

Refugee and Ethnic Populations
Health Convening



nileSisters
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Nile Sisters Development Initiative (NSDI) is a community-based organization that provides vital services to refugees and immigrants in the San Diego region. The NSDI mission is to educate, support, and offer training to refugee and immigrant women and their families to help them overcome barriers to social and economic self-reliance. Founded in 2001, NSDI assists refugees and immigrants to assimilate a new language, customs, and systems that are inherent to the American way of life. NSDI is committed to mitigating health disparities afflicting refugee and immigrant communities by offering family advocacy and education services. These include programs to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health, mental health, oral health, and chronic diseases.

Nile Sisters Development Initiative | 6035 University Avenue, Suite 22 | San Diego, CA 92115-6343 | (619) 265-2959

nilesisters.org

Refugee and Ethnic Populations Health Convening

Welcome!

The San Diego region is a culturally diverse expanse. For 42 years, San Diego has welcomed refugees and individuals from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe.

Refugee and ethnic populations have contributed greatly to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of our region, yet it goes without saying that challenges that impede health and wellness for these populations still exist.

At this health convening, Nile Sisters Development Initiative (NSDI) aims to harness and strengthen ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs) and individuals who work with ethnically diverse populations to prepare them to meet the challenges in their communities better.

At the core of our mission is a commitment to overcoming barriers. I hope this convening provides you with the resources necessary to provide improved services to diverse communities.

Thank you for joining us!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Lou'.

Elizabeth Lou, President / CEO
Nile Sisters Development Initiative



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 208, MAIL STOP P-501
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2417
(619) 515-6555 • FAX (619) 515-6556

DEAN ARABATZIS
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

June 30, 2017

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to welcome the Office of Minority Health Resource Center to San Diego County for the Refugee and Ethnic Populations Health Convening, held in partnership with Nile Sisters Development Initiative, from July 20, 2017 through July 22, 2017.

The County of San Diego is the largest refugee resettlement site in the State of California, welcoming 85,066 refugees from countries around the world since 1975, including individuals from East African countries like, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Opportunities to bring together health professionals and community leaders around the issue of how to best support refugee and ethnic populations are critical to reducing health disparities in our communities. Your work is critical to the advancement of the *Live Well San Diego* vision for a region that is Building Better Health, Living Safely and Thriving (www.LiveWellSD.org). For that, I am honored to welcome and recognize the Office of Minority Health Resource Center.

On behalf of the entire County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency team, I welcome your efforts and wish you all a productive convening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Macchione".

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
Agency Director



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNCILMEMBER GEORGETTE GOMEZ

NINTH DISTRICT

June 12, 2017

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to welcome the Office of Minority Health Resource Center to the City of San Diego for the Refugee and Ethnic Populations Health Convening, held in partnership with Nile Sisters Development Initiative, from July 20, 2017 through July 22, 2017.

The City of San Diego has a long-standing history of resettling refugees and other ethnic populations. An estimated 30,000 refugees from East Africa and Horn of Africa reside within the City of San Diego. Moreover, the County of San Diego is the largest refugee resettlement site in the State of California.

I hope this convening will bring together health professionals and community leaders with the aim of reducing health disparities and supporting refugee and ethnic populations. Your efforts and dedication will undeniably make significant contributions to the well-being of new San Diegans. For that, I am honored to welcome and recognize the Office of Minority Health Resource Center.

As a member of the San Diego City Council representing City Council District 9, I welcome your efforts and wish you all a productive convening.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Georgette Gómez



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of
Public Health
College of Health and
Human Services
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego CA 92182 - 4162
Tel: 619 - 594 - 6317
Fax: 619 - 594 - 6112

June 9, 2017

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Graduate School of Public Health at San Diego State University, it is my pleasure to welcome the Office of Minority Health Resource Center to the Refugee and Ethnic Populations Health Convening, held in partnership with Nile Sisters Development Initiative (NSDI), from July 20, 2017 through July 22, 2017 in San Diego, CA.

The Graduate School of Public Health has been working on migrant and immigrant health for the last 30 years and remains a strong partner for the County of Diego, Health and Human Services Agency and community-based organizations such as NSDI. More broadly, San Diego State University is designated as a Minority Serving Institution and its commitment to improve the health of our community is undeniable.

