Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
Quarterly Providers Meeting Agenda

Comfort Inn & Suites
East Greenbush & Albany
99 Miller Road
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
10:30 am - 2:30 pm

10:30am Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
- Welcome and Introductions
- Opening Remarks
- BRIA Program Updates

11:00am A Welcoming Community: Capital District Region of New York
- Panel Presentation featuring:
  o Jill Peckenpaugh, Director, United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) – Albany Field Office
  o James Brisbin, Job Developer, USCRI – Albany Field Office
  o Tom Giglio, Director of ENL and Refugee Services, City School District of Albany

12:00 noon Lunch

1:00pm Refugee Resettlement in New Communities, Ithaca and Poughkeepsie
- Sue Chaffee, Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga Counties
- Jim Morris, Associate Vice President for Family Services Catholic Family Center
- Roisin Ford, Director, Eastern Region, Immigration and Refugee Program, Church World Service

2:00pm NYS Division of Human Rights
- Helen Diane Foster, Commissioner
- Rachelle Dickerson, Director of External Relations

2:30pm Adjourn
1. The Annual Survey of Refugees is a study conducted by the Urban Institute. Letters of introduction will be mailed directly to refugees across the nation, in their home language, requesting participation. The letters will contain a $2 bill. In the event, refugees question the letter and/or the $2 bill, both are legitimate.

2. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is piloting a two-year program in which those participating in the SNAP program may purchase groceries online with their SNAP benefits/EBT card. In NYS, FreshDirect, Amazon, Hart’s Local Grocers (Rochester) and Dash’s Market (Buffalo and great Buffalo area) will participate in the pilot program. 

3. U.S. Department of Homeland Security rescinded three policies unique to Cuban nationals. 1) the wet foot/dry foot (Cuban Adjustment Act); 2) the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program; and 3) the exemption that previously prevented the use of expedited removed proceedings. 
   https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/DHS%20Fact%20Sheet%20FINAL.pdf

4. The Response to Human Trafficking Program will be issuing a new RFP for the next contract cycle to begin April 1, 2018. This is an entirely state funded program and interested applicants should be sure to be registered for this opportunity, and all state grant opportunities, through grants gateway. We are hopeful that due to the tripling of victims identified during the past calendar year that funding will be increased to the program.

5. Minimum Wage increased as of 01/01/2017. This impacts the Job Placement outcomes of BRIA’s employment Programs. Letters went out to TAG and RSSP providers advising them to complete their data entry in order to achieve Job Placement outcomes in the BIN system that were completed prior to January 1st. Any Job Placement deliverable entered and achieved after we update the minimum wage in BIN will be based on wages that are equivalent or greater than 30 hours per week @ $9.70 per hour.

6. The 4th Budget Period for RSSP began 01/01/2017. We recently updated the federal terms and conditions in RSSP contracts to allow service providers to provide transitional support services to Central American Minors (CAMs) and minor asylees. Three RSSP providers will be serving this population. We are currently working with them to amend their Work Plans. All other RSSP Budget Period 4 amendments have been executed.

7. The amendments to execute the 2nd Budget Period of TAG are pending approval by OTDA Contract Management, and will hopefully be executed in a timely manner.

8. A reminder to all contractors of programs with deliverables that require the entry of services in to BIN: please make sure the services and dates that are being entered correlate with the case notes and supporting documentation in client case files. It creates unnecessary work to recoup and re-enter payment points due to data entry error. It is important that the data entered in BIN matches the case records for auditing purposes. ORR looks at these client files during monitoring visits.
9. Service providers submitted 650 (not entered into BIN) of the 1,146 asylees sent to ORR’s Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS). 57% of our submissions.

10. Until ORR monitored OTDA/BRIA in April 2016, OTDA/BRIA was reporting to ORR only RSSP and TAG participants who entered employment as reported in BIN by service providers. OTDA/BRIA is now able to also report those who entered employment as reported in the Welfare Management System (WMS), the database used by local social services districts. As a result, OTDA/BRIA is now able to report drastically increased numbers to ORR. Employment numbers after using WMS:

- RSSP Full Time, up 131%
- RSSP Part Time, up 841%
- TAG Full Time, up 550%
- TAG Part Time, up 1,443%

11. All BRIA service providers and resettlement agencies received two separate Refugee Health Profiles from BRIA’s Leon Collier. The Syrian Refugee Health Profile was emailed on 1/11/17 and the Central American Minors (CAMS) Health profile was emailed on 1/17/17. The CDC Division of Global Migration And Quarantine (DGMQ) creates refugee health background materials to inform us about the priority health conditions to be expected upon arrival to the U.S. You may find these and past refugee health profiles at the following web address: https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/profiles/index.html.

12. BRIA is pleased to announce the beginning of two new refugee medical screening contracts for the New York City region. The Community Healthcare Network (CHN) began screening newly arrived refugees on October 1, 2016 in their Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan clinic locations. The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center will begin screening newly arriving refugees on March 1, 2017 in their Queens and Manhattan clinic locations.

13. As many of you experienced, the BRIA Information Network (BIN) was temporarily unavailable to service providers for a few days each of the past two weeks. BRIA would like to thank all service providers for their cooperation and patience during this time. BIN is experiencing server issues that lead to timing out of certain procedures. BRIA is working to correct these with its developer and programmer team. If you continue to experience issues with BIN please contact Julie Atwood directly at (518) 473-8698 or email julie.atwood@otda.ny.gov.

14. BRIA is joined here today by the New York State Division of Human Rights:

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Please explore their website to discover the wide array of services they offer.
15. During lunch, we will have a working lunch presentation from:

    Joseph Storch, Associate Counsel  
    Office of General Counsel  
    The State University of New York  
    State University Plaza - Albany, New York 12246  
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