



richmond area multi-services, inc.

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RAMS Reaffirms Commitment to Serving the Community

SAN FRANCISCO – Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. (RAMS) is a private, non-profit mental health agency that is committed to advocating for and providing community based, culturally-competent, and consumer-guided services. As a community service provider, we are greatly concerned over the Trump Administration’s executive orders that were issued on January 25 and 27, 2017 on immigration and immigration enforcement.

The American Psychological Association (APA) states in a press release dated February 1, 2017, “APA voiced concern regarding the executive order issued Jan. 27 that suspends all refugee admissions for 120 days, more than halves to 50,000 the number of refugees to be admitted in 2017, indefinitely blocks all refugees from Syria, and bars entry for 90 days to individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries.” Furthermore, APA also notes the impact of the executive order issued on Jan. 25 would “make it easier to deport immigrants” and cites research that “sudden and unexpected family separation is associated with negative outcomes on child well-being that can last well into adulthood.”

RAMS reaffirms its commitment to serving the community, regardless of immigration status, and upholds the San Francisco Sanctuary City Ordinance. We strongly support legislation that rescinds and nullifies the Trump Administration’s executive orders on immigration and immigration enforcement.

Founded in 1974, RAMS has provided comprehensive services to meet the behavioral health, social, vocational, and educational needs of the diverse community of the San Francisco Area. Our programming historically mirrored the community’s changing needs due to the impact of international events, as well as laws and amendments, occurring over the past four decades – in response, RAMS developed crucial services that were reflective of the underserved newcomers’ unique circumstances and needs. Today, RAMS continues to provide these services to immigrants and refugees from a wide variety of countries, many of whom have experienced trauma in their home country and came to the United States to escape persecution. Many came with the hope of living in a country where their family can be safe. However, the immigration ban and deportation raids being authorized by the Trump Administration and the executive orders have taken this safety away. It unjustly targets ethnic and religious groups and has swept up students, non-profit workers, and desperate refugees fleeing persecution and violence. It has created confusion and fear throughout the immigrant and refugee communities we work with and caused severe stress and anxiety for many of our clients. These executive orders greatly impact their mental health, sow seeds of doubt, increase isolation, and limit their ability to visit family. In addition, many of the staff members at RAMS are immigrants themselves, and they greatly contribute to our organization’s ability to serve the richly diverse population of San Francisco. They dedicate themselves to helping others heal, but are now at risk for being banned from this country in the event they travel or visit family outside of the United States.

RAMS is a non-profit agency and not a political entity. It is rare that we issue a statement on policy, yet we cannot ignore the damage that these decisions have caused our clients, their families, and our own organization. America is a nation of immigrants. Our organization is a reflection of this value. We call on the Trump Administration to rescind their executive orders and instead adopt a fair and compassionate immigration policy, one that prioritizes equality, justice, and safety for all.

On behalf of RAMS Board of Directors, management, and staff