



Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board  
January 5, 2011, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Room CH-370, City Hall

### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. **Welcome/Housekeeping: Lesley**

- Lesley welcomed everyone to the meeting – (members present included Lesley Irisarry-Hougan, Devon Alisa Abdallah, Paulina Lopez, Magdelona Rose- Avila, and Jesus Rodriguez (others included Julie Nelson and Glenn Harris, Seattle Office for Civil Rights; Marie Kurose, Human Services Department; and Yemane Gebremichael)
- Meeting notes from December 1, 2010 – Devon motioned to approve, Leno seconded, passed unanimously.

#### 2. **Review Action Items for December and November 2010. Lesley**

- Designating Board members to liaison with City Councilmembers – will hold until more positions are filled
- Letter to South Park – sent 12/7/10
- Interviews are scheduled for Friday, January 7, 2010 for the new Immigrant & Refugee Liaison position.
- Work plan – begin discussion today
- Extension of benefits – letter has been drafted, but there is a question as to who to send it to. The Board agreed to send it to the entire delegation. Julie asked that the co-chairs provide electronic signatures to help facilitate getting communications out in a timely manner.

#### 3. **Human Services (HSD) Presentation: Marie Kurose**

- Marie Kurose shared the Human Services Department's revised client profile form. This form is being piloted for new contracts within two divisions. There are a significantly greater number of ethnic categories, which will help expand HSD's data system and understanding of who is using HSD services. Marie shared that the expansion emanated from IRAB's previous input. Top languages will be used; and categories will be updated as new communities

arrive. Results of the pilot will be assessed to help inform the development of new data collection systems.

Board members were enthusiastic about the additional level of specificity and discussed the possibility of recommending that all City departments use similar categories.

Leno asked whether the categories were field tested with immigrant and refugee constituencies, and indicated that the ability to cross reference and collate data would be useful. Marie indicated that they had not yet done so, but this step is critical for working to improve data collection systems. The results could be used to help assess program effectiveness.

- Marie also:
  - ✓ Distributed a call for proposals from Public Health on community and school based partnership programs and asked for the Board's assistance in making sure it is widely distributed.
  - ✓ Distributed a green sheet on immigrant and refugee youth program funds and indicated that HSD will be developing a proposal and will bring it back for further discussion. Advisory Board members offered their help with community discussion.
  - ✓ Marie asked for the opportunity to come back to a future meeting to do a briefing on the HSD Strategic Plan.

#### **4. I & R Board Transitions: Lesley**

- Julie and Glenn will be following up with those who aren't at the meeting to affirm their continued interest in serving (post-meeting update – two Mayoral appointees have been forwarded to City Council – Michael Neguse to fill a vacant position and Mohamed Sheikh Hassan to fill the position Mengstab is vacating; four re-appointments are possible pending confirmation of interest – Lesley, Halima, Devon and Leno; four re-appointments will require legislation to allow a third term – Paulina, Andrea, Aleric and Mohammed; recruitment is taking place for the two, or possibly more, vacancies)
- Because of the limited number of Board members, a request was made to review resumes at the next board meeting. Assuming resumes are available, Julie and Glenn will provide them. In addition, they agreed to email the link for the recruitment info to the Board.
- Julie reminded board members that they can still serve for three months if new Board members have not yet been appointed to the position.

#### **5. Board Co-Chair position: All**

- Lesley will be resigning as Co-chair in April because she will be going on maternity leave. Jesus recommended Devon serve as interim Co-chair for

three months. Devon agreed, and the Board endorsed her leadership unanimously.

#### **6. Board Workplan and Retreat Task Force: Lesley**

- Julie and Glenn suggested that the Board focus on actionable, concrete ideas that will provide useful direction to City departments, the Mayor and City Council.
- Potential priorities included:
  - ✓ Promote culturally competency demographic data collection
  - ✓ Work with HSD on the expanded citywide youth Immigrant and Refugee services proposal
  - ✓ Help SOCR develop a response to the City Council mandated Interpretation and Translation Statement of Legislative Intent
  - ✓ Advise the City on potential Budget cuts
  - ✓ Advise the Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable on emerging issues from Immigrant and Refugee families that focus on educational inequity
  - ✓ Promote understanding and policy re: prostitution and human trafficking, especially understanding of the laws and consequences. Potentially partner with arts organizations (Culture Clash and the Intiman Theater) events in 2012 to sponsor educational forums and policy proposals
  - ✓ Civic engagement – Link with IOPE.
- Julie and Glenn agreed to develop a draft plan for consideration at the February Board meeting.

*Meeting Adjourned*