

## Welcome Dayton Committee Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2022, via Zoom

### **Attendees:**

Welcome Dayton Committee Members: Kate Conway, RJ Francisco, Nozipo Glenn, Matt Joseph, Katie Kersh, Karla Knox, David Larson, Ashley Lackovich, Claire Preston, Jacqueline Radebaugh, Mary Reid, Bryan Stewart, Tom Thompson, Tom Wahlrab,

City Staff: Jeannette Horwitz, Verletta Jackson, Desire Ntwayingabo, Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez

Guests: None

### **I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Joseph called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

### **II. Welcome and Introductions**

Commissioner Joseph welcomed everyone to the meeting. There is a lot going on and Welcome Dayton events he has recently attended have been met with great interest and big crowds. Commissioner introduced the newest Committee member, Mary Reid, Director of Social Services at Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley. Mary shared that she has been with CSSMV for 7 years. Alyssa Jacobs is now the Manager of Refugee Resettlement Services after Michael Murphy left for a job in Boston.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes**

Commissioner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 10 Welcome Dayton Committee meeting. Tom Wahlrab moved to approve the minutes. Katie Kersh second. The minutes were approved.

### **IV. General Updates**

None

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

Katie shared about the Federal Immigration Enforcement Priorities, which were revised at the beginning of the Biden administration and drastically reduced the groups of people who were priorities for deportation. There was a memo put in place, but a judge in the Southern District of Texas vacated the memo for the entire country. We are back at square one but fortunately not seeing an uptick in enforcement. The case will go to the US Supreme Court in December. ABLE has hired an attorney, Heather Campbell, who will exclusively help with the Afghan evacuees. She will work with CSSMV and Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio. Reach out to Katie with any questions.

Contact information for ABLE:

130 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St, STE 700, Dayton, OH 45402

Phone: 937-228-8104

## **VI. Subcommittee Updates**

### **a. Business and Economic Development – Jacqueline Radebaugh**

Jacquiene shared that while the committee has not met since the last WD Committee meeting, members have been emailing to discuss ongoing initiatives. This includes waiting to hear from Garth McLean, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, and him reviewing a proposal from the committee to offer more resources to non-English speakers at job fairs and also to collaborate on immigrant-centered job fairs.

Commissioner Joseph added that he went to the Kroc Center with the Welcome Dayton staff on August 12 to see the process of the Mexican Consulate issuing IDs and passports. While there, he spoke with a group of participants including the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce about introducing local unions, e.g. building trades, to next year's Consulate visit where they could participate with a table. Jacqueline will follow up with Commissioner on this.

### **b. Education – Dani Heeter**

On behalf of Dani, Jeannette shared that the committee last met July 13. They have set a date for the New American Employer Roundtable: Friday, October 21, 8:00 – 12:00 at the Montgomery County Business Solutions Center. The committee is working on providing light breakfast, securing speakers and the agenda. This will be an in-person event. There is a planning meeting for August 23 at 10:00 a.m. and anyone interested in being part of the planning can reach out to Dani. The committee is also working on "New Americans: Creating a process for welcoming New Americans to the Dayton community." A brainstorming session is to be scheduled and Dani will be in touch with more information. The next meeting is August 18 at 2:00 p.m. on Teams.

### **c. Health and Human Services – Kate Conway**

Dr. Conway shared that the committee just met and had lots to talk about including collaborative projects and hosting trainings. One big-ticket item includes reaching out to health partners to discuss their centering pregnancy programs. It has been identified that non-English speaking patients are often left out of this meaningful model of care that includes group visits of patients with a similar due date. The committee will reach out to health partners to see about what is done to reach newcomers and how to can assist with training and resources to reach to these communities. Grant-funding is allowing some collaborations with among others CSSMV, in particular working with Afghan evacuees on connecting them to resources and teaching them how to be a good patient, but also reaching out to healthcare providers to talk about cultural humility and competency and learn what can be done to support them in their work with the immigrant/refugee population. Dr. Conway asked about the resource manual so that the committee can help with the healthcare resources. Jeannette mentioned that Rachel Gut and the Community, Culture and Arts Committee is the point of contact.

