

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



October , 2000

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 00- 31

To County Refugee Coordinators

Please be advised that the next Refugee Coordinators meeting is scheduled as follows

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2000
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Location California Department of Social Services
8745 Folsom Blvd., #100
Sacramento, CA 95826

For your convenience, a copy of the draft minutes for the last meeting are enclosed for your review. Also enclosed is a map with directions from the Sacramento International Airport, courtesy of the Yahoo! Internet site.

If you have any suggestions for the agenda of the upcoming October meeting, please address, e-mail or fax them to:

Mr. Stephen Saucedo
California Department of Social Services
Refugee Programs Branch
744 P Street, MS 6-646
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 654-7187
ssaucedo@dss.ca.gov

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Saucedo at (916) 654-5594

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Barton".

Robert A. Barton, Chief
Refuge Programs Branch

Enclosure

COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS' MEETING
August 28, 2000

Robert Barton
RPB
(916) 654-1115

Sergey Terehuen
Yolo County
(916) 375-6319

Phyllis Iwasaki
RPB
(916) 654-2387

Lavinia Limon
ORR
(202) 401-9246

Yuliya Balabanova
Yolo County
(916) 375-6255

Laura Hardcastle
DHS
(916) 323-1164

Gayle Smith
ORR
(202) 205-3590

Nancy Schou
Yolo County
(916) 669-2300

Betts Smith
RPB
(916) 654-0495

Kathy Do
ORR
(202) 401-4579

Janis Bellinger
San Diego County
(619) 338-2878

Sherry Hanna
CA Dept. of Aging
(916) 323-1120

John Tran
Alameda County
(510) 596-0416

Leonilla Strelkoff
Los Angeles County
(213) 738-3986

Daniel Crawford
RPB
(916) 654-5964

Sambo Ly
Alameda County
(510) 891-5700

Peter Vang
Fresno County
(559) 453-6692

Stephen Saucedo
RPB
(916) 654-5594

Janet Tompkins
Contra Costa County
(510) 412-3237

Christine Balbos
Fresno County
(559) 453-6543

Lenore Schmidt
RPB
(916) 654-2805

Dolores Mejia
Orange County
(714) 541-7874

Pao Ly
Fresno County
(559) 453-6092

Ophelia Farrell
RPB
(916) 654-8980

Long Thai Nguyen
Sacramento County
(916) 263-3852

Kim Chi Trieu
Santa Clara County
(408) 441-5659

Jamie McCloud
REFUGEEWorks
(408) 453-3536

An Tran
San Joaquin County
(209) 468-2061

Angelica Saragosa
Yolo County
(916) 375-6253

Jo Ann Soker
REFUGEEWorks
(303) 839-1240

Karen Hart
San Francisco
(415) 431-8700

Janet Sandlin
RPB
(916) 654-1246

Bob Barton opened the meeting with introductions of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) guests, Lavinia Limon, Gayle Smith and Kathy Do and Joyce Hull representing the state of Georgia.

Bob confirmed the redirection of \$400,000 State Administrative funds for allocation to counties and the completion of the \$500,000 contract to Jane Bloom for Technical Assistance.

Jane Bloom spoke briefly about the proposed Technical Assistance contract activities. Presently there are 35 Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs) in eleven counties identified for assistance; half way through the contract she will re-assess and determine if more will be added. The MAAs were either self-selected or recommended by the county. Twenty needs assessments have been completed and site visits will occur within the next two to three months.

Lavinia Limon provided information regarding three sets of refugees impacting the program:

Asylees are eligible for refugee assistance and services beginning on the date that they are granted asylum instead of their date of entry into the United States. It seems that the ethnicity of most asylees are aligned with refugees (asylees are also from China, Sri Lanka and India). ORR also pays foster care for unaccompanied minor asylees.

2. “Lost Boys” are approximately 3,400 Sudanese age 18 to 20 and minors who have fled their homes and moved as a group through various refugee camps in Africa. They have formed support units within their group (referred to as “Pods”) and desire education.
3. Special Medical Program refugees are refugees who are HIV positive and granted waivers by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to enter the United States. Previously, refugees needed evidence that any medical treatment would not be at government expense; however, INS dropped this condition for entry. The majority of Special Medical Program refugees are from Africa, but some are also from the former Soviet Union and Asia. ORR has funded six cities for these refugees: San Diego, Chicago, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Minneapolis. San Diego is not accepting cases, as they are not ready to do so. More sites are to be funded: Los Angeles, Seattle and Dallas.

