

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 17, 2001

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 01-17

To: County Refugee Coordinators

The Summer Refugee Coordinators meeting will be held as always at the site of the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) annual Refugee Information Exchange Conference.

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2001
Time: 9:00 AM to Noon
Location: Coronado Room
San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina
333 West Harbor Drive
San Diego, California 92101
Phone: (800) 228-9290 or (619) 234-1500

A copy of the draft minutes for the previous meeting, a tentative agenda and a map of directions from the San Diego Airport (courtesy of the Yahoo! website) are enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions about or suggestions for the agenda of this 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
Phone: (916) 654-5594/Fax: (916) 654-7187
ssaucedo@dss.ca.gov

The final Refugee Coordinators' meeting of 2001 is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 15th at the CDSS Training Center at 815 S Street, Sacramento. Further details about this meeting will be provided to you in October.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Thuan Nguyen 8/17/01

THUAN NGUYEN, Chief
Refugee Programs Branch

Enclosure

REFUGEE COORDINATORS MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday, August 29, 2001
9:00 AM to Noon
San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina**

Introductions

Thuan Nguyen

Guests:

- Office of Refugee Resettlement
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services

Nguyen Van Hanh, Senior Advisor to
The Secretary

Carmel Clay-Thompson, Acting Director

Gayle Smith, Director of Division of
Refugee Self-Sufficiency

Kathy Do, California Program
Consultant

Neil Kromash and Jay Womack
Trafficking Program Specialists

Capacity Building and Technical
Assistance—Status of Activities

Jane Bloom and Jamie McLeod
Refugee Works

RCA Regulations

Betts Smith

Refugee Health Issues

Laura Hardcastle

County Comments/Roundtable (including status
on discretionary projects and coordination efforts
with other local agencies)

Refugee Coordinators

Closing Remarks/Announcements

Thuan Nguyen

Next Meeting (Tentative): Thursday, November 15, 2001 at the CDSS Training Center,
815 S Street in Sacramento.

Starting from: SAN, San Diego, CA

Arriving at: 333 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101-7709

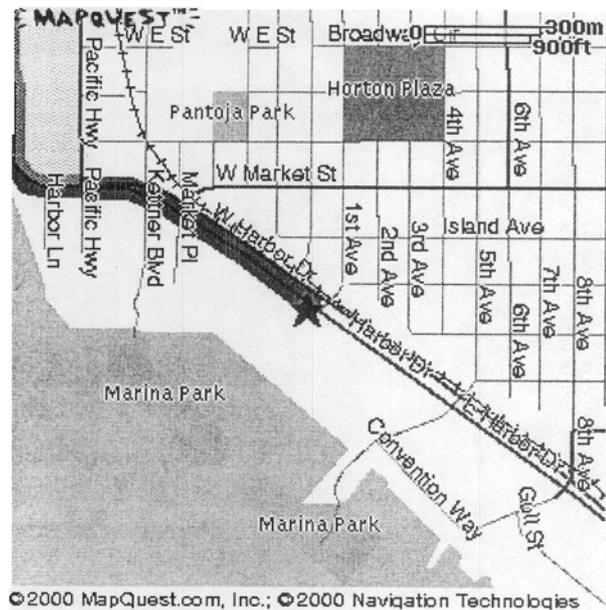
Distance: 3.4 miles

Approximate Travel Time: 8 mins

Full Route



Destination



Directions

- | | Miles |
|---|-------|
| 1. Start out going Northwest on TERMINAL 1 towards TERMINAL 2 by turning right. | 0.2 |
| 2. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto AIRPORT EXIT . | 0.2 |
| 3. Stay straight to go onto TERMINAL 1 . | 0.0 |
| 4. Stay straight to go onto TERMINAL 1 . | 0.1 |
| 5. Stay straight to go onto AIRPORT EXIT . | 0.1 |
| 6. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT . | 0.0 |
| 7. Turn LEFT onto N HARBOR DR. | 2.8 |

