

JCOR MINUTES - March 4, 2026

Attendance: Rita Benn, Ketl Freedman-Doan, Rosalie Koenig, Jennifer Traig, Ruth Freedman, Lori Hale, Patricia Wolff, Renee Robbins, Deborah Greene, Harvey Somers, Shoshana Mandel, Amanda Fahim

TO DO's for Matias and Francy

–**Rosalie:** Check about Summer Programming options, including with Linda Grekin

–**Shoshana:** Transport Francy to the dental appointment on Monday, March 9th at 9:30am (done)

- Follow up to get colonoscopy prep information (ideally in Spanish) and coordinate with Jenny to help Francy understand the instructions (done). Coordinate with Jennifer T for transportation on the 13th (not needed)

–**Jennie** –Check in with Francy to see if she needs assistance with her tax preparation (her brother has begun it) and, if so, contact Jeff

Other To Do's –

Ketl: Check if car seat for Nagham's future baby is up-to-date with current regulations so it can be donated

Deborah: Work with Nagham to make a list of needed baby items for the family expecting a new baby, and share with the group for possible support/shower for her

Rita: Send updated Borderland movie flyer and information about the "Tools of Our Time" event to the group.

All: Consider planning or supporting fundraising events (e.g., mahjong party, chamber music concert, storytelling event) for the IFIJ

SUMMARY

Amanda Update:

Amanda checked the internal system, and it looks like Francy has been contacted to start the green card process with JFS immigration caseworkers. Amanda noted that the best practice would be to start the green card process as soon as possible, given that refugees may have their status reviewed. Any changes in the review process would be worked on at the HIAS level.

Francy contacted Amanda with a question about her travel loan (the owner of the loan has changed hands). Jeff will be helping Francy with taxes if requested. Her brother has helped her start the process.

Driving Update

Francy had her test on Sunday and didn't do well on the parallel parking. They didn't allow her to take the driving portion after that. The tester said they'd pretend she'd never had it, so she wouldn't have to pay for it when she returns. She should be practicing with her brother this week and will return later this week to take the test. Her driving instructor indicated that in Canton, where she took the test, they tend to be harder. Her carpool driver, Jesus, knows someone at the testing site in Canton, and he will speak with her. If Francy fails again, she'll have another lesson with Alex, the instructor, and retest in Ypsilanti. (Update: Francy passed her driving test last week. Jeff is working with the car donor to have the car evaluated.)

Ketl contacted the potential car donor, Melissa, to let her know we're hoping Francy will have her license shortly. If this means we'll be working with her longer, we may need to adjust the paperwork. Thanks to Jennie for all her hard work to make this happen!

Education Update

Francy agrees that Washtenaw Technical Middle College may be a great place for Matias, though it's too late to enroll him for fall. She said she'd get organized to enroll him the following year. Thanks to all who provided the materials for them to review. If he ends up at Ypsi High, Rosalie shared that the guidance counselor indicated that there should be a lot of similar classes, including art, computer gaming, and coding classes that may interest him. Rosalie will check with Linda G about summer options for Matias.

Health Update

Francy has an appointment with her original nearby dentist this Monday, who does not have a translator. We decided to have Francy handle it independently (with Google Translation support) since all our translators are out of town, and it would be more beneficial for her long-term self-management. Shoshana will accompany Francy to the appointment and communicate the details to Jenny afterward.

It should be a pretty straightforward visit; she needs a filling. Shoshana will drive her. The primary concern is making sure she understands the follow-up instructions. She also needs a deep cleaning, and it takes a while to get Medicaid approval for that.

The colonoscopy is coming up, we think on March 13 at 8:30 (**post script**-that was the appt originally made, but it changed when we made a switch to UM gastro since they have translators so we had it rescheduled for March 23 at 2:30). Shoshana will follow up to get prep instructions and ask Jennie to translate if the instructions are not available in Spanish. We will need to arrange transportation there and back. The driver may not need to stay there the whole time; Shoshana will find out.

Thanks to Shoshana for taking Francy to Costco to get an eye exam and ordering glasses, and to Harvey for his financial support of the exam and glasses.

Other: Future of JCOR

Based on conversations at JFS, it probably makes the most sense to match us with a family that's already here. Amanda will let us know when they have a family identified for us and share any issues they may have. Amanda provided updates about immigration matters, particularly regarding Ukrainians and other temporary protective status holders who need to renew their work authorization cards, noting that the renewal costs have increased. She explained that Ukrainians who came in through the Uniting for Ukraine program, and anyone with TPS, don't automatically have work authorization; they need authorization to work. For many, the parole status and work authorization are expiring and need to be renewed. For an individual to renew both it costs \$3090 per person, and there are no fee waivers. In addition, by the time they complete the process, it may be close to the next expiration, and the process will start all over, raising the question of whether it's worth it.

While there's a significant need among Ukrainian families facing barriers to employment authorization, she hasn't yet identified a specific family for us to support. The group agreed to proceed with providing Francy support while keeping other potential cases in mind for future consideration. We may need to extend our support for Francy to finish up with the car, etc. We'll need to let Amanda know what the new end date would be. April 30 should be long enough.

Other: Upcoming Events/Needs

Refugee and Immigrant Shabbat at TBE is March 13; Rita will send a flyer with information about this and other events.

Our second family is expecting, and it is a baby girl! They will need a larger car; if anyone has a lead, let us know. They also need a certified car seat. Ketl has one that may work and will check. Deborah will get a list of what may be needed for Nagham, and we can see what we have.

Tuesday, March 10, there's another training meeting at St Clare's; Rita will share the information over email.

April 28 is the screening of the Borderland film. Flyers have been corrected for the right links and QR codes for donations. Rita will send it out.

Renee is speaking with people about a chamber music fundraising concert to be held at TBE.

Next meeting: March 18, noon, and no other meetings until after Pesach (April 8 or 15).