

Welcome Dayton Committee Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2023, in person at Dayton Metro Library, 215 E. Third St. Dayton, OH 45402

Attendees:

Welcome Dayton Committee Members: Myla Cardona-Jones, Kate Conway, Gwen Eberly, RJ Francisco, Nozipo Glen, Yunus Ibragim, David Larson, Matt Joseph, Stephanie Keinath, Katie Kersh, Karla Knox, Jean de Dieu Mukunzi, Claire Preston, Mary Reid, Chen Shterenbach, Tom Thompson, Tom Wahlrab, Pete Williams

City Staff: Adama Diakhate, Jeannette Horwitz, Desire Ntwayingabo, Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez, Mike Squire

Guests: Gabriela Pickett

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Joseph called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Joseph asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14 Welcome Dayton Committee meeting. Tom Wahlrab moved to approve. Tom Thompson second. The minutes were approved.

Note: Agenda and Minutes are available on Welcome Dayton's website:

<https://www.daytonohio.gov/AgendaCenter/Welcome-Dayton-Committee-11>

III. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Joseph welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared that Myla Cardona-Jones and Jyl Hall were appointed to the Welcome Dayton Committee in the June 7 City Commission meeting and that Pete Williams was just sworn in. A quick round of introductions followed.

IV. General Updates

Commissioner Joseph thanked everyone for their continued work with Welcome Dayton.

V. Federal Immigration Updates – Katie Kersh, Senior Attorney and Project Director, ABLE

Katie shared the following updates:

Title 42 ended in May

- People who entered without inspection were apprehended and turned away so they would not transmit COVID-19; exception for families and children traveling alone

New rules – transit ban

- Anyone who crosses border who is not from Mexico between ports of entry would severely limit asylum unless they can show they have applied for and been denied asylum in another country before arrival or meet a very narrow set of exceptions that most asylum seekers cannot meet

- Must get an appointment at a point of entry through the CBP One App; 1,000 appointments available each day
- Migration hubs

Parole Process for Venezuela, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Cuba

- Must arrive by air, apply online, have sponsor
- 30,000 people per month from each country
- Cannot apply from within US

Afghan re-parole applications are now open; no fee, you can apply online

- Only necessary for people who do not have pending I-485s and asylum
- More relevant for people with TPS and SIV apps pending
- ABLE will be working with CSSMV and UD Law on some sort of clinic to assist

Jean de Dieu shared about clients coming to Ebenezer Healthcare Access with expired work permits stating they are told they are unable to work. What kind of advocacy can be done with local employers so that they understand how work permits function? Katie offered to talk further to Jean de Dieu. Employers cannot turn people away if they are presenting I-94s only.

David suggested looking into Welcome Corps <https://welcomecorps.org/> for private sponsorship of refugees and also Miami Valley Immigration Coalition <https://www.mvicdayton.org/> for their resources.

VI. Coordinator's Updates

Jeannette shared that she is very excited about everything going on in the subcommittees including the second *New American Employer Roundtable - "Onboarding"* that took place June 8. She thanked all the subcommittee chairs for their continued work.

Welcome Dayton's World Refugee Day Celebration is June 10, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at DML – Main. Thank you to all the members who have signed up to volunteer at shifts or are planning on attending!

The next Welcome Event is scheduled for Saturday, August 26, at DML-Main. It will be an East and Central African Welcome Event as most new refugees are from this region. There are two more dates scheduled for welcome events in the fall open to populations who may need them, i.e. to be determined.

Miami Valley Community ID – Premier Health has signed the partnership. Thank you to RJ Francisco for making this possible! Two weeks ago, Dayton Children's Hospital also signed. To date, 904 IDs have been issued and we hope to break 1,000 at the July 6 ID Drive which will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church in the evening (rather than a Saturday morning). For more information: <https://www.daytonohio.gov/1104/Miami-Valley-Community-ID-Card>

The 3rd Annual New American Artist Exhibit is taking place at DML-Main in November & December 2023. Artists are invited to submit work July 1 – October 1. Multilingual flyers are available. Jeannette will send them out for committee members to share.

The City of Dayton is accepting proposals for Immigration Law Consultation Services. Proposals are due June 30 at 2:00 p.m. Information is available on the City's website.

Lastly, Jeannette shared that she learned via email right before today's meeting that Dayton has been re-certified by Welcoming America as a "Certified Welcoming" city. More information to come on an official announcement!

Commissioner Joseph asked to add to the notes, "Congratulations, Jeannette!"

