



eastbayrefugeeforum.org

Meeting Notes

June 7, 2016, 10:00am-12:00pm

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

Present: Blythe Raphael(East Bay Refugee Forum), Harnit Kang(Program Manager, BRFN), Bisrat Solomon Abraham(BRFN), Sandra Vasquez(Refugee Transitions), Kara Tofte(IRC), Amy Weiss(JFCS/EB), Marisa Ramos(CDPH/ORH), Lex Duey(Upwardly Global), Ola Alani(American Red Cross), Joanna Marroquin(American Red Cross), Guenet Sebsibe(Alameda County Public Health Department), Sadaf Pirzada(SSA), Elaine Bautista(Alameda County Public Health Department), Su Su Maung(BRFN), Naima Jameson(SSA), Alyson Jessee(Advocate), Jesse Peck(CDPH-ORH), Sambo(Refugee Health), Ballav Poudel(LFCD), Jack Tyler(Diversity in Health Training Institute), Dusty Cooper(The Bread Project), Nicole Germanov(RT), Laura Vaudreuil(Refugee Transitions), Nate Dunstan(OUSD), Annie Subedi(EBRF), Kajal Shahali, (Tandem). Hana Toma (CCEB), Sysvanh Kabeo(CDSS, Refugee Program Bureau remotely via conference call)

Expanded Social Adjustment Services in Alameda County:

Social Adjustment (SA) Workers: Social Adjustment is a term used by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement for services intended to assist new arrivals who have been in the U.S. for the time period of 0-5 years' time and are in need of extra scaffolding to learn how to navigate through new western systems and build life skills essential to functioning well in the different realms of life. SA workers are permitted to provide translation, interpretation, and escort and advocacy for clients attending appointments where're navigational or language barriers are anticipated.

- There are currently three different, small contracts in Alameda County for SA services, two of which pair social adjustment with employment programs.
- Workers were chosen by the contracted agencies to help ensure services according to greatest numerical country of origin arrival numbers as well as greatest navigational difficulties faced by new arrivals (such as a large percentage of households headed by pre-literate persons).
- The contracted agencies include Burma Refugee Family Network, Refugee Transitions, and Catholic Charities of the East Bay. RT and BRFN have created a consortium of service providers under central program management for this new model. The new model will hold monthly care coordination meetings regarding all clients served in the program to help ensure that basic service needs are met and clients are then less likely to fall through the cracks. The consortium is dedicated to making out- referrals to specialty services needed to include those in legal, mental health, and crisis categories.
- The forum coordinator will act as trainer of the new SA workers so that they have basic case management skills as well as understanding of safety net services throughout the county. Coordinator will also support workers to make cross-systems connections to resolve client issues or obtain needed services. Some trainings will also be available to the broader pool of forum member agency staff or community advocates who wish to attend. Such meetings will be offered by pre-announcement through the list serve.

- Agencies are asked to use the referral form for clients in need of services. All referrals must go through the Program Manager, Harnit Kang, who will funnel them forward to SA workers according to criteria such as language match and grant requirements (each grant serves a slightly different category of new arrival such as CalWORKS recipients are served under one grant, and RCA under another. It is the goal of the consortium that the client should receive services without concern as to which grant the funding comes from. Services will be co-located, for the most part, at a new site. OUSD RASAP program has one part time SA worker hired under one grant to help Unaccompanied Minors from Central America who have been granted asylum help access public benefits and essentials such as Social Security number application and CA id application.
- Workers and Program Manager are largely part time only.
Complete list of current SA workers and language capacities:

Harnit Kang, (Burma Refugee Family Network, Program Manager)
 Zar Ni Maung (Refugee Transitions, Burmese)
 Farhad Noor Habib (Refugee Transitions, Intern not SA worker, Dari, Pashtu)
 Sandra Vazquez (Refugee Transitions, Spanish, for grant serving Limited English Proficient CalWORKS clients)
 Bisrat Solomon Abraham (Burma Refugee Family Network, Amharic and Tygrinya)
 Wah Blue Soe (Burma Refugee Family Network, Karen)
 Lucinda Perez (Burma Refugee Family Network, Mam and Spanish seated at OUSD under RASAP)
 Sushma Gurung (Catholic Charities of the East Bay, Nepali)

- Referral Form embedded here for clarity on types of services provided. It will be sent out in a separate email to EBRF members as well, once it is finalized.

REFERRAL FORM FOR CLIENT TO SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT SERVICES (the actual referral will be sent as a separate attachment. This is simply for reference of menu of type of services that can be provided)

Note: All referrals must first go to Harnit Kang, Program Manager at Burma Refugee Family Network (BRFN)

Email: harnitkaur.kang@gmail.com Tel: (510) 712-5953

Subject line should read: Referral from (agency name). Scan and attach this referral form.
 DO NOT PUT CLIENT NAME IN THE EMAIL SUBJECT LINE NOR BODY OF YOUR EMAIL.

