

SF-CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, July 19 2017 9-11am

Host: American Red Cross

1663 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103

Welcome & Introductions – *Cristy Dieterich & Sammi Truong (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Eva Iraheta (SF-HSA), Daisy Reyes (LEN Institute), Grace Lau (RT), Amy Lee, (Jubilee Immigration Advocates), Lex Duey (UpGlo), Grace Lau (RT), Victor Magallanes (Arriba Juntos), Diana Landino (ORR-SF), Cecily Victor (Independent Consultant), Lauren Briel & John Holland (Doctors without Borders), Kari Gray (JVS), Devon Schechinger (volunteer), Lana Radosavljevic (RCO), Naomi Pease (ARC)*
Via phone: KJ Evans & Sysvanh K, CA Refugee Programs Bureau; Bowa Tucker (ORR-SF)

Partner & Agency Presentations:

SF-CAIRS Meeting

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Agenda

Partner Agency Presentations:

- *Victor Magallanes – Arriba Juntos: SF World Refugee Day review*
 - June 16 SF World Refugee Day. 200 attendees. Speakers included Mayor Ed Lee, Dr. Hali Hammer from SFHN, CA Refugee Bureau Chief Sysvanh Kabkeo. Recognition of refugees, dances, cultural fashion show, Ice cream truck owned by a refugee from Laos, musical performances. Donations were minimal compared to previous years. Thanks to the volunteers and steering committee for all their help in planning and implementation.
 - Please view the event potos here:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9iYbqcnjmmXy1OWEhXSTF3UW8?usp=sharing>

- *Lex Duey – Upwardly Global (lex@upwardlyglobal.org) services and events at both the local and national level –(slides provided)*
 - Mission-eliminate employment barriers for skilled immigrants and refugees and integrate this population to US professional world
 - 855 job placements nationally
 - \$44K average income gain
 - Eligibility: legal work authorization with no visa sponsorship; bachelor’s degree or higher outside US; two or more years of profession experience outside US; no professional US experience in their field; arrived to the US within the last 5 years (NOTE: for those in medical field—include volunteer/internship experience)
Online Training Courses (platform: WeGlo); 1:1 coaching and mentoring; national network of 350+ employers, 4000+ alumni and 3000 volunteers

- **New UpGlo Initiatives (2016-17):**
 - Resume Builder

- Training - Coursera for Refugee and Asylees-designed to help reskill asylees and refugees, access to 1000+ courses-free to UpGlo job seekers
 - Women's services Program –Walmart foundation –work opportunities for women-networking, fresh course in confidence, harassment, workplace culture, and rights
 - New online training platform (WeGlo)-
 - Vocational Training Program-Supports IT, Engineers, and architects to certify in tech-scholarships may be available
 - English Language assessment and tools-research correlation between English language skills and jobs. 50-minute online assessment.
- *Amy Lee from Jubilee Immigration Advocates (jubileelegal.org) on "public charge" (slides provided)*
 - Jubilee-low fee/pro bono U-Visa, VAWA, asylum, SIJS, removal defense, naturalization, family- based immigration. No geographic restrictions.
 - Executive order leaked to media in Jan 2017 not signed by Trump, but causing fear and misinformation.
 - No change in the law and policies re: public benefits and immigrants
 - Public charge (someone who is likely to rely on US govt in the future)-applies to those applying for green card. Does NOT apply to people applying for citizenship. Does NOT apply to certain immigrants: asylees, U and T visa applications, refugees (incomplete list).
 - USCIS must look at: age, health, income, education/skills, supports. Can consider past receipt of CASH benefits or long term care (NOT CalFresh, Medi-Cal, WIC). No one factor is determinate.
 - Welfare departments cannot share info with ICE.
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 - *Lana Radosavljevic–Refugee Hackathon -Refugee Center Online (slides provided)*
 - Sept 30th one day event at UC Berkeley to find new, innovative ways in tech to help integrate newcomers
 - Agencies involved: Refugee Center Online, UpGlo, UCB, SFCAIRS and General Assembly
 - Who: newcomers, participants, tech experts 150+ participants in 5-8 sub-groups organized by themes.
 - Sign-up/registration site tbd on SFCAIRS letserv (EventBrite)

Guest Presentation:

- Lauren Briel, Exhibition Manager, Forced From Home (3 Year Tour) www.forcedfromhome.com
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
- **Oct 31-Nov 5 Free, open to public event in Oakland- Lake Merritt Amphitheater.**
Looking for Grades 7-12 school groups to participate.
Forced From Home Exhibition, interactive personalized experience. Purposes are to raise awareness and educate public about refugees' experience, inspire humanitarian action, generate media attention, advocate for MSF patients, inspire donations, and provide a platform for aid workers to share experiences.
Concept is focused on the experience of fleeing their home and their journey to safety. Groups of 20 visiting various stations. 360 degree dome, immersive experience in 5 different contexts, Syria, Honduras, Burundi, Afghanistan, South Sudan.

Every participant will walk in the shoes as a refugee, internally displaced person, migrant, asylum seeker, stateless people throughout the exhibition.

Announcements, Events:

- Intro new HSA staff – Eva Iraheta
 - Giselle Almdarez - New HSA Liaison. Eva's role as County Refugee Coordinator is ending. This is her last meeting. Thank you Eva!
- Nor-Cal Asylum Orientation -. Friday July 28 - 1:15pm. 75 Hawthorne St. SF
 - Sysvanh K- Appreciated Eva for her work as SF County Refugee Coordinator. Immigration and Refugee Program Branch. Marcela Ruiz, Sysvanh's new manager. ORR monitoring report, Thanks to Diane to her work. ORR director Scott Lloyd and Ken visited Sacramento, Alameda, Contra Costa, SF—was a good visit. Late August San Diego and LA visit by Scott Lloyd. Scott Lloyd will be speaker at CA Refugee Summit on Aug 30-31. Registration is still open. <http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-refugee-summit/event-summary-2a83da7f71924cbfa64d5aa2a0954648.aspx>
- State funding, received \$10 Million school impact expansion for 8 school districts including SF. Identify gaps in schools for refugees, asylees, including undocumented students. FY17-18 Bureau \$45 Million to fund nonprofits providing services to refugees/asylees in CA. RPB modified website www.cdss.ca.gov/refugee-services
 - [Collection of Refugee Stories](#) available from all over CA.

Networking & Meeting Evaluation

Evaluation questions with responses:

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

Cecily Victor – for a snap shot of workshops for staff serving the refugee population – topics like communication, cultural diversity, etc.

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

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

MSF presentation

Thank you!

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

2017 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 11, Apr 12, Jul 19, Oct 11

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11 – 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