

SAN DIEGO REFUGEE COALITION

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Ans'd. *JLS*

NEXT COALITION MEETING - 9:30 A.M. APRIL 17, 1991, at Jewish Community Center, 54th & University

- I. Call to Order
- II. Minutes of the last meeting
- III. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Treasurer
- IV. Coalition Committee Reports
 - a. Representatives to Statewide Committees
 - 1. California Forum
 - 2. State Advisory Committee
 - b. Health & Mental Health Committee
 - c. Education & Employment/Training Committee
 - d. Resettlement & Immigration Committee
 - e. Liaison Committee
 - f. Corporate Committee
 - g. M.A.A. Reports
- V. Correspondence
- VI. Other Business
 - a. San Diego County Refugee Coordinator
 - b. San Diego County Refugee Health Coordinator
 - c. Letters for New Membership
- VII. Announcements
 - a. Workshops, Seminars & Meetings
- VIII. Adjournment

ATTENDANCE: Lois Bloom, Bounhong Khommarath, Cindy Jensen, Alemi Daba, Mick Dennison, John Robbins, Tuan Pham, Ratry Som, Karen Bebb, David Milne, Deacon Peter

Meeting opened at 9:40 a.m. Lois Bloom chaired. Lois called for review of minutes. Bounhong noted an addition on page two, line 3 of the 2/20/91 minutes, adding Etta Howard's name to having assisted in recruiting clients at IMAA. Minutes were approved with addition.

Resource Manual - Cindy Jensen brought a few copies of the resource manual final draft for members to review and comment on. She would like changes to be turned in by Friday, March 22, 1991 since she is anxious to finish this volunteer project. Lois brought up the issue of reproduction. John asked how many we thought was needed. Lois felt it needed to go out to all Coalition members and to the list of MAAs and in fact would be nice to be able to give MAAs a couple of copies of the manual. Idea was raised that possibly ongoing requests for copies we could ask \$1.00 to be donated. This seemed to be an acceptable idea. John volunteer to reproduce the resource manual and provide 200 copies.

Treasurer's Report: Jack Medcalf had an excused absence but sent in a treasurer's report as follows:

Awards Banquet Expenditure: Rose Garden - \$562.59, Tropies - \$501.18, Programs - \$64.25 = Total \$1126.97. Revenue: Sponsors - \$411.00, Lunch Tickets - \$499.00 = Total \$910.00. Cost to Coalition \$216.97. The Coalition's current bank balance is: \$849.26.

Health Report & MENTAL HEALTH: By Ratry. The health & mental health committee met on 3/11/91. The attendants were Mary Cahill Refugee Health Coordinator, Michael Pate, Nurse Practitioner, Leonid Markman, Counselor from HIAS, and Bounhong Khommarath, Director Personal Counseling from UPAC.

Each program representative shared information about their program and its functions.

Refugee Health Services Program has extended health care services for newly arrived refugees. In addition to Tuberculosis Screening, RHSP has the ability to provide a physical exam including lab test such as ova and parasites test, Hgb test, urine test, serum test for Hbsag on child bearing age women.

The extension of these services is extremely beneficial to refugees because it is free of charge since refugees cannot receive medical during the first month of their arrival.

Unfortunately, new arrivals with immigrant status can benefit TB skin test and chest X-ray, and from health program only.

To comply with Center of Disease Control, our main objective is to see and to screen regular clients within 30-days and to

complete the exam within 60-days; to contact clients who carry waiver B-TB and other communicable disease within seven days. RHSP, again request a strong cooperation from VOLAGS and sponsor to notify RHSP as soon as the clients arrived.

The main obstacle in clinic operation is transportation. All of health workers are very tied-up during clinic operation. Transportation provided by RHSP is very, very limited. VOLAGS and anchor relatives are encouraged to help their own clients/relatives to get to the clinic. This will help smooth out the clinic operation as well as to increase client's independency.

Since we extended services, RHSP is unable to see walk-in clients. Please call us for an appointment for your clients. To keep an appointment is very important. Repeat failure will accumulate the size of the clinic that will affect the clinic operation. Long waiting periods can also affect preventive health project and heighten risk to public health if a TB case cannot be seen on time for a protection/prevention/and treatment.