I believe this convening will be an important opportunity to bring together a dedicated group of health professionals and community leaders who share the goal of reducing health disparities and supporting refugee and minority populations. The contributions of the Office of Minority Health Resource Center have been fundamental to the improvement in the health and well-being of our San Diego community. As the only School of Public Health in San Diego, it is our absolute honor and pleasure to welcome the Office of Minority Health Resource Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hala Madanat".

Hala Madanat, PhD
Director & Professor
Graduate School of Public Health
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
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July 6, 2017

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the UC San Diego Center for Community Health, it is an honor to welcome the Office of Minority Health Resource Center to San Diego for the Refugee and Ethnic Populations Health Convening, held in partnership with Nile Sisters Development Initiative, from July 20, 2017 through July 22, 2017.

The UC San Diego Center for Community Health is proud to have recently launched a Refugee Health Unit, which serves as a liaison between local organizations and our refugee community here in San Diego to reverse existing social and health disparities. With that we are delighted to be part of a convening that will focus on the health needs of our refugee and underserved minority populations.

As you gather for this year's convening, know that we are grateful for your many years of service and dedication to the diverse people and communities of our state. On behalf of the UC San Diego Center for Community Health, thank you for your decades of service.

Again, welcome to the Refugee and Ethnic Populations Health Convening. Please accept our best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable gathering and for continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blanca Meléndrez".

Blanca Meléndrez, MA

Executive Director, UC San Diego Center for Community Health

Overview and Purpose

The **Refugee and Ethnic Populations (REP) Health Convening** is a three-day workshop with sessions covering technical assistance and capacity building for board members and senior executives of health-oriented ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs) and training for African and immigrant community health workers (CHWs).

The purposes of the **REP Health Convening** are to

- provide evidence-based information to increase and strengthen the competence of ECBOs to provide culturally and linguistically proficient services to underserved minority populations
- build organizational development and engagement with mainstream health organizations, public policy makers, and other stakeholders
- promote collaboration and community-building among refugee leaders and community members

Additionally, the **REP Health Convening** aims to provide training to health outreach workers / gatekeepers who work with recently arrived refugees and other ethnic minority populations, specifically as it relates to the prevention and treatment of HIV / AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

Target Audience

The target audience for the **REP Health Convening** includes board members and senior executives of ECBOs, CHWs, public health professionals, medical practitioners, and other health-oriented stakeholders.

Background

According to the State of California, Department of Social Services (CDSS), an ECBO—formerly known as mutual assistance association (MAA)—is a “non-profit community-based organization whose governing board is comprised of a majority (at least 51 percent) who are current or former refugees.” [1] ECBOs are situated mainly in communities with sizable refugee and ethnic populations (REP).

These grass roots organizations are paramount to successful integration of refugees / former refugees and asylum seekers / asylees after their initial resettlement in a host community. Generally, ECBOs provide a wide array of culturally and linguistically proficient social and cultural support services, including health education and promotion, case management, employment assistance / career counseling, as well as information and referral. Additionally, ECBOs support refugee assimilation by closing the disparity gap of advocacy and civic engagement.

The San Diego region is home to several prominent ECBOs, and many are recognized members of the San Diego Refugee Forum, a consortium of refugee-serving organizations, public entities, and like-minded organizations serving “all populations fleeing persecution and seeking refuge in San Diego.” [2]

Kaiser Permanente Center on Total Health asserts that community-based organizations are essential partners in developing adapted approaches to outreach to and support at-risk racial / ethnic minority populations, especially as relates to preventable health conditions. However, there is limited support to build this capacity. [3] Data indicate that health-oriented ECBOs are underutilized and underfunded [4], yet they serve as a bridge between mainstream resources and underserved communities, especially in the areas of health advocacy, health education and promotion, and community-building.

As of 2013, an estimated 150,000 refugees resided in San Diego County. Additionally, the County of San Diego is the largest refugee resettlement site in the State of California. [5] Given the rapidly changing demographics of the region, it is important to equip ECBOs

and CHWs working with REP with evidence-based tools, including organizational development and capacity building, so they can adequately execute culturally sensitive and linguistically literate health programs to abate infectious ailments and combat chronic conditions.

