



**El Cajon Collaborative
Core Team Meeting Notes
October 20th, 2009**

Meeting Purpose: To provide oversight and direction for the interagency partnerships and implementation of initiatives in the Collaborative.

- I. Rosa Ana Lozada facilitated introductions. The meeting notes from September were reviewed and no changes were made.

- II. English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes in El Cajon – we welcomed guest Molly Ash from Cuyamaca College to share about the critical situation facing ESL language class capacity in our area. Molly explained that due to budget cuts, they have had to cut their credit and non-credit courses. They are trying to provide as many classes as they can, but this is still not meeting the demand – 70 people are showing up for a 35 person class. With new refugee arrivals every week, there are certain to be not enough classes for those who need it. The requirements for ESL instruction were discussed as well as the potential for alternate solutions. Lea mentioned that this seems to be the first symptom of what could be a much larger problem and shared that Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and Grossmont Union High School District are co-hosting a Summit on Refugee Education and Employment on November 5th (Lea will email the information out to everyone).

III. Strategic Planning Objectives tasked to Core Team

The Executive Team approved a Strategic Planning Framework which has a set of 4 objectives with goals. Each objective and subsequent goals are to be worked on by separate teams. The Core Team is working on the Collaborative Structure objective which has the following two goals:

- 1. Annual review of Guidelines and Representation
- 2. Convene comprehensive service model at Little House

Rosa Ana reviewed the overall framework and opened discussion on the goals. As the previous Director of Little House programs, Debbie Comstock provided background information on the original model for services at Little House which stemmed from a community needs assessment. The model required that agencies were paid to work out of Little House and required partnership of a variety of agencies to sort out “who was working with whom”. Rosa Ana asked members of the group to share and some felt important aspects included a “navigator” or “family advocate” position which can help families match to available resources and holding Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings with providers. Steven Jellá shared his idea of using Little House and the Collaborative as a training and Evidence Based Practice convening location. Concerns were shared about finding the right “blend of services” and what “comprehensive” really means, other words were suggested like coordinated and integrated. It was suggested at next meeting to review the wording of the goals.

Next steps identified are to consider doing a needs assessment and drafting questions for how to understand what the next model for Little House should look like. It was noted that stricter grant/funding requirements may not allow us to do as much as was done in the past. The next few meetings will be dedicated to developing more specific strategies and tasks which can be reported at the next Executive Team meeting in January.

***Vision:** Through our collaboration El Cajon's children, youth and families are safe, empowered and thriving.*

***Mission:** We build relationships, leverage resources and promote best practices to enhance the quality of life for children, youth and families in our community.*

IV. Updates from the Coordinator

- Lea shared that at the last Executive Team meeting, fundraising for Little House to pay off the final amount of the mortgage was discussed as a priority.

V. Team/Work Group Reports

The meeting time did not allow for other team or work group reports.

Next Core Team Meeting: November 17th at 10 AM