

SF-CAIRS Meeting Notes

July 8, 2020 – 9am– 10am

Welcome & Introductions – *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Bowa Tucker (ORR), Grace Lau (Refugee & Immigrant Transitions), Andy Beetley-Hagler (SF-HSA), Christine Mederios, (CDPH RHAP), Ola Alani (ARC), Wendi Ellis (ACF-HHS), Jennifer LaForce (USCIS), Stephanie Romano (UCSF Health & Human Rights Initiative), B.Johnson, Brooke Bekele, Colleen Kauth (BALA), Jackie Hom (RPB), Victor Magallanes (Arriba Juntos)*

Partner Presentations:

- Stephanie Romano: UCSF Health & Human Rights Initiative : A cross-institutional, interprofessional hub providing pro-bono medical and psychological evaluations, longitudinal care, education and training, advocacy and research in the service of asylum seeking and other immigrant survivors of severe trauma

HHRI serves 4 main services:

- 1) Pro bono medical and psych asylum evaluations, linkage to primary care and community resources.
 - 2) Training and Education -trauma-informed trainings, seminars, coaching, mentoring
 - 3) Community Partnerships for learning, advocacy, referral streams
 - 4) Research and Advocacy-document human rights abuses, quality data collection, research
- Over past year, HHRI trained 300 providers, conducted 81 asylum evaluations with 98% grant rate! (compared to 38% without)
 - For referral info and form, email: Stephanie.romero@ucsf.edu or call [415.502.4272](tel:415.502.4272)
 - No referral turned away without linkage to an evaluator.
 - Virtual Advanced Asylum Evaluation Training: 9/12/20. Legal & advocacy issues, medical and psych exams, child & adolescent evaluations. Open to everyone, target audience is clinicians. [Sign up here](#).

Federal Partner Announcements:

- **SF-ORR updates: Bowa Tucker, Regional Representative:** see [Switchboard trainings](#) for covid-related resources has upcoming webinars (7/21 re-opening, 7/23 helping clients navigate economic hardship). ORR is working with service-related challenges such as Social Security Admin. Please share any service challenges with Bowa and Diane: Bowa.Tucker@acf.hhs.gov Diane.Landino@acf.hhs.gov
- **Jennifer LaForce, USCIS Community Relations Officer:** jennifer.laforce@dhs.gov potential agency furlough starting 8/3/20 that could affect 70-75% of staff, requesting \$1.3b loan from congress. In-person services have resumed in SF since June 4; phased in approach; increasing interviews each week as safely able to do so; all Oath Ceremonies that had been cancelled have now been completed. Same-day oaths are now occurring when possible. Naturalization interviews are occurring. First-in, first-out rescheduling. Application Support Centers are re-opening for biometrics appointments. Phase 1 starts 7/13 (Oakland and San Jose). Phase 2 is 7/20 (SF & Sac). Phase 3 7/27 (Fresno, Santa Rosa). Awaiting implementation guidance in light of SCOTUS DACA decision. Significant changes affecting work authorization for asylum applicants. Please review changes on www.uscis.gov

Local Partner Announcements:

- **Andy HSA Workforce Division:** aside from online apps, do we have separate process?
Jackie: employment-related services waiver ending 9/30/20, applicants are being accepted and applications should be turned in asap to maximize benefits
Update from Giselle Almendarez, Refugee Coordinator: Currently the Agency is working in an opening Plan but no date set just yet.
SF clients can call our Service Center to apply over the phone, the number is 415-557-5100, the worker who answers the phone will take client's information and forward it to our Reception Team.
A clerk will call client back to fill the application on behalf of client and schedule a phone appointment. We are still not doing face-to-face interviews.
On the interview day an Eligibility worker will contact client via phone to conduct interview and inform client that an employment specialist will call to complete the necessary forms.
Jackie Hom, extension for refugee support services, employment services: ORR waivers through Sept 30. Advise service providers to start online applications asap. Benefits are retro, include Covid relief, housing assistance, etc. <https://www.mybenefitscalwin.org/> (Jackie to email state letter to group).
- **Christine Murto, State Office of Refugee Health:** Emergency COVID aid has been extended to 5 counties including Alameda, looking at 2nd round. Funds for clinical triage If you know refugee families that need health support please call those clinics. Please refer new asylees for refugee health care assessment by Sept 30, which includes immunizations for kids.
 - New funds by CDC for *Asylum-Seeker Screening Project* getting up and running.
 - NorCal group of physicians and lawyers working on asylum seeker health. Contact Christine for more info. Christine.Murto@cdph.ca.gov
- **Grace Lao, Refugee & Immigrant Transitions:** slowly starting virtual tutoring, participants need computer and internet access. Can accept referrals but may take time. Current need to recruit and train volunteers. Ready to match by early Aug. High need for volunteers who speak Spanish. Grace will share an outreach flyer.
- **Ola Alani, American Red Cross:** Restoring Family Links international program is running, please refer anyone who need assistance connecting with loved ones: 844-782-9441 RFL HOTLINE. ARC is seeking health professional volunteers to help in shelters for upcoming fire season. Have received influx of volunteers for blood donations- yay!
- **Live or work in SF?** Free COVID testing, no ID required. www.sf.gov/GetTestedSF
- **Arriba Juntos:** working and taking referrals – assistance for benefits applications and RCA program.

Send group emails to: 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

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*