

SF-CAIRS Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 9-11am

Host: Upwardly Global

582 Market Street, Ste 1015 San Francisco, CA 94104

Welcome & Introductions – Sammi Truong (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program, Justin Talbott (Jubilee Immigration Advocates), Diane Landino (SF-ORR office), Gustov Rivas (Arriba Juntos), Victor Magallenes (Arriba Juntos), Jennifer LaForce (USCIS), Grace Lau (Refugee Transitions), Cristina Biassetto (Trauma Recovery Center/Survivors International), Ari Jones (Oasis Legal Services), Blythe Raphael (Jewish Family and Community Services), Leah Olson (JVS), Abel Mucyo (Upwardly Global), via phone: Sandra Lopez (Partnership for Trauma Recovery)

Partner Agency Presentations:

- **UCSF Trauma Recovery Center/Survivors International:**

Cristina Biassetto, LCSW (415) 437-3049 cristina.biassetto@sfdph.org

Survivors International is a program of the UCSF-SFDPH Trauma Recovery Center. Confirmed funding from ORR for the next four years to provide clinical case management and mental health services to survivors of torture. Must be SF resident and 18 and up. Short-term, trauma-focused therapy- 4 months.

Out-of-county partners: Center for Torture Survivors in San Jose, Partnerships for Trauma Recovery in the East bay, Highland Hospital Human Rights Clinic in Oakland.

Services in Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, and Mandarin. With in-person interpreters in Cantonese, Arabic, Russian, Mongolian, and Burmese. Referrals from attorneys and Refugee Medical Clinic, community-based agencies.

Free psychological and medical evaluations (forensic evals) for asylum seekers on site.

10/17/18 Forensic Evals Training for health care professionals who want to learn how to provide forensic mental health and/or medical evaluations for asylum seekers. Offered by SI/TRC, UCSF, and UC Hastings. Space limited. Sign up here:

<https://cvp.ucsf.edu/events/introductory-training-forensic-evaluations-asylum-seekers>

- **Intensive Case Management (ICM) for ORR vulnerable communities.**

Blythe Raphael – Cell: 510-239-3046 Ph 925-927-2000x624 braphael@ifcs-eastbay.org

Blythe is one of two regional Intensive Case Managers funded by ORR's Preferred Communities grant. (Blythe from Jewish Family and Community Services in Walnut Creek, and a pending case manager from IRC.)

Services available to asylees, refugees, SIVs, parolees, VOTs who arrived in the US within 5 years and need intensive case management, medical navigation, other support services. Most vulnerable—torture survivors, children who spent a lot of time in refugee camps without their parents, single mothers, LGBTI persons, high medical need.

Due to federal funding, do not serve asylum seekers.

For refugees/asylees who identify as LGBT, JCFS has a hosted housing program—live with a housing host, pay minimal amount of rent up to a year.

Contact Blythe if you have a client who might qualify for services.

- **Upwardly Global - Abel Mucyo - |Outreach and Community Engagement**

Associate Phone: (415) 834-9901 ext. 300 abelm@upwardlyglobal.org

National nonprofit works with skilled asylees/refugees/immigrants to help them get back to their profession.

Criteria: Have work authorization (temporary Employment authorization document ok); college degree from home country (or 1 year vocational training or certificate), at least one year of work experience, intermediate level of English proficiency, and been in the US 7 years or less.

Core Services: resume development, interview prep, building a professional network, job coaching, and more.

Reskilling opportunities; scholarships; Google 8 month intensive training (online learning, self-paced), partnership with Coursera (free for UpGlo clients).

Laptop/smartphones not provided but client can use UpGlo computers in the office.

weGlo: women's community group at UpGlo to address specific challenges such as harassment, confidence building...

NOTE: www.benevolent.net – crowd source fundraising platform for nonprofit providers to fundraise for specific items like laptop, furniture, etc.

Announcements, Events:

Jennifer LaForce, USCIS Community Relations Officer update:

- Proposed Public Charge Rule published in the Federal Register as of 10/10. 60-day comment period. Comment here: https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=DHS_FRDOC_0001-1706
- USCIS is proposing to revise Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, to remove the receipt of means-tested benefits from the eligibility criteria. Notice [here](#). Last day to comment 11/27 [here](#).

Note from **Oasis Legal Center:** Concerned that this proposed change to the fee-waiver is being overshadowed by the proposed Public Charge rule. Oasis is planning a press release in opposition.

Note from **Jubilee Immigration Advocates:** Concern that removing the receipt of means-tested benefits from the eligibility criteria will cause hardships for clients. Vermont processing center recently has been rejecting cases that were submitted with Medi-Cal verification letters.

- Notice to Appear (NTA) policy memo—Policy restructuring—Starting 10/1 USCIS may issue NTAs on denied status-impacting applications, including but not limited to I-485 and I-539, which will start removal proceedings. Teleconference posted online. [USCIS.gov Electronic Reading Room](#) . Sept 27, 2018 full transcript available. Refugees/asylees may be exempt but unclear on U & T

visa holders. However, if underlying asylum status was revoked, then applicant could be placed in removal proceedings.

- On 10/1, USCIS began using digital tablets to administer the English reading and writing tests during naturalization interviews; able to continue using the paper process on a case-by-case basis. Jennifer/USCIS would like to attend citizenship classes so applicants can practice on a tablet. Contact Jennifer.M.LaForce@uscis.dhs.gov if you facilitate a citizenship class and want more info.
- SF Asylum Office piloted recently to have clients call the 1800# before making an INFOPASS appointment, and now San Jose Asylum Office will begin the pilot.

Note from **Blythe Raphael**: concerned that the 1800# prompts are a barrier to services, and clients calling may be stuck in a loop for a long time, and hang up due to frustration. Inquired whether an operator would be able to answer automatically when a caller is stuck for a period of time.

Diane Landino, SF-ORR update:

- ORR's budget is consistent for 2019. Funding at \$2B.
- Offering new grant opportunities for youth mentoring 15-24 yo to provide support to facilitate self-sufficiency. Pending RFP from RPB.
- Career Pathways grantees; funding now available: IRC in Sacramento and another provider in San Jose.
- Presidential determination set the cap for refugee arrivals at 30K.

Other announcements:

- Arab Film Festival—[From Baghdad to the Bay](#) playing at the New Parkway in Oakland, on Friday 10/19 at 5PM.

Nor-Cal Asylum Benefits Orientation -. October 19, 2018 - 1:15pm. 75 Hawthorne St. SF. If you are NOT accompanying a new asylee please email sammi.truong@sfdph.org to get on the security list.

Networking & Meeting Evaluation

Evaluation questions with responses:

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

[Legal Aid to Asylees and Refugees,](#)
[Housing for the single refugee or asylum seeker, housing connection for immigrants](#)
[Follow up on Forensic evaluations training and network of trained \(volunteer\) providers](#)

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

[Transgender Center for Excellence](#)

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

Getting to meet new partners and learning about other agencies & services
Open-ended time for broader questions; open dialogue for Q/A of presenters or introductions.
Information sharing to facilitate warm hand connection between service providers and updates
from federal partners at the table for ORR & USCIS

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

2019 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 9, Apr 10, Jul 10, Oct 9

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2019– 9-11am

Location: 25 Van Ness Avenue, Basement level

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