

Refugee Resettlement Project - 3rd informal meeting AGENDA, Jan. 21, 2016

Brief updates and introductions

Stephen Maly: Presentation to YWCA; column in *Independent Record*; letter to Anne Richard, State Department; positions taken by Montana delegation in Washington, D.C.; grant application to MCF Social Justice program; invitation to Boise Mayor David Biete and Jan Reeves, Director, Idaho Office for Refugees; activities at SoftLanding Missoula

Ellen Bush & Sasha Frederickson, WorldMontana staff

Stephen Bostrom, Helena Ministerial Association; Theresa Ortega ; Good Samaritan; Fr. Richard Francesco, St. Mary's Church; Rosemary Miller, Catholic Social Services of Montana (CSSM)

<p><u>MAIN AGENDA ITEM: Kathe Quittenton, State Refugee Coordinator, MT DPHHS : Overview of Montana's Refugee Resettlement Program/STATE PLAN</u></p>
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Next Steps & Prospective Further Action in coming months

- Presentation from Idaho delegation on Best Practices
- Refugees in Local/State Historical Perspective
- VOLAGs—what they do and how they do it
- Formation of Refugee **Welcome Wagon “teams”**, specializing in key arenas:
 - *Housing* (lists & inventory of affordable apartments, group homes, etc.)
 - *Transportation* (HATS, taxi services, Uber, van pools)
 - *Education* (Helena School District, Helena College)
 - *Health Care* (Lewis & Clark County Dept. of Health, insurance providers)
 - *Job Training* (Dept. of Labor & Industry, CTI, others)
 - *Cultural Orientation* (English language tutoring, practical counseling, pathways to citizenship)

- Organizing a **Rapid Response Unit**, ready for short notice arrivals and immediate service needs (airport transportation, short-term housing, material goods supplies (clothing, kitchenware, kids' stuff, etc.)
- Briefing from Office of Refugee Assistance, Denver staff (summer, 2016)

Many thanks to Plymouth Congregational Church for hosting this meeting.