d. **Community, Culture, and Arts** – Rachel Gut

On behalf of Rachel Gut, Jeannette shared that the committee last met August 1. This summer, they met with CSSMV and the Dayton Art Institute to discuss a system for free DAI passes, possibly by CSSMV taking clients to DAI as part of their cultural orientation. The New American Artist Exhibit flyer is available in English and Spanish. Rachel is taking submissions until October 1. The committee is working on the resource guide. It's a big project that will likely take some time. A Google sheet is available so anyone who would like to work on the guide (e.g. add to a specific section pertaining to their subcommittee or interest/background) should reach out to Rachel for access. The committee is working on some local venues to promote New American performers, e.g at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Market. They are also looking at creating opportunities to bring New Americans and the receiving community together around food and there have been some talks with Gem City Market to do projects in their kitchen. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10 at 11:00 a.m. on WebEx.

e. **Natural Helpers** – Jeannette Horwitz

Jeannette is part of Welcoming America's yearlong program, "Community of Practice: Advancing Immigrant Civic Leadership through Natural Helper Programs." She attends bi-monthly meetings with the next one scheduled for August 24.

f. **Local Government and Justice** – David Larson

David mentioned the next Miami Valley Community ID Drive on September 10. At the last committee meeting the ID was discussed and also training programs for foreign-born nurses. Catherine Bitwayiki had contacted a program with the University of Pennsylvania who conducted a training program for foreign-credentialed nurses. Some outreach to folks in the area have been made to see if they are interested in offering this sort of program.

RJ Francisco shared that some sort of program like this is on the table with Premier but nothing formalized yet. Dr. Conway added she is all ears if others are interested in working on this together as there is strength in numbers.

**VII. Coordinator's Updates**

Jeannette shared an update on the "Certified Welcoming" Recertification:

- A two-and-a-half-day audit took place July 19-21. Two staff from Welcoming America and one intern visited Dayton. 41 people participated in the audit including City staff from various departments, subcommittee chairs, representatives from education, immigration/law, non-profits, healthcare providers, etc. Participants were asked about their work with immigrants and refugees and their relationship with Welcome Dayton. Initial feedback was very positive, but we have to wait 8+ weeks until we get a response and an action plan from Welcoming America. Hopefully by the October 12 meeting we will know more.
- Upcoming events:
  - Dayton Dragon's Game Sunday, August 12 at 1:00 p.m. 37 tickets sold so far. Some local families working with refugees will meet up at the game.

- Clap-In at International School at Residence Park, Tuesday, August 16 at 8:45 a.m.
- Miami Valley Community ID Card Drive, Saturday, September 10, 9:30 – 12:30 at DML (Main). Need volunteers.
- Hispanic Heritage Festival Parade, Saturday, September 17, 12:00 – 1:00. Welcome Dayton will walk. Anyone is welcome to join. Festival is from 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. at RiverScape Metro Park.
- Dayton Metro Library (Main) has two events: Playtime for Families Around the World, Mondays from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. and Bilingual Story Time on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Looking for guest readers. Chinese August 18, Hindi August 25 and Spanish September 1.

RJ Francisco asked how often Dayton needs to go through Recertification. Jeannette mentioned every 3-4 years. Once we receive feedback, we should get indication of the next time.

## **VIII. Old Business**

**Miami Valley Community ID Drive, July 9** – Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez shared that the drives keep getting better and better with more experience. 93 people received cards at the July 9 drive. 10 organizations were present with resource tables. The next two drives are scheduled for September 10 and November 12. Martha-Jeannette asked for Welcome Dayton Committee members to please get their own ID. It is important to note that this is not a card only for those who are undocumented. Commissioner shared that while at the Mexican Consulate ID/Passport event, a woman who has the MVCID card shared what great experiences she has had with the ID, including when getting pulled over by the Dayton Police.