Client Name: _____ **Is Client LEP CalWORKS:**
 yes/no/unknown

Country of Origin: _____

Date of Entry/Granted: _____ **Primary Language:**

USCIS Status: (check appropriate category)

- **Refugee**
- **Asylum**
- **U/T visa**

- Parolee
- SIV
- Other : _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Indicate Type of Social Adjustment (SA) Services Currently Needed by Client:

Note: For a successful intake, please request that client bring all paperwork relevant to the matter at hand to the appointment.

- Assistance with Public Benefits: (CalFRESH, Medi-Cal, RCA, CalWorks, GA, SSI, IHSS)
- Medical Care Access and Information
- Management of Personal Finances (Banks, Bills, Budgeting & Finances)
- Understanding Rental Agreements
- Understanding Law Enforcement
- Human Relations and Cultural Acclimatization
- DMV and Auto related matters
- Naturalization / Citizenship
- Crisis Intervention
- Education Access
- Child Care Access
- One time only services (e.g.: free cell phone, assistance to apply for affordable housing)
- Other _____

NOTES: Please continue on reverse of form if needed:

World Refugee Day Planning:

- Agencies with resource tables can request event sign in sheets for their outreach records directly from the Forum Coordinator for a period of three weeks after the event.
- Fairyland tickets. 200 at event, 100 reserved for new arrival families who cannot attend event due to Ramadan. Reserved tickets will be equitably distributed through OUSD RASAP with Nate Dunstan, Refugee Transitions Intern and IRC case worker.
- Publically elected and government officials attending the event include Assembly member Rob Bonta, Board Supervisor Wilma Chan, Sysvanh Kabkeo, Marisa Ramos, and Sadaf Pirzada.
- Still needed: Emcees and names of cultural groups and number of performances.

Northern Alameda Consortium for Adult Education (NACAE) new website and class list.

- Handout of infographic regarding adult school and community college pathways distributed at the meeting. Agency staff are encouraged to look at the new website for list of classes available for English Language Learners in this region: nacae.net

CA State Medi-Cal Expansion to Undocumented Children SB75 – *Marisa Ramos, Chief of Refugee Health, CA Department of Public Health.*

Medi-Cal expansion to Undocumented immigrant children under the age of 19 years was passed in Senate Bill 75 on May 16th 2015. CA is currently the only state to offer such coverage to this population.

- It provides full coverage for children under the age of 19 regardless of their immigrant status. Individuals must meet eligibility criteria regarding income. Link to “All county Letter” which may be helpful for service providers to have on hand and show in the event that Medi-Cal staff are unfamiliar with the program parameters appears here:

Here is the all-county letter and the website to information on SB 75:

All County Letter-Full Scope Medi-Cal for All Children

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/ACWDL2016/ACWDL16-12.pdf>

Website on SB 75:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/SB-75.aspx>

Helpful Information and links to help clear confusion regarding differences between Covered CA and Medi-Cal - *shared by Marisa Ramos, Chief of Refugee Health, CA Department of Public Health:*

- http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/Medi-Cal_CovCA_FAQ.aspx
- **In that website you will find the following information to avoid a gap in service:**
- **Medi-Cal has been discontinued and I am now able to enroll in Covered California during a Special Enrollment Period (SEP), how can I avoid a gap in my health coverage?**
- If your Medi-Cal will be or has been discontinued, in order to avoid a gap in your health coverage, you should pick a Covered California plan before the date your Medi-Cal ends. If you do not select a Covered California plan in the same month your Medi-Cal ends, you will not have health care coverage for at least a month. You must also pay your Covered California premium by the due date when you are billed in order to be covered. If your request for enrollment is completed within 60 days of the qualifying life event date, the soonest your Covered California health plan can start will be the 1st of the month following your Covered California plan.selection. If you wait more than 60 days after your Medi-Cal ends to pick a Covered California plan, you may not be able to enroll until Covered California’s next Open Enrollment Period. You may contact Covered California online at CoveredCA.com or call [800-300-1506](tel:800-300-1506) or contact your County Eligibility Worker for assistance in selecting your Covered California plan. You may reach your County Eligibility Worker at the county social services agency via <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>.

Agency Announcements:

- LFCD is offering summer job opportunities for OHA youths ages 16-21.
- LFCD has 72 slots so anyone qualified and interested can browse the flier attached below and contact LFCD for more information.
- There are also year round youth employment program available, contact LFCD for more information.
- Summer after school Youth Employment Program available at the county, which is effective July 1st 2016, requirements: Cal-Works, Foster Care.
- JFCS/EB is looking to hire a full time Resettlement Case manager who specifically speaks Arabic to connect with the Arabic speaking community in Contra Costa County.
- JFCS/EB is on the verge of getting funding for enhancing cultural orientation on health issues that includes: mental health and trauma, disease prevention and LGBT health.
- Refugee Transitions and OUSD RASAP Program is providing summer school for adults learners as well as children at Franklin Elementary School. There will be three class levels for adult learners at OUSD. Enrollment starts on June 20, 2016 at 9am-10am. Classes will be held Monday-Friday: 9am-12pm. Bus tickets are available for those in need and childcare will be available. No charge to attend. Nothing is required, except that attendees register in-person on the first day of class.
- Red Cross have always helped reunite families who are separated through any form of disasters including war. Red Cross encourages US citizens or non- citizens with missing family members to contact the Red Cross for tracing services.
- Upwardly Global works with immigrant refugees and asylee with professional educational and work experiences abroad and help them navigate the professional job search in US. The organization uses in- person and online training platforms to teach new arrival professionals how to navigate the job search into their career field. They will be launching newly updated online training platform as well as salary negotiation trainings and ESL learning component on business related matters soon. Their office is physically located in downtown San Francisco, near the Montgomery Bart station. For referrals or more information, contact: Lex Duey, lex@upwardlyglobal.org

