



CHALLENGES OF REFUGEES AS FREE CASES

Phena Shimaka

Hennepin County Public Health Clinic

CLINIC OVERVIEW:

Name: Hennepin County Public Health Clinic

Location: 525 Portland Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN. 55415

Phone: 612-543-5555

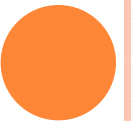
Services:

- ❖ **Refugee Health Screening**
- ❖ Immigration exam- I-693 processing.
- ❖ TB screening / Treatment
- ❖ STD Screening/Treatment, HIV Testing /pregnancy Prevention.



REFUGEE HEALTH SCREENING AND EXAMS:

- ❖ Nursing Staff
- ❖ Nurse Practitioners



RESETTLING REFUGEES IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

- ❖ **Historically:** HCPHC has been receives large population of refugees that have family members or relatives (**Family Re-unification refugee program**) already settled in Hennepin / MN.
- ❖ **Presently:** Changes at the state Department has led to:
 - ❖ Fewer family re-unification refugee population
 - ❖ More **Free Cases** in Hennepin County than ever seen.



TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES SEEN AT HCPHC 2008 -2009

YEAR	REFUGEE FAMILY RE-UNIFICATION (%)	REFUGEE FREE CASES (%)	TOTAL (%)
2008	226 (73.1%)	83 (26.9%)	309 (100%)
2009	160 (59.9%)	107 (40.1%)	267 (100%)



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- ❖ Homelessness (especially single individuals)
- ❖ Communication / Language barrier
- ❖ Families with children
- ❖ Complex Medical issues / Mental Health problems.
- ❖ Difficult accessing social services and Health care Programs.
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Unemployment
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Others



SUPPORT SYSTEM:

FAMILY RE-UNIFICATION REFUGEES.

VOLAGs

Family

Friends

Community

Others

FREE CASES REFEGEES.

VOLAGs

Others



HOW HAS HCPHC ADDRESSED THESE CONCERNS?

1. VOLAGs – case workers
2. Reached out to MDH / Other Counties e.g ANOKA
3. Office of Multi-cultural Services at Hennepin County.
4. HCPHC staff (PHNs, others)



CLOSING POINTS:

- HCPHC sought help from MDH on how to move forward with these challenges and planned to bring the discussion to this meeting today.
- Lets brainstorm for solutions on how to serve this new wave of refugees.
- Hoping to continue the discussion after this meeting today via phone conferences or meetings.
- We are open to learn from all of you.