I understand that one of the responsibilities of the VOLAG sponsor is to have their clients screened for health problem. And it requires a copy of health exam form. It will also help VOLAG to have HA form soon if the client complete the health exam sooner.

Hepatitis B program assists pregnant women who are HEP. B carrier to have their baby and household contact for screening and vaccination. Most referrals were received from CMR, DHS (needs more referrals). During the month of February 1991, RHSP identified 78 arrivals, number year-to-date is 1160 (77% of the goal), screened 78 clients (year-to-date: 1066; 112% of the goal) commenced Tx in February: 30 (year-to-date: 125, 50% of the goal). TB Skin Test in February 1991: S.E.A.: 31 - 17 negative/55%
- 14 positive/45%
NON-S.E.A.: 47 - 18 negative/38%
29 positive/62%
TOTAL: 78 Screened: 35 negative/45%
43 positive/55%

OVA and Parasite tests were done only on Asian, Middle East and African Clients. Total positive, approximately 30%.

Bounhong informed the meeting about personal counseling program that provides assistance and relief for marital conflict, parent and child problems, emotional or acute psychiatric cases referred to counseling and Tx center.

Health and Mental Health committee requested more participation from VOLAGs to join the meeting for more efficiency in helping refugees.

Set up meeting schedule: Second Monday of every other month.
Next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 1991 at Catholic Charities at 1:30 p.m.

Bounhong added that there was lack of participation from community clinic and representatives from VOLAGS which will be helpful to make health care related organizations, clinics better in providing health services to refugees. Mary CaHill will outreach these clinic directors at Linda Vista Health & Mid-City.

Employment Services/Voc. Training/Educ. Committee: Lois asked Mick Dennison to report. Mick reported verbally at the Coalition and Bunny Kunin, Chair of the committee turned in a handwritten report. The following is a combination of the verbal and written report. Bunny was unable to attend this Coalition meeting. The meeting was held at Jewish Family Services on March 14, 1991 at 9:30 a.m. It has been agreed by the committee members to convene monthly (2nd Thurs.) at Jewish Family Services. **The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 1991, at 9:30 a.m. at Jewish Family Services on 4th Ave.**

In attendance at the meeting were representatives from USCC, IRC, LIRS, JFS and IMAA. The committee decided to devote portions of future meetings to specific topics of interest related to employment and have designated speakers to address issues involved.

Discussion of this meeting was around specific case difficulties and this led to a discussion on the "100 hour rule waiver." Cindy agreed to do some research on this issue and come up with a brief description of what the 100-hour rule waiver is for those on the committee who may be unfamiliar with it.

At the Coalition meeting Cindy mentioned that in a recent meeting with state representatives; Bill Downs and Linda Page, that it had been noted that San Diego County could not at this time seek the 100-hour rule waiver since it is a control group for another county who has it. Bill Downs thought it was Santa Clara county for which we are acting as a control group. Mr. Downs also pointed out that he thought strongly that the entire state will eventually go to the 100-hour rule waiver. Cindy stated, however, she neglected to ask the state when this might occur.

Another area of interest for the committee is the San Diego Community College/ESL Program and its lack of concentration on employment/vocational language. Mick noted they felt that more time is needed to give to refugees to learn more English.

Other topics discussed at the meeting regarded a medical form which USCC is using to have their clients get a medical doctor description of the capability or non-capability of an individual to seek and maintain employment. This was brought up based on a discussion of a specific case situation that JFS was dealing with. This medical description includes what type of work an individual can and cannot do. Some were very interested in this since it is very difficult for us to determine these capabilities or non-capabilities. A person's condition may not prevent him/her from employment.

Mick in the Coalition meeting pointed out that the committee shared employment openings where that particular agency did not

have the right client match, therefore, shared the information with others in case it might be helpful to someone else. Mick felt for this and other information sharing that goes on in this committee that it was a powerful committee and invited others to join.

IRC reported that they had in the last two months made 19 placements which was a mix of matching grant clients being the larger number and a smaller number which had been on welfare. It seems to us that openings were fairly accessible during these last two months. It had been slower after the 1st of the year.

