



East Bay Refugee Forum

Meeting Summary

February 2, 2016, 10:00am-12:00pm

Catholic Charities of the East Bay, 433 Jefferson Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Present: Blythe Raphael (East Bay Refugee Forum), Kara Tofte (IRC), Kristen Borash (IRC), Elaine Bautista(Alameda County Public Health Department), Aster Frezehi(NewComer), Yonas W. Woldeab (Eritrean Community), Lila Katz (JFCS East Bay), Nicole Germanov (Refugee Transitions), Shahrzad Makaremi (OUSD/OIHS), Lauren Markham (OUSD/OIHS), Jain Thapa (State Board Of Equalization), Ballav Poudyel (LFCD), New Oo(CHAA), Jack Tyler(Diversity in Health Training Institute), Dusty Cooper(The Bread Project), Bowa Tucker(ACF, ORR), Marisa Ramos(ORH), Elisabeth Lang(Catholic Charities), Jesse Peck(COPH-ORH), Nate Dunstan(OUSD), Jane Won(OUSD), Annie Subedi(EBRF), Via Conference Call: Sivan (Street Level Health Project)

Welcome: Annie Subedi (part time administrative assistant to the EBRF), Kara Tofte (IRC Resettlement Case Manger), Kristen Borash (IRC Volunteer Services and Language Support Coordinator) and Aster Frezehi (Eritrean Community Advocate with advanced university education in water management seeking employment in a broad array of fields).

Coordinator Updates

- Website will be down for overhaul last two weeks of Feb.
- New website will have place for member agencies to post volunteer and/or donor need at least once per year
- Feedback loop to identify and push forward issues or highlight successes distributed in hard copy. Will also be available on the web
- Street Level has a Health Insurance Technician on Wed and Fridays all day, first come, first served to assist with all insurance and billing issues such as enrollment into emergency or full scope Medi-Cal, Health PAC, filing of charity care waivers, troubleshooting issues. Cue forms at 8:00 and all appointments taken by 8:30 for door opening at 9:00 am. New agency address: 3501 E. 12th Street, Oakland CA.
- Phone In Health Insurance Technician can help troubleshoot insurance matters: 1 800 433 9495.
- Agencies are to convey to clients in need of medical care that they should not go without due to fear of medical bills from Highland.
- Asylees pending adjudication are being granted full scope Medi-Cal under PRUCOL. Coordinator will share regulations with agencies serving this population as a follow up.
- Undocumented children age 19 years and under will be eligible in CA for full scope Medi-Cal. Agencies are enrolling children into restricted scope now which is technically supposed to roll into full scope coverage when it takes effect (TBD, but anticipated late May)
- Sadaf Siddiq is our county Social Service Agency contact for refugee public benefit issues: ssiddiq@acgov.org

World Refugee Day

Save the Date: Friday, June 17, 2016

Location: San Antonio Park

It is suggested that this year high level officials be invited in accordance with Welcoming America Initiative. This event is attended by 750 plus persons and depends on multi-agency efforts and sponsorships.

Early Tentative Commitments:

CHAA: forks, plates, napkins for 850 persons, OUSD RASAP back up

CHAA: sound system loan

Red Cross: Water?

OUSD: Tables and Chairs

Jack Tyler: flyer designer contact

Resettlement Arrival Data

Jewish Family and Community Services-East Bay Arrivals October 1, 2015-February 1, 2016

Origin	Number of Arrivals
Afghanistan	58
Columbia	2
Iraq	6
Iran	3
Uganda	2
TOTAL	71

Of all arrived cases 3 out migrated to the Sacramento area. Children total 34/71 of the caseload. Twenty of these are school age

International Rescue Committee-Arrivals October 1, 2015-January 27, 2016

Nationality	Number of Arrivals	Languages Spoken/Approximate Number of Individuals
Afghanistan	148	Pashto, Northern 66 speakers Pasto, Southern 6 speakers Dari, 72 speakers
Bhutan	1	
Burma	18	Sgaw Karen 14 speakers Rohyingya-Major dialect 3 speakers (expect increased caseload) Tedim-Chin dialect from Thantlang and Matupi Townships 1 speaker
China	1	Mandarin
DRC	2	Kiswahili
Eritrea	7	Tigrinya 6 speakers Amharic 1 speaker
Iran	1	Farsi, Western
Iraq	2	Arabic
Nepal	1	

Somalia	1	Somali
TOTAL	182	

Arrivals from Afghanistan total 81% of the case load. The IRC caseload is 40% female, 60 % male. Minors constitute 40% of the total arrival population. Among the total, there are 30/182 (16.5%) children who are school age. In addition to the languages listed above, there were 3 Uzbek speakers noted in the language caseload. IRC has started a support group for pregnant women from Afghanistan (currently 11 individuals).

*****Special note, In case of future predicted need (cited above) , New Oo (CHAA) offers interpretation in Rohingya language.

CCEB-Arrivals Oct 1, 2015-January 16, 2016

Origin	Number of Arrivals
Afghanistan	64
Burma	2
Ethiopia/Eritrea	1
Iran	1
Iraq	5
Pakistan	5
TOTAL	78

Arrivals from Afghanistan total 82% of the CCEB case load. There are 12 school age children out of 78 arrivals.