MINUTES
County Coordinators Meeting
May 22, 2001

- Steve Saucedo chaired the meeting in place of Janet Sandlin. The following announcements were made: Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has not filled its director position; the Refugee Program Branch (RPB) chief position is still vacant; the agency secretary position in Los Angeles County is also vacant; the State Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be held on May 24 in Fresno and the State Refugee Forum will be held the following day; the Refugee Information Exchange Conference deadline for workshop proposals was extended to May 29; a new state letter on asylees was recently released; May is Refugee Awareness Month.
- Dr. Amy Cox from Rand discussed their recently signed contract with California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The refugee report is an add-on to the main California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) evaluation report on welfare reform. It is being conducted because refugees are in a different set of circumstances from mainstream welfare recipients. The report uses data collection and analysis and has two parts. One part is a process analysis that examines the implementation of CalWORKs and the second part is an impact analysis that looks at the economic outcomes of CalWORKs. The basis of the report will focus on the results of three questions: 1) How are refugees faring under CalWORKs?, 2) What services are refugees using?, and 3) Which programs work as intended? The report is both quantitative and qualitative and will include interviews, surveys, and statistics.
- Jamie McLeod of Refugee Works gave a third quarter update on their project of capacity building among agencies that serve refugees. Eight group trainings and eleven individual technical assistance sessions were provided during this quarter. Refugee Works also expanded the number of program participants (an additional 14 are Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs) in San Diego), upgraded the Financial Management Booklet, provided a series of group and individual technical assistance trainings, and began videotaping group sessions. The program will operate through September of this year.
- Brad Elftmann gave a report on FY 2001 allocations. There are eight counties eligible for Targeted Assistance (TA) funding this year and the TA allocation for California has decreased by about \$650,000. This is the final year of the three year cycle and we are hopeful that we can pick up other counties next year. Standard Refugee Employment Social Services (RESS) funding has decreased by \$615,000 and RESS Set-Aside has decreased by approximately the same amount. However, the total RESS allocation has increased by about \$2 million due to a set-aside allocation for asylees. There

is a significant number of asylees in California and the state benefited from this new ORR program. It was noted that naturalization preparation, referral and interpretative services to asylees are not subject to five year limitations, but other services cannot be provided if the asylee has been in the country over 60 months. The RPB will allocate about \$200,000 to the Refugee Health Program of the Department of Health Services (DHS) for outreach and interpreter training. Brad discussed the status of the FY1999 allocations. He prepared an updated list of where counties are in their allocations. RESS and TA final invoices are due August 20th. Any counties that are not fully expending their allocations should contact Brad.

Long Nguyen suggested that costs for program monitoring be changed from an administrative cost to a program cost in accordance with changes in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Welfare-To-Work (WTW) policy.

- Laura Hardcastle from Refugee Health stated that ORR has reduced California's allocation for preventative health programs by \$80,000. There is approximately \$1.3 million available for health services to eight counties. A review of proposals will be held on June 24th. A comprehensive health assessment will be fully implemented by August 31st.
- Betts Smith met with members of the community to review the new regulations. RPB is writing a waiver letter to ORR in regards to the eligibility determination period. RPB would like to keep the 45 day period and not change to a 30 day period. The 45 day period would follow the same policy as CalWORKs. A new change would also be difficult due to the computerized process already in place at the county level. A second part of the waiver addresses "immediate need" payments that are sometimes necessary in urgent situations. This would allow a payment to be made without being delayed during the application process. This change is also in line with CalWORKs regulations. It was also decided that diversion services payments, a one time lump sum payment instead of payments spread out over eight months, would not be appropriate for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) clients. This type of payment is typically more beneficial to a family who is more established than refugees.
- Karen Hart (San Francisco County): On May 23rd she will present staff recommendations for refugee Request For Proposal (RFP) design and selection criteria to the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). They will hold their Refugee Awareness Day activities on May 30th.
- An Tran (San Joaquin County): September 14th was selected for Refugee Awareness Day.
- John Tran (Alameda County): The county's Agency Director position is still vacant. They conducted a survey to determine the pay scale of bilingual

workers. They will use this information to make a recommendation on the pay scale for bilingual county employees.

- Allette Lundeberg (Santa Clara County): County CalWORKs funds are being used for refugee services. These funds have replaced about half of the approximately 40% reduction in the county's FY 2000 RESS funds. Refugee Awareness Day will be held on May 25th.
- Christine Balbas (Fresno County): The county has had some success in their attempts to recruit more bilingual staff. They have also hired a consultant to help develop a process for accessing interpreters and for the translation of written materials.
- Nancy Schou (Yolo County): Refugees in their medical interpreter training program have found jobs in various health professions.

Attendees

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Brad Elftmann | RPB | (916) 654-7250 |
| Long Nguyen | SETA | (916) 263-3852 |
| Dolores Mejia | OC-SSA | (714) 541-7874 |
| Josie Marquez | LACO | (213) 738-3175 |
| Nancy Schou | YCRP | (530) 669-2300 |
| Laura Hardcastle | CDHS | (916) 323-1164 |
| Roger Caron | RPB | (916) 654-1376 |
| Allette Lundeberg | Santa Clara | (408) 278-6600 |
| Christine Balbas | Fresno | (559) 453-6543 |
| Pao Ly | Fresno | (559) 453-6092 |
| Michelle Malecki | Santa Clara | (408) 441-5590 |
| John Tran | Alameda | (510) 728-7838 |
| An Tran | San Joaquin | (209) 468-2061 |
| Karen Hart | SF PIC | (415) 923-4260 |
| Jamie McLeod | Refugee Works | (408) 246-6155 |
| Betts Smith | RPB | (916) 654-0495 |
| Steve Saucedo | RPB | (916) 654-5594 |
| Amy Cox | Rand | (310) 393-0411 |
| Daniel Crawford | RPB | (916) 654-5964 |