VII. Subcommittee Updates – Subcommittee Chairs or Representatives

a. Business and Economic Development – Gwen Eberly

Gwen shared that the committee decided in the June 8 meeting to focus for the remainder of this year on assisting New Americans who want to start a business or grow their already existing business. The committee will look to see what is currently being done in this area as to not recreate the wheel and possibility partner with other organizations. The committee will offer sessions in Spanish and Swahili so that the information can get out to those who need it. The committee will also work with the Education committee on the *New American Employer Roundtables* and the *New American Job Fair*.

b. Education – Dani Heeter

The second *New American Employer Roundtable - "Onboarding"* was held June 8, with 50 participants. The surveys were excellent, and the committee is looking forward to the *New American Job Fair* on September 14 at St. John's United Church of Christ at 515 E. 3rd St. from 9-12. Should you know of employers that are interested in participating, reach out to Dani. More information will be out soon. The third and final Employer Roundtable will be a luncheon in October. Stay tuned for details.

The next Education meeting will be held on June 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

c. Community, Culture and Arts – Rachel Gut

In for Rachel Gut, Gabriela Pickett, Newest American Specialist with the DML shared about the New American Artist Exhibit in November-December and mentioned that there will be an open house event to kick off the exhibit on Saturday, November 4. More information to come as it gets closer.

The next Community, Culture and Arts meeting will be held on August 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx.

d. Local Government and Justice – David Larson

David shared that the committee met on June 7. An MVCID updated was provided by Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez followed by an immigration law update by Katie Kersh. Tom Thompson spoke about bilingual officers employed by Sinclair PD. Jan Futrell with Miami Valley Immigration Coalition reported on work MVIG has been doing to help Hispanic families in the area. The committee now includes a Language Access working group that is looking at interpretation within local courts and police departments. Tom Thompson and Katie Kersh area heading up this group.

The next Government & Justice meeting will be held on August 2, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

e. Health and Human Services

Mary reported that the first re-convening of the Health & Human Services subcommittee was held on May 25. There were 14 participants including returning participation from Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton Children's, Kettering Health, Premier Health, Ebenezer Healthcare Access, and new representation from Montgomery County ADAMHS Board, the Foodbank, St. Vincent DePaul, Montgomery County Human Services and Planning. Additional members have been added since this meeting.

Discussion focused on what committee see as key issues and possibilities for this committee's role:

- Ensuring New American representation in Community Health Needs assessment and other local health data collection and strategic plans.
- Identified current opportunity for those with lived experience as immigrants to participate in focus groups currently underway with ADAMHS.
- Opportunities for increased diversity in local health and human service workforce.
- Support for transferring of degree and credentials earned abroad.
- Promotion of young people with lived/family experience pursuing healthcare/behavioral health/social service careers.
- Identification of key issues impacting social determinants of health
- Report of increase of Newcomers without housing and accessing shelter, poor housing quality for others.
- Barriers to healthcare and service access for immigrants without authorized legal status.

The next Health & Human Services meeting will be held on June 22, 2023, 2:30 p.m. via Teams.

f. Countywide Exploratory Committee – Jyl Hall / Pete Williams

Pete, Vice Chair, reported that the first meeting took place June 6 and went very well. It included introductions, asking for each members' interest in serving on the committee, and great conversations in breakout rooms. Pete shared the makeup of the committee and that members left the meeting with a draft charter to look at that discusses the main goals of the group and opportunities to do listening sessions around the county in order to get exposure to other immigrant populations. The committee is tasked with brainstorming to set up a countywide listening tour and looking at what services already exist in each community.

Commissioner Joseph added why a separate initiative like this is important instead of just expanding Welcome Dayton. A countywide welcoming effort is not to be considered a rival organization but necessary as there are more people needing to be served. Through this effort, we may discover there are needs in the County the City does not have resources to take care of. This way, the County will know where the need to help is.

The next Countywide Exploratory Committee meeting will be held on July 12, 2023, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

g. **Natural Helpers** – Jeannette Horwitz

No report. Committee is currently resting.

VIII. Old Business

Commissioner Joseph thanked those Welcome Dayton Committee members who are participating in the Countywide Exploratory Committee: Rachel Gut, Jyl Hall, Bryan Stewart, Tom Thompson, Tom Wahlrab, Pete Williams.

IX. New Business

Claire Preston reported on the Summer Youth Program for Afghans. Six Afghans were employed for the week. Every morning started with a heartfelt circle, followed by physical activities, including art, guest visitors, etc., On June 9, the week-long program ended with a lunch and celebration. The whole week was a success! Upcoming summer events including a sewing collaborative, soccer games on Saturdays, etc. Claire has flyers which Jeannette will send out. There is grant money available for one more year of programming for Afghan families.

Mary Reid provided an update on refugee numbers. In just one month, Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley had over 200 refugees arrive. It has been a fun and exciting time but also a lot of work. CSSMV has a growing staff with two more positions recently added. CSSMV is looking to hire someone for volunteer management. Basic household items are always needed, and donations can be dropped off at the CSSMV location on Brown Street. Save the date for ShineDayon Celebration on Friday, October 6, 2023, 6:00 -10:30 p.m. at Top of the Market.

X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

XI. Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 11, 2023, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Conference Room 3A, Dayton Metro Library (Main).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Horwitz, Welcome Dayton Coordinator

