

Northern California Resettlement Agencies- Community Consultation Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2014
Catholic Charities of San Francisco
990 Eddy Street - 1st Floor- Conference Room - San Francisco, CA 94109

Facilitator/Host: **Christopher Martinez, Director of Legal Services, Catholic Charities of the East Bay** (*Formally Director of Refugee & Immigrant Services of Catholic Charities of San Francisco*)

Agenda

Introductions: In person: Pat Pianco/ORR SF Regional Office, Amy Weiss/JFS East Bay, Theresa Fanuel CCSJ, Azita Eshagh and Zoya Lazer/JFS Los Gatos, Eva Iraheta/SF HSA, Cristy Dieterich/SFDPH, Sead Eminovc/SJ IRC, Christopher Martinez/CCEB

Via phone: Sambo Ly/Alameda County Refugee Health, Kali Patterson/CA-RHP, Nancy Thomas/CCC HSA, Thuan Nguyen/State, Tamika?, Blythe Raphael/East Bay Refugee Forum, Hanna/CC-EB, Lila Katz/JFS East Bay, Reza, Niran, Mylene Madrid/S Clara Refugee Health, Samira Causevic/SFDPH (apologies to those whose names were not captured)

Arrivals to Date: Oct 2013 – Aug 2014:

http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/res/pdf/Arrivals/Monthly_Arrivals_Table_2014.pdf

- SF 6 refugees (family of 4 from Afghanistan, 1 couple from Iraq) grand total in SF this year is 12. Half have relocated outside SF.
- IRC Oakland 412 refugees San Jose 158. More arrivals
- CC Santa Clara- 176
- JFS San Jose - 154 refugees. 24 already for October. Many SIVs from Afghanistan
- CC Oakland 247 refugees. Last quarter 115. 70% from Afghanistan. Burma, Bhutan, Iran, Cuba, Iraq, Cambodia. Some out-migrated to Sacramento due to housing cost. Remaining are in Alameda and Contra Costa
- JFS/East Bay: 97 refugees. 95% asylees from Afghanistan. LGBT program 3 asylees. Numbers are increasing. Few out-migrations due to stable communities in the area.

Health Care Concerns – Kali Patterson for Marisa Ramos, Chief, Office of Refugee Health, Center for Infectious Diseases, California Department of Public Health – no updates at this time.

-JFS/East Bay shared a recent case/concern: During a home visit to a young couple without stable housing it was discovered that one of their twin 4 month old babies was diagnosed with serious illness/blood disorder upon arrival and needed to be hospitalized. Is there a way to get medial info on SIVs or other individuals that come on their own? Due to fear of visa delay or denial some people are not revealing medical conditions.

Question for PRM/RA/ORR : Will people be delayed with medical conditions? How to get that info distributed? *Pat Pianko will follow up.*

-There are more children arriving. More training is needed regarding refugee children and families. What to look for, stressors, trauma. US ties are often unstable/new arrivals themselves. RAs/Volags are not prepared to work with this level of need.

-Thuan: when RA/Volag is aware of new arrival with illness, notify Marisa to arrange for emergency Medi-Cal. Even those who come on their own have the medical info to share with the RRA. *Pat Pianko will follow up with PRM.*

Question posed: How are RAs/Volags dealing with mental health needs?

-JFS/East Bay has onsite Farsi-speaking staff. Child Parent Psychotherapy model info available.

-CCSJ/ collaboration with Center of Survivors of Torture

-San Jose Refugee Health Program – all adults are referred to CST counselor on site.

-Refer new arrivals to Refugee Health Assessment Programs for thorough mental health assessments and referrals.

Update on the Unaccompanied Alien Minors – Thuan Nguyen, Chief, Refugee Program Bureau

- New CA bill providing 2.9m legal resources for representation. Info and survey distributed to assess qualification for this funding. Application is being developed so agencies can apply. Minor released under the care of ORR in California to shelters or sponsors are eligible for services. Minors who arrived with family and remain in ICE custody are not eligible. CA Endowment and other funders are supporting other services.
 - In SF BOS approved 1.2m for legal representation in SF
 - Oakland .5m for legal representation
 - Alameda 2.5m for mental health needs
 - SJ and Santa Clara county is proposing shelter and other support services
 - JFS/East Bay – attorney will provide pro-bono work
 - Santa Clara Refugee Foster Care Program – expanding services, collaborating with county to support medical, mental health, educational needs of children.
- Alameda county/Oakland Unified School District Refugee and Asylee Program hired f/t coordinator in school district for triad model/wrap around serves.

Resettlement Challenges

-Concerns with regards to FY15 arrivals- In SF : lack of affordable housing without solutions, which decreases resettlement options in SF. Catholic Charities moving from SF to Oakland leaves fewer services in SF.

-New project: Presbyterian of San Jose offers of up 14 beds to new refugee arrivals, allows Santa Clara to welcome new refugees and then work toward more permanent housing. The house is

being renovated and planned to open at the end of 2015. Info will be shared with RAs/Volags when program is ready.

- Most SIVs are not informed or receive overseas orientations and arrive with false expectations and challenges for RAs/Volags. This is the case for other refugees as well.

Q&A

- Mylene Madrid: Importance for CBOs, RAs/Volags, service providers to be aware and share info about Ebola to inform, reduce stigma, and fear. Build community reliance, share the information with community members. Remind everyone about good health, and to get their flu shots.
- Check CDC and local county public health for response and community info to Ebola.
- Challenges with US ties when they say they will assist and then do not. Is there any resource for absent US ties? Recent case of asylees and SIVs are not necessarily close or family with their US ties, who then do not provide support even after discussing with the agency and signing agreement. Those who sign as US ties rely on agencies to provide the support. What advocacy is there for support when US tie denies support?

Announcements:

Thuan: Counties are not always aware of changes happening with arrivals/challenges, etc. Improved communication will help for smooth resettlement. Let state programs know about changes/capacity.

Refugee Summit/Refugee Training Academy planned for Dec 2015 in southern California.

Meeting Adjourned – Next quarterly meeting in January 2015.

Add Nanci Thomas, Contra Costa County, Employment and Human Services Dept. Nanci Thomas <nthomas@ehsd.cccounty.us>