

SF-CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 9-11am

Host: American Red Cross 1663 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103

Welcome & Introductions – *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Eva Iraheta (SF-HSA), Daisy Reyes, Alexey A., Mohamad Wosseinian, Maritea Arevalo (LEN Institute), Alla Rivas (SF-DPH Newcomers Health Program), Sysvahn Kabeko, Joe Pollakoff, Heriberto Camarena (Refugee Programs Bureau, California Department of Social Service), Lex Duey (UpGlo), Julie McDevitt (Mission Neighborhood Health Center), Simone Cesa De Melo, Joahna Marroquin (Red Cross SF), Gladys Garcia (Arriba Juntos), Nora Goodfriend-Koven (CCSF HCI program), Suzanne Manneh (SFSU MPH student).*
Via phone: KJ Evans (Refugee Programs Bureau, California Department of Social Service),

Partner Agency Presentation:

Upwardly Global SF -Lex Duey, Community Outreach & Engagement Associate, Western & Central U.S.

Phone: (415) 834-9901 ext. 310 lex@upwardlyglobal.org

- Upwardly Global provides employment assistance for skilled asylees/refugees looking to integrate into the U.S. workforce. The goal is to eliminate employment barriers and integrate this population into the professional workforce.
- Eligibility: work authorization, Bachelor's level education or higher, 2 years professional experience outside the US, no professional experience in their field in the US, arrived in US within 5/12 years. There are exception so please ask about specific cases.
- Services include: assignment to Employment Service Specialist, online courses, coaching, mentoring in multiple fields, national network of employers, alumni, volunteers, interview practice, US resume support, support in job search, industry license and certificate guidance, Online training programs coming Spring 2016.
- Apply online: www.upwardlyglobal.org go to "Job Seekers", "Apply Now".

Program Presentations:

Newcomers Health Program (NHP) – health assessments and primary care services for refugees, asylees, and other immigrants. - Alla Rivas, Health Worker/Medical Interpreter.

- Eligibility: Comprehensive Health Assessments are available for all newly granted refugees and asylees within their first 8 months to ensure good health and successful resettlement. Eligibility includes: Federally certified victims of human trafficking, parolees from Cuba and Haiti.
- Services are provide at SFGH's Family Health Center Refugee Medical Clinic. Potrero and 21st St.
- The health assessment includes a thorough physical exam, lab tests, mental health assessment, and referrals to primary care and specialty clinics, medication, and treatments
- NHP staff are trained health workers and medical interpreters. Medical providers are experienced with individuals and families who have experienced trauma, refugee and asylum experience.
- Newcomers provides health assessment for those residing in SF, San Mateo, and Marin counties.
- Eligible individuals must apply for Medi-Cal or RMA at Dept of Human Services.
- Green card medical exams are available at the Refugee Medical Clinic. If person received the health assessment NHP then the I-693 form is only \$100.
- Information is also provided to new asylees invited to the USCIS asylum office each month.

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

sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

website: www.sf-cairs.org



- If client has had status for more than 8 months NHP staff can still help them get into a primary care clinic for ongoing health services.
- You can refer a client to NHP using the referral form or calling 415-206-8608.

CDSS/Refugee Programs Bureau Chief, Sysvahn Kabkeo

- RPB staff thanked SFCAIRS members and presenters
- Please see the RPB website for roles, responsibilities, mission, and vision statements
- There is minimal funding for refugee programs in CA, but RPB is available to work with counties to support their work, hear and help address their concerns – sysvahn.kabkeo@dss.ca.gov
- Congratulations to SF as one of America's Welcoming Communities
- The Bay Area has 3 separate Refugee Forums but face same issues. Consider addressing and finding solutions at a Bay Area wide level instead of county specific. Greater power in numbers.

Announcements

- **Refugee Awareness Month at Arriba Juntos, Friday June 24.**
Free agency tables. Contact Gladys Garcia for table info GGarcia@arribajuntos.org. Flyers and more info to be shared soon. Speakers are invited to focus on refugee contributions to our communities. Please invite employers to recruit at RAM as well!
- CCSF Health Care Interpreter Program intro course on April 29-30.
- Human Service Agency – conducting outreach to SFUSD targeting Unaccompanied Children to link to services pre and post asylum status.
- SF-CAIRS website updates – coming soon: volunteer and donation page. Agency member can list needs and contact info.

Evaluation questions with responses:

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

[Legal issues for asylum and refugee status](#)

[More of the health services available for refugees, asylees and immigrants after the initial 8 months.](#)

[Grants and scholarships for asylees/refugees](#)

[Education and housing opportunities](#)

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

[La Raza, Catholic Charities](#)

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

[It was my first meeting and I loved having all this information about the organizations.](#)

[Learning about the resources available in the bay area.](#)

[Knowing more about various programs.](#)

[Question and Answer time](#)

* Please share any additional comments:

[Great presentations.](#)

[Thank you!](#)

[Thank you for all the job you do and all the effort you do to help us refugees and asylees to accommodate in the country.](#)

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website: [**www.sf-cairs.org**](http://www.sf-cairs.org)



Contact Cristy or Eva if you have any items or presentations for the next meeting: cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org , eva.ihaheta@sfgov.org

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 9-11am.

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

2016 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 13, Apr 13, Jul 13, Oct 12

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2016– 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*

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