**Minutes of Meeting**

**Newcomer’s Collaborative**

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

**Date:** Tuesday February 14, 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:**

|  |  |  |
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| **#** | **Name** | **Agency** |
| 1 | Afrah Abdulkader | Vista Hill CalWork |
| 2 | Sal Sarkis | Community |
| 3 | Estela De Los Rios | CSA San Diego County - Chair |
| 4 | Al Lejarde | SD Habitat for Humanity |
| 5 | Maggie Fenn | HHSA |
| 6 | Jesus Pacheco | EJE Academies |
| 7 | Dilkhwaz Ahmed | License to Freedom |
| 8 | Lorraine Gonzalez | CASA |
| 9 | Mohammed Tuama | Newcomers Support & Development (NSD) |
| 10 | Sarah Tominna | Adult Education |
| 11 | Dana Stevens | CASA |
| 12 | Maysar Cholagh | CMSS |
| 13 | Steve Valdivia | FBI |
| 14 | Jennifer Navala | HHSA E&NC |
| 15 | May Hasan | San Diego Youth Services – Co-chair |
| 16 | Maha Khatib |  |
| 17 | Eyal Bergman | Cajon Valley High School |
| 18 | Abdi Abdillahi | HHSA |
| 19 | Neptune Alhashim | PCG |
| 20 | Carol Lewis | ECC |
| 21 | George Ibarra | CSA |
| 22 | Joseph Jok | IRC |
| 23 | Neda Rivera | CWS/County of SD |
| 24 | Yadira Dickey | FBI |
| 25 | Susanne Arani | CAIR |

**Minutes:**

1. **Networking, welcoming and introduction**

Members of the meeting introduced themselves.

1. **Announcement**

* Licensed to Freedom representative announced a community forum for Syrian refugee on February 25, 2017; this event is organized in collaboration with El Cajon Police, ICSD, Heart 4 Refugees and Bridge organization and other agencies. The goal of this event is to empower the newcomers of Syrian refugees and raise awareness about healthy relationships, rules and regulations in USA.
* Habitat for Humanity has announced joining forces with the city of El Cajon to bring new homeownership opportunities, housing solutions for existing homeowners and community volunteer options.
* Cajon Valley Union representative announced being in DC fundraising for refugee students.

1. **Newcomers strategic plan for 2017 work groups**

* Two work groups were formed during the meeting. One to plan the short term and one to plan the long term activities expected to be conducted/organized by the collaborative.
* Members participated in the short term work group are:
  + Nada Rivera,
  + Al Lejarde,
  + George Ibarra,
  + Sal Sarkis,
  + Maysar Cholagh,
  + Sarah Tominna,
  + Joseph Jok,
  + Jesus Pacheco.

**Discussions:**

The role of the newcomers collaborative in some events such as World Refugee Day, America on Main street, Hispanic Independence Day as well as the possibility of organizing one event for Middle Eastern population during the year.

- Members participated in the Long Term work group:

* + Jennifer Navala
  + Carol Lewis
  + Dana Stevens
  + Eyal Bergman
  + Estela de los Rios
  + Maha Khatib

**Discussion**

* + What are the guidelines to becoming a welcoming city?
  + State Superintendent- Safe Haven School Districts
  + Housing for homeless
  + Landlord abuse and fair housing rights
  + Fair housing training to section 8 housing
  + Mandatory training for complexes receiving money

**The draft plan for 2017 will be shared during next meeting.**

1. **Immigration Attorney on ‘Know Your Rights’ regarding the travel ban**

Susanne Arani who is a Staff attorney from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) briefed participants on the new executive orders and travel ban on some countries and what are the implications of these orders on the newcomers and refugees.