



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

CHRIS TRAYLOR
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

November 19, 2015

Bill Clements, Interim CEO
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services
6440 Hillcroft Avenue, Suite 411
Houston Texas 77081

Dear Mr. Clements:

Governor Abbott recently sent a letter to President Obama informing him that the State of Texas will not participate in the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the wake of recent deadly terrorist attacks in Paris. In light of this direction and additional instructions from the Governor to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), below are some steps the State of Texas is immediately implementing that affect your agency.

As a reminder, local voluntary agencies who resettle international refugees have a statutory duty to cooperate and consult with the state pursuant to Section 1522 of Title 8 of the United States Code. Consistent with that federal-law obligation, we now require that you provide immediate and ongoing consultation with Health and Human Services Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) regarding any plans that may exist to resettle Syrian refugees in Texas. If you currently have plans to participate in the resettlement of any Syrian refugee in Texas, please notify us of this immediately, but no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, November 20, 2015. Further, please notify us immediately if, in the future, you learn that a Syrian refugee is proposed for resettlement in Texas with your organization. We reserve the right to refuse to cooperate with any resettlement on any grounds and, until further notice, will refuse to cooperate with the resettlement of any Syrian refugees in Texas. If you have any active plans to resettle Syrian refugees in Texas, please discontinue those plans immediately.

The Texas Refugee Resettlement State Plan is still under review. I will keep you apprised if any amendments to the state plan are finalized, as this may also result in an amendment to your local contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Traylor".

Chris Traylor

Attachment

cc: Colonel Steven C. McCraw, Director
Texas Department of Public Safety

Robert J. Bodisch, Sr., Deputy Director, Homeland Security and Services
Texas Department of Public Safety