

**El Cajon Collaborative
Core Team Meeting Notes
May 20, 2014**



Purpose of the Core Team:

“To provide oversight and direction for the inter-agency partnerships and implementation of initiatives in the Collaborative.”

AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
<p>I. Welcome and Introductions- Chair, Dana Stevens, Communities Against Substance Abuse welcomed group members and facilitated introductions.</p> <p>Meeting Participants: Frank Carson, Dana Stevens, Lorenzo Higley, Laura Carter, Romalyn Watson, Claudia Llamas, Rosa Ana Lozada, Joyce Moore, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Christopher Shamoon, Brittany Alanis, Kenny Nakayama, Star Bales, Cathy Hilton, and Denise Thompson.</p>	
<p>II. Approval of April’s Meeting Notes- Core Team members approved April’s meeting notes by consensus.</p>	<p>-Need to bring closure to the parking concern from Ali Baba restaurant.</p> <p>-Pending items will be included at the bottom of the meeting notes.</p>
<p>III. Accomplishing ECC’s Strategic Priorities</p> <p>A. Update on RLA UArt Project (Goal 2.a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLA applied to The Great Challenge Grant to be able to fund the utility boxes (UArt) project. • The RLA will give a presentation about the UArt project on Saturday, June 7th as required by The Great Challenge Grant. • It was suggested that the RLA considers researching and applying to a grant from Home Depot as they might be able to fund about \$1,000. <p>B. KaBOOM (Goal 1.a & 1.b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank reported that Wells Park qualified for a grant through Foresters, and the park will be remodeled on Saturday, June 7th, 2014. • Frank brought volunteer applications for KaBOOM, and reported 	<p>-Claudia will email the UArt application to Core Team members.</p>



<p>only 10 people can volunteer per agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a family fun zone as we would like families to come out to the park. • They already had a meeting for the dream playground design day. • It has been a wonderful experience in the past to build a park –people have learned how to use certain tools, etc. • Other cities do not do a KaBOOM due to the liability involved. 	
<p>IV. Collaborative Business - Finance Team Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A budget for 2014-2015 will be sent soon to the Executive Team. • ECC received a contract amendment (\$18,000) with Home Start to build two community gardens and to hire a garden coordinator. This project is funded July through September 2014. 	
<p>V. Outstanding Discussion Items</p> <p>A. Understanding the refugee process and what that means for El Cajon. Presentation by Bob Montgomery, Executive Director, International Rescue Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2007 about 14, 000 refugees have resettled in El Cajon. • Most refugees reunite with family here in El Cajon. • Most groups are from religious minorities, mostly Chaldeans. • There are 70,000 refugees nationwide, about 18,000 from Iraq. • There is no refugee program for Syrians at this time. It is not know how many Syrians will come and most do not have families. • There are four resettlement agencies • Single refugees receive the support of the resettlement program for 8 months with a monthly stipend and services (employment, ESL, vocation assistance, etc.) • Refugees with children receive public assistance for 2 years. • Concerns: the English language and having employable skills. i.e. a doctor in Iraq cannot be a doctor in the U.S. without the appropriate training/schooling. • Goals for refugees include becoming permanent residents and later citizens, and becoming self sufficient. • Some IRC activities include: a community garden, sponsorship of the Farmer’s Market here in El Cajon, a health care program, citizenship classes, and a resident leadership 	<p>-Core team members could bring to the next meeting a list of the resources available to the refugee community, and some of the needs.</p> <p>-Claudia will bring a copy of ECC resources to the next Core Team meeting.</p> <p>-Brittany will send information about the Child Welfare Services here in El Cajon.</p>



academy.

- **What we can do:** assist with the language, culture, finding jobs, and transportation. Consider how we can better introduce them to the community.
- **Strengths:** there is a large Iraqi community here in El Cajon. There are many resources in El Cajon, but always the need for more.
- **Biggest challenges:** The language and not qualifying for some services.
- IRC has mentors (Cuyamaca college students) to help refugees.
- Organizations like Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services address the trauma from some refugees.
- People do not know the stories about the needs of Syrians and they come from a “very hot situation.”
- It was discussed the need to meet immediate needs first.
- It is important to build partnerships.
- San Diego County’s “It’s Up To Us” can be used as a model
- It is important to consider that people like to be their own boss
- There are emotional and social needs from refugees
- Rosa Ana shared it is important to consider how we can send and receive information to engage communities better. It is important to see the resources by 211, let people know about recreational opportunities, arts and other activities.
- Dana shared we may want to look at what services we provide.
- Dana suggested that the collaborative could do a Mental Health First Aid for kids, not only for those we serve, but us who serve.
- There is a need for cultural competency training.
- Rosa Ana would be glad to do a training for the Core team.
- Dilkhwaz shared it is important to pay attention to the needs of refugee women, especially since their family needs are greater when they feel alone (due to some of their husbands who go out to play cards attempting to cope with the families’ hardships).



VIII. Pending Items

- Lisa will send the contact information for the person at Circles, and Disaster Planning Groups (from notes in April).
- **Due to lack of time at this meeting, a coordinator report will be provided at the next meeting.**
- **Next meeting will address community assets and needs.**

Next Core Team Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2014/ 8:00-9:30 a.m.