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)

MAIN AGENDA ITEM: Kathe Quittenton, State Refugee Coordinator, MT DPHHS: Overview of Montana’s Refugee Resettlement Program/STATE PLAN

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.*