



El Cajon Collaborative
Newcomer Support Coordination
Meeting Notes – June 3rd, 2010

I. Introductions

Lea announced that facilitation help during her maternity leave has been established and will be provided by Rosa Ana Lozada, Executive Director of Harmonium and her staff. Rosa Ana will be able to attend the next meeting and will be getting more familiar with everyone prior to September 30, which is Lea's anticipated leave date.

II. Review Action Plan for addressing San Diego County concerns

The group reviewed the action plan for addressing San Diego County concerns provided by County Refugee Coordinator, Bryan Nazareth. We took time to group like items and identify if there were places where we could be of assistance to the refugee community in our area. Bryan had initially responded to the Office of Refugee Resettlement on the action plan and was to provide his comments to the group for review.

III. Discussion on Catholic Charities 1st year milestones for newcomers

Tim Slade, Cultural Orientation Specialist for Catholic Charities requested feedback from the group on milestones that refugees should reach within one year of resettlement. Catholic Charities is working towards creating a comprehensive concept that will guide their initial response and supportive services to new refugees.

IV. Target Areas

- Job Development - Lea noted that the Refugee Works International Night of Networking is scheduled for July 14th, at the Price Charities building in Mid-City.
- Encouragement of respect and understanding of other cultures - Key points for welcoming newcomers/encouraging neighbors was not fully discussed at this meeting and will be more heavily addressed at our next meeting.
- Parent Education
 - Grossmont Adult School has rescheduled their ESL class registration to this Saturday, June 6th. Volunteers are needed to help communicate with and manage the crowd. The group agreed to consistently share the message that if someone is unable to get into an ESL class – then they need to check with their CalWORKs Case Manager about other options (if they are a CalWORKs client) otherwise, they should talk to their resettlement organization about how to best meet their requirements.
 - It was noted that continued advocacy for alternatives to ESL needs to be pursued with County staff. One particular example was to allow homework hours to count as ESL.

Next Meeting: July 1st, 2010

Workgroup Mission: *Our mission is to encourage respect and understanding of diverse cultures through community education and newcomer service support coordination.*

El Cajon Collaborative Vision: *An El Cajon community working collaboratively to ensure children, youth and families are safe, empowered and thriving*

Mission: *The El Cajon Collaborative builds relationships, leverages resources and implements best practices to serve the children and families of the El Cajon Community.*