

SF-CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 12, 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 (LEN Institute), Diane Landino (ORR), William T Hill, Stephen Dempsey (SFDPH/BHS), Khary Dvorck (UCSF-Citywide) Damon Martiniez (CalWORKS HSA), Sammi Truong (SFDPH), Grace Lau and Laura Vaudreuil (Refugee Transitions.), Lana Radosavjevic (Refugee Center Online), Vlad Komanovsky, (SF-HSA), Chandni Jain (US Fund for UNICEF), Amy Lee, (Jubilee Immigration Advocates, Fatima Karaki (UCSF), Lex Duey (Upwardly Global), Gladys Garcia and Laura Evan (Arriba Juntos), Naomi Pease (Red Cross) Via phone: Bowa Tucker (ORR), Jesse Peck (CADPH-RHP)*

Partner & Agency Presentations:

UNICEF USA, “Children on the Run” - Chandni Jain, Global Citizens Fellow Bay Area
UNICEF helps save and protect the world’s most vulnerable children. Their mission is to save lives and build futures and they work to put children first. They deliver humanitarian assistance to families in need to countries that they can reach. Chandni lead the group through a simulated experience of being a Syrian refugee child and family.

If you are interested in volunteering you can email Chandni Jain at cjain@unicefusa.org

UNICEF delivers relief through in-country presence in over 150 countries and organizes cease fires for relief aid. They organize child-friendly spaces, school tents (school in a box kit – emergency classroom set-up including psychological wellbeing and prep for post crisis. Water, sanitation, and hygiene are supported through collaborations with American Red Cross and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Refugee Center On-Line (RCO), Lana Radosavjevic – Board Member

lanar@upwardlyglobal.org

The Refugee Center Online provides free education and community building for refugees resettling in the United States. Their mission is to help refugees and displaced individuals build new lives in America using online technologies. The Refugee Center Online envisions a world of peace and justice in which refugee resettlement is unnecessary. They offer different program resources such as education, career, health, daily life, rights and laws and culture. They encourage connecting refugees with one another, resettlement, mentorship, and general questions thru their Facebook page. Classroom – free online citizenship prep course and practice test, GED and other prep sessions.

SF-CAIRS members can add their agency into the Local Resource Database:

<http://therefugeecenter.org/local/>

RCO provides a Teacher Training course for teachers working with new refugee students. The PC and smartphone compatible course provides tools for teaches to help students excel, and engage refugee parents. Self-paced for educators, including cultural awareness of various populations, history, communication styles. Helps anticipate behavior and interpret meaning, and work with children effected by trauma. There are plan to further expand the education section of RCO.

SF Vocational CO-OP Services at Behavioral Health Services from Citywide Employment Programs with UCSF- Travis Hill

CO-OP is a partnership of *Dept of Rehab, SF Behavioral Health Services, RAMS Hire-Ability, Citywide Employment Program, Caminar Jobs Plus, OTTP-SF, Toolworks,, and Posible Resource Center.*

This collaborative effort’s aim is “Wellness through Employment” using a wellness recovery model, is team oriented, client driven, strength based peer led, and culturally diverse. They provide pre-vocational services, work adjustment, assessment, skills/occupational training. Skills, training, and job placement include IT helpdesk, IT desk top, green construction and remodeling sf clinics, service, and hospitality work. Eligibility requirements: over 18 years old, SF resident, mental health diagnosis including PTSD, work authorization, eligible for BHS and DOR services, willing to work, open to feedback, and ability to manage time and appointments. These are short term opportunities to create competitive applicants for fulltime positions.

For descriptions of the CO-OP partners and referral form see: <https://sites.google.com/site/voccoop/home>

Agency Updates and Announcements:

Refugee County Coordinator- Eva Iraheta: Refugee Impact Grant awarded to SFUSD to support Unaccompanied Children in the school district, as well as outreach efforts targeting immigrants and refugees for CalWroks and CalFresh.

UpGlo – Lex Duey – UpGlo is conducting community outreach to reach skilled refugees to support them in workforce development and linkage. UpGlo’s new online portal providing info for jobseekers, info, networking opportunities. To request an UpGlo Portal demo and account email Lex: lex@upwardlyglobal.org

Region 9 ORR. New staff: Diane Landino. She is connecting with orgs so provide support, learn about services.

Dr. Fatima Karaki, physician at UCSF focus on Refugee and Health - providing education for medical students and providers, expand research to support refugee health. To join the *Refugee and Asylum seeker Health Initiative* listserv email: Fatima.Karaki@ucsf.edu

Refugee Transitions (RT) – Laura Vaudreuil - The Refugee Impact Grant in Oakland was a successful tracking and data opportunity to support schools. RT coordinates tutoring support at SF International HS. Focus on students who’ve had interrupted schooling. RT offers Home-based tutoring, education, community connections to students and UAC asylum applicants. RT is accepting Daly City referrals. laura@reftrans.org

Evaluation questions with responses:

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

[How to access low cost medical resources.](#)

[Housing for asylum seekers for transitional youth](#)

[Pathways to partnerships, CalWorks, Housing for undocumented and unaccompanied youth, especially those over 18 in asylum hearings.](#)

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

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

[Enjoyed it all](#)

[To get to know other agencies and their programs](#)

* Please share any additional comments:

[I really enjoy these! Very well organized and I love learning about local resources](#)

In response to evaluation topics: Larkin Youth Services has resources, including housing for those 24 years old and under. <http://larkinstreetyouth.org/youth-connections/easy-access-to-services/>

Reminder: members can send emails to group via: sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

Contact Cristy if you have any problems: cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, Jan 11, 2017– 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*