ECBO Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building Seminar

Objectives

- 1 Understand and identify elements of collaborative leadership and health
- 2 Understand and identify elements of leadership development
- 3 Demonstrate awareness of culturally proficient organizations
- 4 Understand and identify scientific and culturally relevant health approaches

Description

This two-day seminar covers the following topics:

- 1 Organizational infrastructure
 - Collaborative leadership and health
 - Leadership development
- 2 Community outreach
 - Scientifically and culturally relevant public health approaches
 - Collaboration and networking

Community Health Worker Pilot Program Training

Objectives

- 1 Identify evidence-based practices for the prevention and treatment of HIV / AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C in African or black immigrant communities
- 2 Learn ways to promote wellness and healthy lifestyles in a culturally relevant manner

Description

This one-day pilot program will provide community health workers (CHWs) with information, skills, and resources needed to assist members of African and black immigrant communities to lead a healthy lifestyle and to ensure the prevention and treatment of HIV / AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. Participants will offer feedback, recommendations, and constructive criticism in order to improve the curriculum. The Office of Minority Health Resource Center will provide a short train-a-trainer segment and will return in the future to train CHWs as revisions to the curriculum occur.

Office of Minority Health Resource Center (OMHRC)

A one-stop source for minority health literature, research, and referrals for consumers, community organizations, and health professional, this is the nation's largest repository of information on health issues specific to African Americans, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Asian Americans, Hispanics, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Resources span access to online document collections and database searches to customized responses to requests for information and assistance.

minorityhealth.hhs.gov»

Agenda | Thursday, July 20

Time	8:00am–9:00am
Activity	Breakfast by invitation
Participants	Community leaders
Location	Nile Sisters Development Initiative headquarters 6035 University Avenue, Suite 22, San Diego, CA 92115
Time	10:00am–5:00pm
Activity	Technical assistance and capacity-building seminar
Topic	Community outreach
Participants	ECBO executives and board members Open to the public with advance reservations
Location	Women’s Resource Center, San Diego State University, 5121 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182
Details	tinyurl.com/m5xb6f4 »
Time	noon–1:00pm
Activity	Working lunch
Participants	Community leaders, ECBO executives and board members Open to the public with advance reservations
Location	Women’s Resource Center, San Diego State University, 5121 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182

Agenda | Friday, July 21

Time	8:00am–9:00am
Activity	Breakfast by invitation
Participants	Community leaders
Location	Nile Sisters Development Initiative headquarters, 6035 University Avenue, Suite 22, San Diego, CA 92115
Time	10:00am–5:00pm
Activity	Technical assistance and capacity-building seminar
Topic	Organizational infrastructure
Participants	Community leaders, ECBO executives and board members, Open to the public with advance reservations
Location	Women’s Resource Center, San Diego State University, 5121 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182
Details	tinyurl.com/mku3ezk »
Time	noon–1:00pm
Activity	Working lunch
Participants	Community leaders, ECBO executives and board members Open to the public with advance reservations
Location	Women’s Resource Center, San Diego State University, 5121 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182

Agenda | Saturday, July 22

Time **8:00am–9:00am**
Activity **Breakfast by invitation**
Participants Community leaders
Location Nile Sisters Development Initiative headquarters. 6035 University Avenue, Suite 22, San Diego, CA 92115

Time **10:00am–5:00pm**
Activity **Community health worker pilot program training**
Topic African and immigrant hepatitis B and hepatitis C
Participants community health workers
Open to the public with advance reservations
Location Women’s Resource Center, San Diego State University, 5121 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182

Time **noon–1:00pm**
Activity **Working lunch**
Participants Community leaders, ECBO executives and board members
Open to the public with advance reservations
Location Women’s Resource Center, San Diego State University, 5121 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182

Time **7:00pm–9:00pm**
Activity **Dinner by invitation**
Participants ECBO and faith-based leaders
Location Ali Baba Family Restaurant, 421 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

References

- [1] California Department of Social Services (2016)
Fact Sheet: Ethnic Community-Based Organizations
tinyurl.com/ybgnxbao»

- [2] San Diego Refugee Forum (2017)
San Diego Refugee Forum
tinyurl.com/y9mphbsf»

- [3] Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health (2015)
Community-Based Organizations Remain Integral to Reduce HIV / AIDS Disparities
tinyurl.com/y7dnuqj»

- [4] Young Project (2011)
Ethnic Community-based Organizations
tinyurl.com/y98avan4»

- [5] California Department of Social Services—Refugee Programs Bureau (2016)
Refugee Arrivals into California Counties Federal Fiscal Year 2016 October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016
tinyurl.com/jldv9q4»

Supporters