Update on Unaccompanied Minors from Central America: *Lauren Markham, Community School Program Manager, Oakland International High School-30 min.*

Unaccompanied Minors in Oakland
 Updates & Impacts on Refugee/Asylee Serving Agencies

Where are they coming from?
 In Oakland:

National Numbers
 FYs 2006-2011: 7,000
 FY 2012: 13,625
 FY 2013: 24,668
 FY 2014: 57,496
 FY 2015:33,726
 FY2016 (Oct 1-Dec 31): 17,370

Why are they coming?
 Push Factors vs. Pull Factors
 Community Violence
 Rumors & “Permisos”

David’s Story
 17-year-old student from Honduras:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/kn9rdjqk6pqmex6/MVI_4496.MOV?dl=0

Numbers in Oakland

California most common place for UACs to be reunified

Alameda county is 2nd largest--after Los Angeles

Currently more than 450 in Oakland who have arrived since the beginning of the 2013 school year

34% are young women and girls.

75% of the OUSD's unaccompanied minors are in high school, 10% are in middle school, and 15% are in elementary school.

Implications for EBRF Members

435 UACs in Oakland-- but only 364 are currently enrolled (many have dropped out, moved, or (very few) graduated)

56 have asylum, 3 U-Visa

Several dozen have SIJS (not eligible for refugee services)

121 family cases- 116 are currently enrolled (only 5 No shows)

8 of family cases have asylum

Additional 104 Asylees in Oakland from GT, HN & SV that were petitioned by asylee relative, who arrived since 2013.

CAM Program not working as requires that a child have a documented parent in the U.S. to apply.

UNHCR will set up registration in Costa Rica and Belize by 2017 for this special population.

Agency Announcements:

State Board of Equalization staff member Jain Thapa shares valuable Information about EITC & VITA for your clients:

The EITC provides the following benefits for qualified working families:

- Families with three or more qualifying children who earn less than \$53,267 (or \$47,747 for a single parent) are eligible for up to \$6,242;
- Families with two qualifying children who earn less than \$49,974 (or \$44,454 for a single parent) are eligible for up to \$5,448;
- Families with one qualifying child who earn less than \$44,651 (or \$39,131 for a single parent) are eligible for up to \$3,359; and
- Married workers between the ages of 25-64 who earn less than \$20,330 (or \$14,820 for single) and have no children are eligible for up to \$503

The VITA program offers free tax help to individuals and families who made \$54,000 or less in 2015. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. Volunteers are trained to provide information about special tax credits such as the federal EITC, California EITC, and Child Tax Credit (CTC). Households with incomes of \$62,000 or less in 2015 also have the option of filing their own taxes online for free through the MyFreeTaxes Program.

MyFreeTaxes provides free online federal and state tax preparation with virtual filing assistance.

Checklist

Below are the documents you need to when you file your tax returns:

- Proof of income including W-2s (1099 can only be used for the federal EITC)

- Documentation of deductible expense
- Form of Government Identification
- Social Security Card for each family member
- Account and routing numbers for checking or savings accounts for direct deposit and a faster refund
- Health Insurance Marketplace Statement (1095-A, B, and/or C)
- Copy of 2014 tax returns, if available

California EITC Website: <http://caleitc4me.org/>

United Way: <http://www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org/find-tax-help-now/>

OUSD College and Career Readiness Pathways Program for Adults is now open for registration to help with GED, College, Family Literacy, and Work and Job Training courses. It is an ongoing registration and a 15 weeks course. Flyer has been sent via the list serve. This is a new program! Please refer to clients in need of ESL.

They offer help in:

- Academic Transition
- Advanced ESL
- Intermediate ESL
- Beginning High ESL
- Beginning Low ESL
- Literacy ESL

The Bread Project is Bakery Production boot camp that helps Prepare for an entry-level job in the Food Industry. The training will be free of cost. Interviews will be held upon appointments only and the candidates will have to be at least 18 years of age or old. They are open for class registration for both morning and afternoon classes.

February 16th- March 4th Monday-Friday from 8am- 12pm

February 18th –March 8th Monday- Friday from 1pm- 5pm

Clients Receive:

56 hours of hands on training (daily attendance is mandatory)

Certificate upon completion

CA State Food Handler's Card

Resume

Job search and Placement assistance.

Clients Learn:

Safe food handling, Equipment knowledge, Culinary math, Time management, Personal responsibility, Kitchen professionalism, Quality control, Following directions, Basic baking knowledge.

Partners include City of Berkeley (Project supplies Berkeley Unified School District with all of its baked goods), Chevron, Willimams Sonona ,among others). Graduation work placement rates 90% within first month for wage of \$12.00 + per hour.

The Bread Project is taking referrals for ongoing classes.

Next Newcomer Meeting Date February 16, 2016. Formal Announcement forthcoming.

Remaining EBRF Meeting Dates for 2016:

April 5

June 7

August 2

October 4

December 6

Remaining Quarterly Community Consultation Stakeholder Meetings are scheduled for:

Q 2: March 9, Virtual Meeting, IRC, 10-12

Q 3: June 9, JFCS-East Bay, 10-12

Q 4: September 9, CCEB, 10-12