In the Coalition meeting a discussion came up on "Transitional Medical Care" and "Transitional Child Care." John offered to have someone from the County come to the next two Coalition meetings and report on each of these two topics. It was mentioned that it would be good if some line staff and ES/VT/Educ. committee members could attend these discussions.

Mick added a comment about the six-month report to the Board of Supervisors which statistically looks very positive and how good the program is running except maybe in one area.

Resettlement & Immigration Committee: Reported by Cindy Jensen
The committee met on March 19, 1991 at 9:00a.m. At this meeting the VOLAGS met with state representatives, Bill Downs and Linda Page. It was felt it was a good idea to meet with Bill since he has been down in San Diego as the County monitor for several months and we have never met with him. The committee discussed, changes in the state personnel, unaccompanied minors, the 100-hour rule waiver, communication and coordination issues, Voluntary Agencies coordination efforts in job development and placement, "Supplemental Refugee Services" (SRS) and GAIN cutbacks. It is hoped that periodically we can meet with Bill to get his input and he receive ours. Bill seemed receptive to this. Attached is the arrival information.

MAA Report: No representative was arranged to speak today, however, Lois announced that the next MAA meeting would be rescheduled for April 15th at 5:45p.m. It was felt that at these meetings we could include information on overseas camp situations and processing issues, etc. Lois hoped also to maybe get a crafts bazaar interest.

County, Department of Social Services Report: See Attached Report.
John added that along with RCA reduction talk, some states are even considering shutting down RCA program all together. Questions came up that these may be states with no general relief programs otherwise how would they benefit from shutting the RCA program down?

John also mentioned a rising concern over a genetic disorder particularly among Asians called "Thalassemia" - like the sickle cell disorder. John is helping to look for revenues that would allow for some genetic counseling and services to refugees. John

is working with UCSD.

These comments were in addition to the handwritten report attached.

Questions were raised by Cindy to John in regards to the SBS or Supplemental Refugee Services possibility for San Diego County. If San Diego County implemented this option would then refugees be made mandatory to the system (unlike the volunteer situation now)? Yes. If all the refugees, including RCA, were incorporated into GAIN as the service component, would there be enough money to serve all the clients both in GAIN and on RCA? No!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Refugee Information and Exchange Conference advisory committee will meet on March 26, 1991. The conference is scheduled for August 21 through the 23rd in Sacramento.

Amerasian Conference: Deacon Peter attended the conference and thought it was a very good conference. He had learned that there is a transit camp in Saigon for Amerasians.

Deacon Peter announced there are now 10 groups in the Amerasian MAA.

Cindy shared some processing information: Out of Kenya there seems to be a lot of fraud being discovered. It is unfortunate when this happens because once they discover it, they generally tighten down to the extent that even those who make innocent mistakes may be subject to being denied because of the tightened processing procedures in place. Due to the war in the Gulf; Sudan, Somalia (which actually shut down previous to the war do to civil strife) and Pakistan were shut down & all ex-patriots removed due the dangers of terrorism. We are beginning to hear some movement now to restore these areas. New regulations are now out in regards to Amerasian extended families who were denied before because a married Amerasian could only take her spouse and not the extended family. The Amerasians will now be able to apply for those extended families. The old ruling caused some very hard decisions to be made on the part of the Amerasian.

John passed out some handout materials as follows:

.. "Changing Migration In And From Eastern Europe and The Soviet Union" dated July 16-17, 1990, Summary of Meeting

"The Ramifications Of Soviet Emigration" December 8-10, 1990, Stirin, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

"Temporary Assistance For Repatriates" and

"A Massive Soviet Exodus Is Unlikely, Experts Say" an article reprinted from International Herald Tribune, December 13, 1990.

