

REFUGEE 101

An Overview
of Refugees
and Refugee
Resettlement

WHAT IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is a person who has been forced to flee his or her country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT FROM IMMIGRANTS?

- An immigrant, seeking a better and more prosperous life, **VOLUNTARILY** leaves his/her native country and **CHOOSES** to come to America.
- Some immigrants come to the United States legally and some come illegally.

- **Refugees are BROUGHT to the United States by the U.S. Department of State. All are legal. They are a special classification of immigrant who may become permanent residents after one year and who may apply for citizenship after 5 years in the U.S. All refugees may legally work immediately upon arriving in the U.S.**

MOST REFUGEES IN THE WORLD

- Are in refugee camps in which they have few rights, have no control over their lives, and have no future for themselves or their children
- Or, are hiding in cities or jungles, subject to arrest and deportation.



HOW MANY REFUGEES LIVE IN UTAH?

- About 50,000 refugees are currently living in Utah, 99% in the Salt Lake Valley
- Refugees from 29 countries
- More than 53 languages are spoken in Utah by Refugees

UTAH STATE REFUGEE SERVICES OFFICE

- Governor Jon M. Huntsman established the Utah State Refugee Services Office in 2008
- Resides within the Department of Workforce Services
- Provides leadership in service coordination, policy review, advocacy, resource development and management for all essential refugee services in Utah

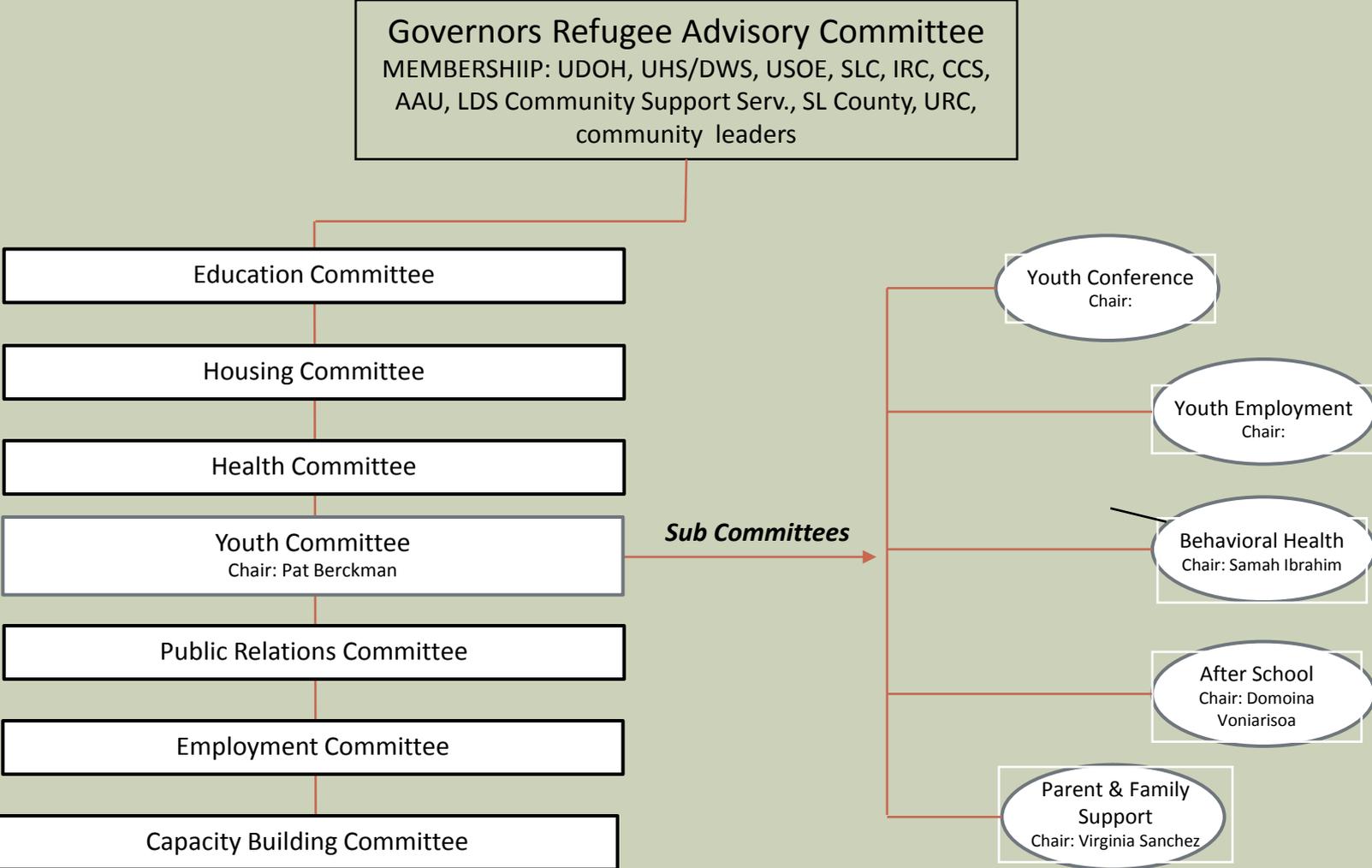
RSO MISSION

The mission of the Refugee Services Office is to maximize the quality and pace of refugee integration.

Refugee Youth Committee

- Started 3 years ago
- Intent to identify needs of refugee youth
- Enable service providers a place to network and support one another
- Given a charge to provide deliverables that will have a favorable impact on our refugee youth
- 5 Subcommittees to focus on key areas of concern

Refugee Youth Committee Organizational Chart - 2012



Refugee Youth Subcommittees

- 5 Subcommittees formed with focus of key areas identified
 1. Behavioral Health – committee members from mental health, domestic violence, drug abuse background
 2. Education and Employment – identify and connect youth to programs
 3. Parenting and Strengthening Families – develop or connect parents to parenting classes, seek ways to strengthen families
 4. After school – connect refugee kids to existing afterschool programs as well as develop new ones where needed
 5. Youth Conference – Plan annual Youth Conference

COMMUNITY CENTERS



SUNNYVALE NEIGHBORHOOD C E N T E R

SUNNYVALE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
3900 SOUTH 700 WEST
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84123
801-555-5555

*Bringing newcomers, Neighbors and Resources
Together for a Better Community*

The Sunnyvale Neighborhood Center is open to all residents in and around the area of the Sunnyvale Apartment Complex.

We work with refugees and immigrants to provide ESL, youth programming, mental health services, and other integration supports.

The center is open ___ to ___ Mon - Sat.

All services are offered at no cost to participants.

