



El Cajon Collaborative
Newcomer Support Coordination Meeting Notes
January 7, 2010

I. Introductions

Kara Vickrey, facilitator of the work group was unable to attend so Lea forgot to do introductions until halfway through the meeting! No additional agenda items were recommended.

II. Follow-up items from November Meeting

- **AYSO Soccer Leagues:**
Lea is in contact with someone from AYSO soccer and has not yet been able to talk to him on the phone. She will keep trying to reach him and will report back at the next meeting.
- **ESL classes update:**
Sheryl Ashley of Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College stated that they are doing a one day registration event for the non-credit ESL courses at Cuyamaca College on Monday 1-11-10. To register for classes an individual needs to be at the site. She will forward a flier to Lea for distribution to the group.
- **Alternative ESL Classes update:**
- **Laubach Literacy Council is still recruiting for volunteers to help with ESL tutoring in small groups – he has only heard from one person in the East Region in the last two months.**
Debra Palmer of Neighborhood Healthcare updated the group on some work she is doing to start a healthcare interpreter course at Grossmont or Cuyamaca sometime soon. She also noted the April 9th San Diego Refugee Forum conference on Collaborating for Healthy Communications.
Charles Ross of the Laubach Literacy Council also noted that the San Diego Literacy Council is working on a health literacy program that should be available in April.
Marilyn Nahas of the Episcopal Refugee Network shared that they will start an after school program for Karen speaking children at St. Alban's church.
Lea noted that at the last meeting we also discussed the work experience as ESL option through the Maximus staff and stated she would get in touch with Barbara Tucker to see who is currently in charge of that program.
Finally, Debra Palmer mentioned that in La Mesa there is a group called "Common Ground" who utilizes churches to do social service work and is looking to expand in El Cajon. She will send Lea the information.

III. Discuss Target Areas

- Job Development

We still need to get in touch with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a dialogue about how to potentially help refugees as they arrive with work in the region. Lea plans to bring this up at the El Cajon Collaborative Executive Team meeting to get a better connection.

Tim Slade of Catholic Charities stated that many newcomers are coming in with Engineering and Teaching backgrounds, which require certification. Lea will invite someone from the Welcome Back Center to the next meeting and hopefully we can learn more about their program and any capacity they have to expand. It was also recommended that teachers could act as substitutes and folks looking to develop small businesses can look to the IRC for small business loans. Additionally, Acción San Diego provides small business loans.

- Friendship Fair

Jenne Bergstrom will be taking the lead from the El Cajon Library. Lea will help her call a meeting for further discussion. We are still looking at a date in September.

IV. Community Events/Announcements

Finally, it was recommended that we invite someone from the Aja Project to the next meeting. Lea will make contact.

Next Meeting: February 4th, 2009

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