellis, ACF Regional Emergency Management Specialist (Region 9)

Share *How to keep safe* materials with newcomer clients/families: What did you need to stay safe in home country and transfer those tips. Local CA earthquake experience may be unknown to newcomers. The Big One visual guides are available. Earthquake guidance alliance.

Share about making a communication plan similar to one from home country. Understanding school as a planned support safe space. Plan for 3-7 days to care, feed yourself and maintain in a safe space. When resources are tight suggest low-cost food, water supplies. Know about NERT/CERT groups to learn tips or take full course of CPR, First Aid, etc.

Cooking fires are common especially when using new/different equipment. Have an escape/meet-up plan, know how to use a fire extinguisher. **Local CERTs will install smoke alarms for free.**

ORR preparedness booklet with checklists available. Contact Wendi for materials:

[wendi.ellis@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:wendi.ellis@acf.hhs.gov)

### **Overview of ORR Mental Health First Aid Training – contextualized into refugee experience**

Parangkush (PK) Subedi, Health Program Analyst

Mental Health First Aid courses available. 8hour training. Address anxiety, depression, trauma, suicidal, substance abuse. Review risk factors, warning signs, making action plan, assess, connect to support systems.

The curriculum is contextualized into the refugee experience, examples of refugee communities, educational level that has different experiences, gender, country, camp experience, culture, cultural humility, biases. Promote understanding and considers stigma about mental health. Create a pool of volunteers to support clients with skills to respond to severe mental health issues.

Trainings started in 2014 in response to suicide rate among Bhutanese refugees.

#### **To host a training:**

Contact PK. Local instructor will be linked to you. Purchase of training manual: \$19 per person- State Refugee Coordinators can use funds for manuals. Some copies are available for local orgs in need. Provide venue with projector/video access, refreshments/lunch. ORR cannot provide the food. Direct service staff and community members most benefited from training.

Contact PK : [Parangkush.Subedi@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Parangkush.Subedi@acf.hhs.gov)

### **2020 Census and SF Counts Efforts**

Richard Whipple OCEIA - Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

[richard.whipple@sfgov.org](mailto:richard.whipple@sfgov.org)

OCEIA funds programs that serve immigrants and are the lead for the City's Language Access Ordinance compliance and the 2020 Census outreach. Contact us at [SF2020.Census@sfgov.org](mailto:SF2020.Census@sfgov.org) if you have questions about the City's census efforts.

## What is the Census?

- 9 questions per household – questions about individuals in household, no citizenship question.
- First year the Census is digital – postcards in a few languages sent out to household to tell them to go to a computer to a website with a few languages. Potential language barrier.
- Go online to complete the Census
- The count impacts community funding and civic representation.
- Census date April 1, 2020.

## Why does it matter?

- California is at stake of losing a seat to another state if population count is down.
- **Each person not counted is equal to almost \$20,000 in federal funding not received in CA (over ten years).**
- Census data is used to determine federal funding allocations for many projects and programs in local communities across SF (i.e. SNAP, Section 8, Head Start, etc)
- SF supervisorial district boundaries are also determined using decennial census data.

## What's happening in SF?

OCEIA distributed community grants for outreach, and has launched a Citywide campaign for participation – [SF Counts](#)

Newcomers and immigrants are some of hardest communities to reach, especially in light of the immigrant climate of fear and anxiety.

Messages to our communities:

- Remind them that many services they receive are with federal funds.
- Complete the Census online otherwise someone will come to your door.
- Dispel myths – no citizenship question.
- Constitutional amendment that Census personal info cannot be shared with other federal agencies. Asian Americans Advancing Justice has community based info available here: <https://www.countusin2020.org/resources>
- At USCIS naturalization ceremonies, the Census shares on the record that Census info is confidential
- Don't worry if multiple people in one household complete the census. Census bureau will de-duplicate.

## How can you get involved?

Help us Increase Access, Foster Trust, and Motivate SF Residents by doing the following:

- **Support the SF Counts Campaign!** More information can be found at [www.sfccounts.org](http://www.sfccounts.org), including a list of places individuals can go to get help completing their census online
- **Help people do the Census online!** Train staff or volunteers how to assist others in navigating the online census form, and
- **Host a kiosk or create a 'Census Help Site'** at your organization. Let us know so we can add you to our website and map!
- **Distribute SF Counts Outreach Materials** - any community organizations interested in requesting SF Counts outreach materials can do so using this online order form: <http://bit.ly/sfccountsorders>
- **Participate in activation events** throughout the City on and around April 1, 2020
- **Apply for Enumerator jobs.** Bay Area only at 29% filled. Just need work authorization. **Census Jobs** - Please encourage community members to apply for jobs with the Census Bureau! Information and applications can be found here: <https://2020census.gov/jobs>

**Announcements, Follow-ups, Events:**

- SF-ORR updates: Diane Landino, Regional Representative  
Office of Refugee Resettlement / 415-437-8471

ORR budget is approved and stable for FY 2020. Refugee Social Service Funding is same as TY19. Cash and Medical is lower in 2020.

Wilson Fish funding announcement in April RFPs to partner with TANIF programs. Talk to Diane for more info.

Executive Order with State Consultation. All states have consented to Refugee Resettlement. Switchboard is ORR's Technical Advisor for various upcoming trainings- register here:

<https://switchboardta.org/about/>

Asif – Tarjimly.org – offers free translation and interpretation services. Mobile app reaches volunteers around the world. 32 languages now. Mix of certified and volunteer interpreters. Leverage volunteers to make services free.

Model: “Uber for interpreters”. Volunteers must pass a test.

Started from use in refugee camps. Asif will present and demo the services at the April 8<sup>th</sup> SFCAIRS meeting.

USCIS updates: Jennifer LaForce, Community Relations Officer

1/16 SF USCIS CBO Stakeholder meeting 10-11:30, 11:30-12 Census presentation.

1/25 Special Oath ceremony with Oakland City Hall celebrating Indigenous communities. Indigenous speakers and dancers.

2/6 Legal stakeholder meeting

TPS status changes. If person has removal proceeding.

Public Charge is still in litigation. Expected conclusion in Feb.

See USCIS website <https://www.uscis.gov/> and/or contact Jennifer directly for more info.

Public Charge SF immigrants OCEAI site, San Mateo screening tool.

- Nor-Cal Asylum Orientation -. Friday –**1/10/20 and 2/7/20** 1:15pm. 75 Hawthorne St. SF-  
If you are not accompanying a newly granted asylee please email  
[cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org](mailto:cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org) to be added to the security list.

**Networking**

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**Evaluation questions with responses:**

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

\*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?

Consensus presentation

\*Please share any additional comments:

More time needed

Send group emails to: [sf-cairs@googlegroups.com](mailto:sf-cairs@googlegroups.com)

**2020 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 8, Apr 8, Jul 8, Oct 14**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, Apr 8, 2020– 9-11am**

**April 2020 LOCATION:** TBA

### **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 level*