

Minutes of Meeting Newcomer's Collaborative

Mission: *embrace, empower, connect with self and others, and to provide resources to everyone who is new to east region.*

Date: Tuesday January 10, 2017

Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Location: 389. N Magnolia Ave. El Cajon, CA 92020
HHSa/CWS East Region - Building 367

Minutes taken by: May Hasan

Attendees:

#	Name	Agency
1	Afrah Abdulkader	Vista Hill CalWork
2	Sal Sarkis	Community
3	Estela De Los Rios	CSA San Diego County - Chair
4	Dalia Alzendi	Bridge Organization
5	Ryan Trammell	El Cajon Valley High School
6	Jesus Pacheco	EJE Academies
7	Dilkhwaz Ahmed	License to Freedom
8	Ben Kalasho	Councilman El Cajon
9	Mohammed Tuama	Newcomers Support & Development (NSD)
10	Sarah Tominna	Adult Education
11	Alexis Smart	Jamboree Housing
12	Maysar Cholagh	CMSS
13	Susan Ball	San Diego Youth Services
14	Jennifer Navala	HHSa E&NC
15	May Hasan	San Diego Youth Services – Co-chair
16	Angel Carrefen	Public Consulting Group
17	Eyal Bergman	Cajon Valley High School
18	Anna Edson	McAlister Institute
19	Ben Burnette	McAlister Institute
20	Carol Lewis	ECC
21	George Ibara	CSA
22	Joseph Jok	IRC

23	Megan Dunn	Regional Task Force on the Homeless
24	Martha Gutierrez	San Diego Youth Services
25	Kate Morrissey	San Diego Union Tribune
26	Nauzi Dadkhah	Community member
27	Lori Saldate	Crisis House

Minutes:

1- Networking, welcoming and introduction

Members of the meeting introduced themselves.

2- Welcoming the new city council Mr. Ben Kalasho

Mr. Kalasho introduced himself and his objectives as City Councilman to raise the quality of living in the City of El Cajon.

3- How to better assist newcomers especially Syrian refugees with resources and filling the gaps

- Some members noted that there are many donors, agencies, and volunteers working to help Syrian refugees, however, collaboration is lacking. This may lead to overlap and duplication of efforts. More collaboration is required in this regard among all service providers and interested individuals. A sustainable model is required for the long term assistance for such activities. The Syrian Community Network is to be contacted and invited to Newcomers Collaborative as well as Apartment Association.
- It was also noted that, the Syrian refugee crisis is unique in the fact that they have less literacy, education, acculturation with more trauma compared to other newcomers. Mental health awareness is required among this population. Housing and healthy living condition continues to be the number one issue with this population; particularly finding affordable housing that fit families with an average of 7 members.
- IRC reported that this year they have witnessed a lot of refugees in a short period of time; not many other states are receiving refugees.
- List of resources is updated and available on the El Cajon Collaborative website <http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/>.
- Some schools within El Cajon Valley Union District are at full capacity; this may lead to enrollment of students into schools outside their local school. Buses are provided by the district for these students.

- Ms. Nauzi Dadkhah, who is a member of the community, was thanked by everyone in the meeting for her efforts volunteering to help newcomers to SD with donations and welcoming activities.
- Bright Nations Initiative, which is a part of Bridge Organization, was highlighted in the meeting for their effort of providing transportation and immediate needs for 60 Syrian families (around 450 members) over the past few months. Everyone participating in this initiative is volunteering their time and effort.

4- Newcomers' Strategic Plan for 2017

Some members are helping develop a plan for the activities and actions that the collaborative will perform during 2017. It was recommended that two groups be formed to discuss ideas for short term activities and long term actions.

Announcements:

Some members presented flyers for activities and events on behalf of their agencies such as:

1. Landlord Engagement Committee under the San Diego Continuum of Care next meeting is 1-12-16, 10am at 211 in Kearny Mesa. For more information and to confirm, contact the Vice-Chair: leanne.pelser@vvsd.net
2. Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) Families Subpopulation Subcommittee focusing on housing solutions for homeless families in San Diego County. Contact the Chair for more information, Ellen Birrell at Family Health Centers. ellenb@fhcsd.org
3. Annual Point in Time Count is low in volunteer and interview signups for East County 4am-7am Friday January 27, 2017. Please click this link to sign up for an area in East County <http://rtfh.volunteerhub.com/events/index> or contact the Coordinator, kelsey.kaline@rtfhdsd.org
- 4- Small Business workshop on January 21, 2017 @ 10:00am