Bob then asked for Counties to report their accomplishment:

Santa Clara, Kim Chi Trieu, reported about the county's Women's Program, which serves 150 women with part-time school and training activities. She also noted the county has had a very successful Job Fair with over 1,000 refugees and 32 agencies/companies participating.

San Joaquin, An Tran indicated that they were using the \$45,000 set-aside funds for interpreters.

Long Nguyen of Sacramento County reported on recruitment efforts to increase the number of referrals; clients can choose which agency will serve them; the county has WIA/WTW one-stop services.

Pao Ly indicated that Fresno County has \$1 million in CalWORKs funding to serve refugees; special funding is used to teach refugees to use mainstream services; the county gave the providers computers so all use the same system; the county allows all providers to attend county training.

Leonilla Strelkoff indicated that Los Angeles providers might focus on first time employment as well as moving clients from part-time employment to fulltime employment; they are working on the RFP that will cover the next two years; they are working collaboratively to link refugees with programs.

Yolo County represented by Nancy Schou reported about a collaborative effort they are promoting for on-the-job training for various construction apprenticeships and medical interpretation. Also, it was noted that the county coordinator has been appointed to the local WIA board.

San Diego County represented by Janis Bellinger indicated that they had recently completed an update of their three-year plan to assist refugees to self-sufficiency. She also stated that set-aside funds were exclusively being targeted to provide transportation services for refugees.

Janet Tompkins of Contra Costa County stated the county was phasing-out their Bosnian medical interpreter because the county would no longer receive RESS set-aside funds. Ms. Tompkins indicated that the county thought the project had been a great benefit but the county was not able to continue to fund it themselves.

Karen Hart of San Francisco County stated that the county was using their \$21,000 of set-aside funds to translate Women Infants and Children (WIC) printed materials into Bosnian. Ms. Hart also indicated that refugee enrollment problems were directly related to cost of housing in San Francisco. She stated there were a little over 200 refugees enrolled in their programs.

Dolores Mejia from Orange County reported that the county was using their RESS set-aside funds for "outreach." Specifically, the outreach efforts were to try and sign-up refugees for the WIC program. The county is also developing a resource directory

they are planning to distribute to all seniors. Lastly, the county is also excited about trying to teach refugees how to telecommunicate for their jobs.

John Tran representing Alameda County stated they were using their RESS set-aside funds for referral services. The refugee coordinator stated the county is making great efforts to encourage service providers and community based organizations (CBOs) to compete for CalWORKs contracts and WIA grant projects. He stated this was being done because of the loss of TA funds to the county and the decrease in the flow of refugees to the county. Another effort the county was involved in was The Language Access Project.

Bob Barton closed the meeting and thanked everyone for participating.

Following the meeting closure Lavinia Limon requested to make one last statement. Ms Limon wanted to reiterate that RESS set-aside funds are directed to help working refugees receive needed services. She also stated that these refugees under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 were entitled to interpreters and document translations in their own language.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 26, 2000.



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Starting From:	Arriving At:	Distance	Approximate Travel Time	
SMF	8745 Folsom Blvd.	20.9 miles	29 mins	Reverse Driving Directions
Sacramento, CA	Sacramento, CA 95826-3712			

	Directions	Miles
1.	Start out going South on AIRPORT BLVD towards RETURN TO TERMINAL by turning right.	2.2
2.	Take the I-5 SOUTH ramp towards SACRAMENTO/YUBA CITY	0.2
3.	Merge onto I-5 S.	3.2
4.	Take the I-5 SOUTH exit on the left.	0.2
5.	Merge onto I-5 S/CA-99 S.	7.1
6.	Take I-80 BR/US-50 E/CAPITAL CITY FRWY.	1.4
7.	Stay straight to go onto US-50 E.	5.5
8.	Take the WATT AVE exit.	0.1
9.	Keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp.	0.3
10.	Merge onto WATT AVE.	0.3
11.	Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto FOLSOM BLVD.	0.3



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