**Afghan Welcome Event, August 6** – Jeannette shared the event was very successful with about 70 attending at Dayton Metro Library (Main). Dr. Conway was there with her medical students conducting health screenings. Katie Kersh had an ABLE table, Claire Preston a table with Montgomery County Educational Services Center and Dani Heeter was there with MVCTC/Aspire. There are talks about offering additional “smaller scale events” like this for specific populations. Commissioner Joseph commended Dr. Conway for getting a number of young Afghan guys do preventative screenings while at the event.

## **IX. New Business**

Upcoming Renewal Process for Welcome Dayton Committee members with terms expiring in December 2022. There are nine members with terms expiring. Jeannette will be sending out renewal information in late September, a form to indicate if you wish to be reappointed for another three years or not.

Welcome Dayton Committee and Sub-Committee Guidelines: Jeannette will be working on some general guidelines for members with input from the Committee.

## X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Mama Nozipo shared that the International School at Residence Park are happy to take flags from different countries for a display at the school. Contact Hubert Mataumani with DPS at the International School to donate.

Tom Wahlrab asked about wording and whether it is Welcome Dayton **Committee** or Welcome Dayton **Board**. Commissioner added we are a committee but tend to get lumped in with board because members are commission-appointed. Boards tend to hire people and have fiscal responsibilities and Welcome Dayton does neither so going forward we will use the term **Committee**.

Tom Wahlrab wanted to clarify that the MVCID is open to anyone, not just the undocumented. He promised to get his ID at the next drive. Commissioner added it is vital everyone gets the ID so that the card does not become a way to profile the undocumented.

Bryan Stewart shared that one of the discussions he has been involved with through his work with Workforce Development centers on how to better share opportunities for work and careers locally. Many jobs are not shared through traditional job-search channels but through networking. Bryan spoke with Claire Preston and Jeannette Horwitz about creating LinkedIn groups for specific groups, e.g. "Welcome Dayton – Spanish Speakers Network." Anyone who is a native Spanish speaker looking for a job can join this group. There is a big push from LinkedIn to be more accessible and reach a broader audience. This kind of group would be open to anyone to share job opportunities, resources and more and would primarily be moderated by the community itself but "housed" with Welcome Dayton. Bryan shared a page he manages, "Inside Dayton Program Alumni Network" as an example. Commissioner asked for the next step. Bryan asked for feedback from others so that we can pilot with a specific community. He asked committee members to think about it and email him some thoughts so that we can discuss in the next meeting.

RJ Francisco shared that Premier is sponsoring the African-American Wellness Walk on Saturday, August 13, from 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. starting on UD's campus.

Tom Thompson shared that together with Dayton PD and Sinclair PD, he and Desire Ntwayingabo have organized an "Interacting with the Police" event at Cornerstone Baptist Church on Sunday, August 14, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. There is an African congregation meeting at the church with members from Rwanda and Congo.

Desire Ntwayingabo shared there may be an opportunity to participate in a neighborhood clean-up and cookout for a couple of immigrant families in the Huffman Neighborhood. More details to come if this is needed.

Bryan Stewart shared St. Anne's Hill is doing a big welcome party for a Ukrainian family who has recently moved to the neighborhood.

Mama Nozipo shared that Sinclair College is hosting The Longest Table on September on Tuesday, September 20, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the plaza outside Building 7. This is an important activity for people from different backgrounds and parts of the city can come together.

Verletta Jackson announced the City of Dayton Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, October 1 at Belmont High School. The conference is for anyone who lives, works and plays in Dayton. Welcome Dayton Committee members are welcome to attend, host a resource table or be part of a presentation on a Welcome Dayton team. Please reach out to Jeannette for more information.

Karla Knox added that the Hispanic Heritage Festival is taking place Saturday, September 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Any group who is interested in participating in the parade (12:00 – 1:00) is welcome to do so. Please reach out to Karla.

Commissioner adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

**XI. Next Meeting Date:** Friday, October 14, 2022, 3:30-4:30 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Horwitz, Welcome Dayton Coordinator