CA State refugee Program Bureau Information, Sysvanh Kabkeo, Chief of Refugee Programs Bureau.

- 85,000 arrivals projected by the President, it includes the 10,000 Syrian refugees. Up until May 25th approximately 38,000 refugees have already been resettled in the US.

Current Arrival Data: JFCS- East Bay, CCEB, and IRC.

Jewish Family and Community Services- East Bay Arrivals October 1,2015-June 31, 2016.

Origin	Number of Arrivals	Languages
Afghanistan	78	Farsi, Dari, Pashtu
Columbia	2	Spanish
Iraq	7	Arabic
Iran	4	Farsi
Uganda	4	Kiswahili, Luganda
Syrian	5	Arabic
Total	100	

Of 100 individuals 42 are children, which is 42% of the caseload 100.

23 of 42 children are school age (54%), 19 are under 5 years old.

Males-52; Females- 48.

78 individuals (78%) of 100 arrived refugees are Afghans; 7 Iraqis; 2 Columbians, 5 Syrian, and 4 Ugandans.

7 Clients (7%) of 100 arrived refugees are LGBT from Uganda, Syria and Columbia.

JFCS-East Bay estimates that approximately 20-25% are resettled in Alameda County. Partners request that the agencies start to keep track of which county their clients are resettled to share in future.

CCEB- Arrivals Oct 1, 2015-March 31, 2016.

Origin	Number of Arrivals
Afghanistan	90
Bhutan	3
Burma	8
Eritrea	2
Iran	2
Iraq	18
Pakistan	5
Yemen	3
Total	131/150 total projected

We are at 87% of our arrival number. We only need 19 more refugees to make our goal of 150 for the fiscal year. For the top three new arrival groups, Afghans account for 69% of the caseload, followed by Iraqis (14%) and those from Burma (6%).

International rescue Committee Arrivals October 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016

Origin	Number of Arrivals	Languages
Afghanistan	245	Pashto, Dari, Farsi
Bhutan	2	Nepali
Burma	21	Karen, Rohingya, Tedim Chin, Burmese
China	3	Mandarin
Dem. Republic of Congo	2	Kiswahili
El Salvador	5	Spanish
Eritrea	7	Tigrinya, Amharic
Honduras	2	Spanish
Iraq	3	Arabic

Iran	3	Armenian, Farsi
Nepal	1	Nepali
Somalia	1	Somali, Kiswahili
Sudan	1	Arabic
Syria	9	Arabic
Total	305	

Total cases-122; 130 females (43%), 175 males (57%), 121 individuals were minors (39.64%)- 55 school aged, 66 under 5 yrs. old.

Forum Coordinator Updates:

- Funding for the Forum Coordinator lasts until July 15, 2016. From July 15 till September 30, Steering Committee member or other designated person will run the August meeting as well as active list serve. SF- CAIRS and Refugee Forums of Santa Clara County have also active List serves for individuals who want full coverage of notices throughout the region. From August 22-September 30, Blythe will be at work on social adjustment services work through other grants.

Collaborative Partner Input for EBRF Website inclusions:

- All input given at previous meeting as well as this one will be entered to augment the new EBRF website community resources section. Additions from the group made today will include:

Immigration legal Services:

- Currently includes: APIIO, CCEB, Centro Legal, EBCLC, East Bay Sanctuary, Filipino Advocates, IIBA, IRC, JFCS East Bay, Social Justice Collaborative, Korean Community of East Bay, Immigration advocates network, Bay Area Legal Aid, East Bay Community Law, Homeless Action Center, African Advocacy, USCIS.

Transportation:

- Clipper, East Bay Para transit, Transit 511, County Connection

Vital Documents:

- Berkeley Health Vital Statistics
- County of Alameda Clerk Recorder
- Social Security
- USCIS
- California Department of Motor vehicles
- Contra Costa link needed
- State link (via Marisa)

Refugee Tracing Services:

- Red Cross
- Refugee United

Mental Health:

- AC Behavioral Health
- API Resource Directory of providers
- Crisis Support, 24 hrs. Crisis Line
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- John George Psychiatric
- Include survivors (SF)
- Trauma Partners
- Include link to each county for crisis services