



Co- Chairs: Clarisa Sanchez & Eva Iraheta

Coordinator: Cristy Dieterich

Secretary: Karina Almanza

## SF-CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 12:15 – 1:45pm

Host: American Red Cross

1663 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103

**Welcome & Introductions** –*Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Eva Iraheta (SF-HSA), Efrain Sandoval (Arriba Juntos, English Language Training program), Pat Pianko( Regional Office, ORR), Nora Goodfriend-Koven (CCSF Healthcare Interpreter Program), Vanessa Bohm (CARECEN), Rachel Prandini (ILRC), Daisy Reyes (LEN Institute), Joan Kelly-Williams (Red Cross International Programs) Via phone: Mona Masri (ED, NorCAL, IRC),*

**Community Agency Highlight: Vanessa Bohm, CARECEN-** Program Director for Family Wellness Program Since 1985 Central American Resources programs have changed over the years: legal, case mgmt, youth support. Local advocacy, immigrant rights, addressing health issues impacting immigrant communities. Current programs:

- Unaccompanied Children services – continuing work the same as prior to recent arrivals. CARECEN can be an entry point based on reputation of providing legal services.
- Family Wellness Program – case management for families with children under 17, resident of SF only. Linkages to other support services, education. Send referral sheet to Vanessa.
- Promotore program, health education, oral health/free dental fluoride application, cooking classes, family and social events. Vanessa will email event calendar to SFCAIRS each month until it's posted on website.
- Youth Program – 12-24 ages, peer education, high-school based. Tattoo removal program to be reopened soon.
- Legal Immigration Services. M-F 9am-12pm. \$10 fee – First come-first served for legal consultation. 2 paralegals. Shortage of legal services but they have referrals to pro-bono and agencies with current capacity. Possibly will be able to offer legal representation (services are maxed out now) for fees, DACA subsidized, other services at low cost. Not necessary to live in SF.

### 2015 SF-CAIRS updates:

Assessment process over the summer to best meet needs of member agencies and clients. Implementing changes, including quarterly, longer meetings, agency presentations, SFCAIRS is seeking new co-chair. **See Leadership Duties document and email Cristy and Eva if you are interested or have questions.**

### Nor. Cal Refugee Resettlement Agency & Community Consultation update from 10/23/14

New arrivals 2013-14 SF 6 refugee families. IRC 412 refugee in Oakland.

Updates from State Refugee Program and Resettlement Agencies. See notes from meeting. Oakland Unified School District hired a Coordinator for Unaccompanied Children support.

### Unaccompanied Children Legal update, Rachel K. Prandini

**Unaccompanied Minor Law Fellow/Attorney, Immigrant Legal Resource Center**

1663 Mission Street, Suite 602 San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: (415) 255-9499, ext. 772 Email: [rprandini@ilrc.org](mailto:rprandini@ilrc.org) [www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org)

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\* Members may share info and resources by sending an email to the group at:

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Rachel is a representative in deportation and removal proceedings. ILRC does not do direct service, but TA to legal professionals and capacity building.

- Nationwide 70,000 unaccompanied arrivals in FY 13-14. Prior to 2012 was 7-8,000/year. Numbers do not include children not apprehended, or children from Mexico.
- CA is top receiving state for children released to guardian (FL, NY following)
- To date 223 children released in SF, but many may be moving due to housing challenges.
- Arrivals decreasing for various possible reasons; weather, transportation limits, increased immigration enforcement.
- Immigration court had been processing about 300/mo, now approx 80/mo.
- Temp shelters in TX and SoCA have been closed, but other facilities opening as needed.

Crisis has moved from border to the courts.

- Expedited dockets. Legal pressure on children and advocates to quickly process the backlog. Prioritization of UA cases are pushing other cases past 2018 causing challenges for those immigrants.

Funding update:

- SF appropriated funds have not reached service providers yet. Approx 10 agencies will hire additional lawyers. Local council offices will provide pro-bono reps. Attorney of the Day program offers legal representation, legal screenings at time of docket and then referred out through the association of legal services.
- State funds expected to mainly go to low resource/high impact areas such as central valley and southern CA.
- Federal funds expected to cities with high impact: Houston, Miami, Los Angeles.
- Encourage children to appear in court – if they don't they risk deportation in absentia. Stress the importance to appear in court even in absence of legal representation and request extension.
- Issuance of SIJS – special immigrant juvenile status, asylum, human trafficking T-visas.
- May take years of dealing with immigrant case before documentation is awarded.

### **Announcements:**

**\*\* Agency updates, current initiatives, events, announcements, etc.**

*Joan Kelly-Williams:* American Red Cross New NorCal 16 County Region (Monterey, Solano, up coast to OR border). San Mateo International Services initiated REFUGE Coalition – focused on Unaccompanied Minor needs. See brochure. Materials and resources for inter-agency support. Catholic Charities is one lead agency with Red Cross. American Red Cross services to trace or message to separated families, family reunification program is case by case for Syria. Uganda program temp reduced. Certificate of Detention issued for some from Myanmar. Country by country update to be sent via SFCAIRS list soon.

**Happy Upcoming Retirement to Joan Kelly-Williams!**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Time TBA**

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