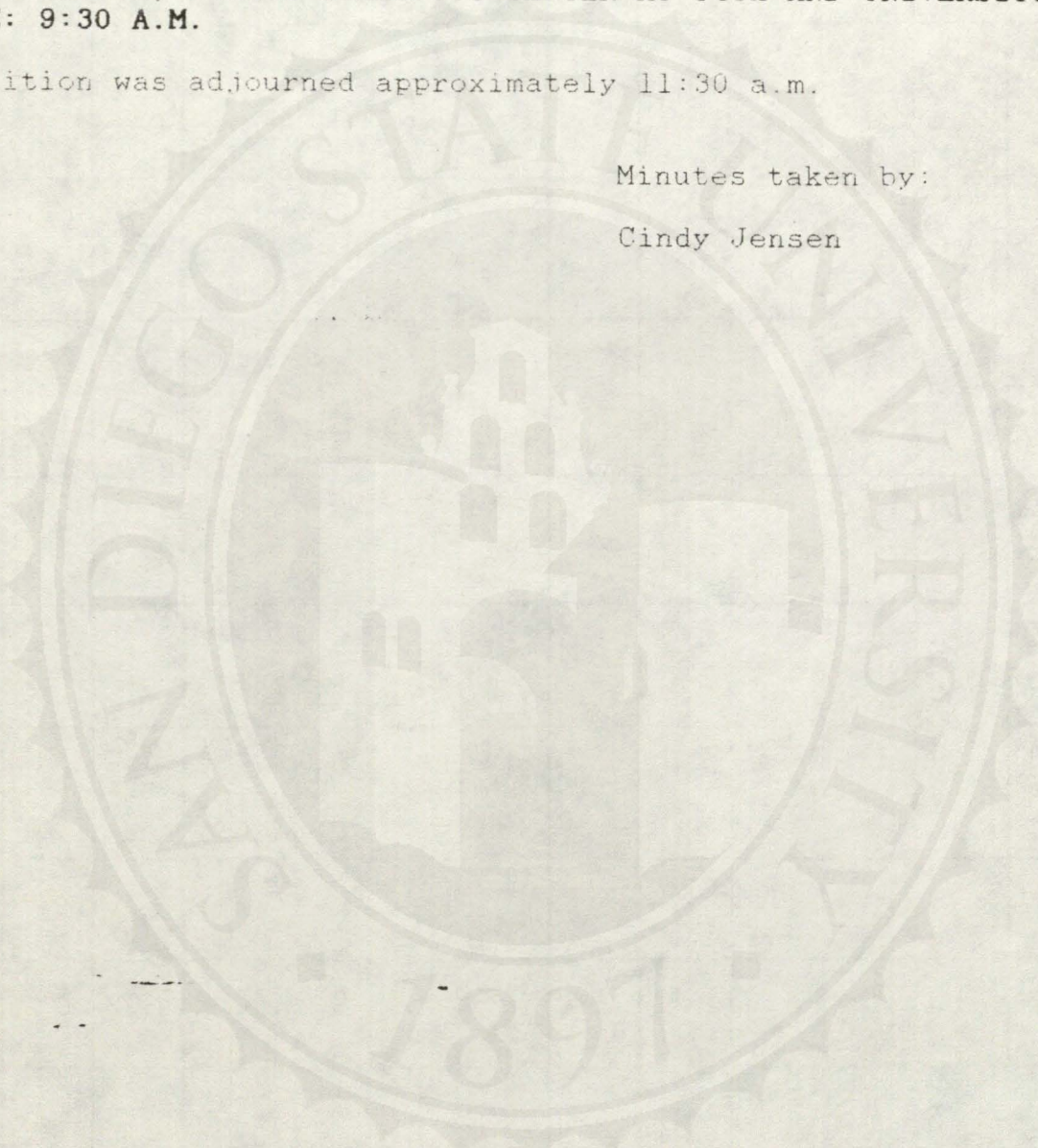
Anyone interested in receiving a copy or additional copies, they were given to Cindy Jensen, Coalition Secretary. You can stop by IRC, 3752 30th Street. I will also bring them back to the next Coalition meeting for anyone who missed getting copies.

**THE NEXT COALITION MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 17, 1991 AT OUR NEW LOCATION, JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AT 54TH AND UNIVERSITY.
TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

Coalition was adjourned approximately 11:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by:

Cindy Jensen



San Diego Refugee Coalition
Total Montly Primary Refugee Arrivals

1991	Vietnam		Other			Sub Total	Africa	Middle East	European		Carrib- bean	Sub Total	Total
	AmerAsian	Other	Lao	Hm	Khmer				Soviet	Other			
January	06 ⁰⁸⁾ 29	48	--	--	--	77	07	11	06	15	--	39	116
February	05 ⁰⁵⁾ 07	16	06	--	--	29	17	22	19	10	04	72	101
March													
April													
May													
June													
July													
August													
September													
October													
November													
December													
TOTAL	11 ¹³⁾ 36	64	06	--	--	106	24	33	25	25	4	111	217

COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATOR'S REPORT
MARCH 20, 1991

I. REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM (REPP) PERFORMANCE
JULY 1, 1990 - FEBRUARY 28, 1991 (8TH MONTH)

1. TA VII
(Includes Vocational Training and Employment Services)
 - Total clients Served 807 / 231% annual goal
 - Total clients Placed 146 / 81% annual goal
2. RESS
(Includes OJT, Childcare and Customized Training)
 - Total Clients Served 140 / 51% annual goal
 - Total Clients Placed 75 / 37% annual goal
3. MAA Work Experience/Cultural Awareness/Detainees Services
 - Total Indirect Referrals 1,300 / 130% annual goal
 - Total Clients Outreach 539 / 135% annual goal
 - Total Direct Referrals 437 / 109% annual goal
 - Total Clients Follow-up 236 / 59% annual goal
 - Total Work Experience Placements 28 / 112% annual goal
 - Total Detainees Served 15 / 50% annual goal
 - Total Detainee Family Members Served 22 / 49% annual goal
4. Personal Counseling (PC)
 - Total Clients Served 175 / 64% annual goal
 - # REPP Clients Served 58 / 33% annual goal
 - # Non-REPP Clients Served 117 / 117% annual goal
5. Refugee Health Services (RHS)
 - Total Refugees Served 1,066 / 107% annual goal
6. Refugee Assessment Unit (RAU)
 - Total Clients Served 1,008 / 144% annual goal
 - # Assessments 805 / 146% annual goal
 - # Reassessments 203 / 135% annual goal

II. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REFUGEE CASELOAD AS OF JANUARY 31, 1991

- Total RCA 461 persons
- Total AFDC 3,501 cases
- Total GR 11,319 persons
- Total GR 163 cases
- Total GR 187 persons

III.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. COALITION ATTENDANCE

Representing the County REPP at the Coalition's March 20, 1991 Monthly Meeting are John Robbins, County Refugee Coordinator, Refugee Employment Preparation Program, County Department of Social Services; and Tuan Pham, Assistant Division Chief.

2. LEGISLATION

There are four pieces of State legislation related to Refugee Services that might be of interest:

- SB689 would set up a three-county pilot program in GAIN that would allow waiver of State requirements, thus allowing counties to design their own GAIN program. Program design would have to meet federal requirements (JOBS).
- SB577 would require that part-time employment of 15 hours or more must be at minimum wage or more, and a determination made that employment would lead to full time and self-sufficiency.
- SB578 would expand target populations from 4 to 5 to include refugees as a target population.
- AB509 would create an "800" hotline number and a post office box to assist Southeast Asians and Koreans who are victims and/or witnesses of crimes.

3. CO-ENROLLMENT PROJECT

Started March 4, 1991 as a result of collaboration between San Diego Consortium, San Diego Community College, and Department of Social Services. Provides VESL-type training for light service auto technicians.

4. REAUTHORIZATION OF REFUGEE ACT

Led by Kennedy. His office is working with a task group composed of representatives from VOLAGS, State/County, and Refugee groups.

5. TIME ELIGIBILITY

ORR is conducting meetings to review funding strategies. Several options being considered would reduce RCA time eligibility.

6. SRS

Continuing discussion on supplemental Refugee Services option. This would create an additional GAIN component to serve refugees if GAIN is in reduction mode.

7. COUNTY RES SIX-MONTH STATUS REPORT

The County Refugee Employment Services (RES) Six-Month Status Report has been disseminated on February 19, 1991 to the public, including San Diego Refugee Coalition members, VOLAGS, MAAs, Refugee service providers, and other County RES Planning participants, for comments prior to submittal to the County Board of Supervisors.

8. STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

Minutes of SAC February 1991 meeting will be provided upon receipt to the Secretary of the Refugee Coalition for highlights in the Coalition minutes and for review by interested Coalition members.

9. SAN DIEGO REFUGEE COALITION MEETING MINUTES

The County has no correction to the minutes of the Coalition meeting of February 20, 1991.