



**El Cajon Collaborative  
Newcomer Support Work Group  
Meeting Notes – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

**I. Introductions & Brief Announcements**

Lea Bush, Collaborative Coordinator led introductions and welcomed everyone to the new room we will be using – the Instructional Media Center or (IMC) at the Cajon Valley Union School District Offices.

**II. Follow-up to last meeting “Action Plan” and re-establishing our Target Areas (30 minutes)**

Lea led a discussion regarding the Work Group “Target Areas” and how to bring these in line with the recommendations we have been reviewing from discussions outside the work group. As a preface, it was recommended that a more complete picture of the successes from the past year be put together – Lea will compile as much as she can in a document and will ask for input and additional information at the next meeting.

Additionally, the target areas were all still relevant for the work group – however funding/advocacy opportunities will be integrated throughout the objectives. Health related objectives will be given as an update at each meeting to keep track of the cooperative partnerships that are developing through the resettlement organizations and any potential for our group to support that work. A final set of objectives will be decided at the next meeting, with group input.

**III. Target Areas**

○ Job Development

Lea shared that the Refugee Works International Night of Networking event is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> at City Heights Center, a website has been created by the San Diego Refugee Forum: [www.networkingnight.org](http://www.networkingnight.org). This event is open to all businesses who are interested in networking with refugees with professional backgrounds. If a refugee is interested in attending, they must do so through one of the Refugee Forum organizations or their resettlement agency.

○ Encouragement respect and understanding of other cultures

Lea would like to discuss new ways for welcoming newcomers and encouraging neighbors to network with each other as a means of community resources. There was not enough time on the agenda today, however we will make more time on a future agenda.

○ Parent Education

- ESL Class Update

- Grossmont and Cuyamaca Community College summer classes go until August 4<sup>th</sup>. Their registration is being held starting August 12<sup>th</sup> and will be done completely online. No classes will be held during August.

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**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.*

- Lea will get an update from the Grossmont Adult School – who will also not have any classes in August.
- Laubach Literacy Council has trained nearly 60 tutors and has negotiated for space at the Salvation Army for small group tutoring. They are looking for clients/classes who need help.
- Other class/education updates
  - Lea mentioned that there is potential for a class on “Navigating Success for Refugee Children and Youth” which is in discussion of development with Cuyamaca College staff, along with Grossmont Union High School District and Cajon Valley Union School District. This class may be a good opportunity for newcomer parents to learn about the various systems that their children/youth are exposed to and how they may be different from their home country.
  - It was acknowledged that Maximus will no longer be the CalWORKs contractor starting July 30<sup>th</sup>. The new contractor is Public Consulting Group and Lea has outreached to them and will be inviting them to our next meeting. The Maximus staff were thanked and acknowledged for their incredible work and contributions to our community.

**Next Meeting: August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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