



El Cajon Collaborative
Newcomer Support Coordination Meeting Notes
November 5, 2009

I. Introductions

Kara Vickrey facilitated introductions. Lea passed around the new (requested) “contact sheet” for attendees of the meeting. It will be updated regularly – she asked everyone to please correct any incorrect information – or add information where needed.

Also, Lea will follow up next meeting regarding AYSO - youth soccer leagues.

II. Follow-up items from October Meeting

- **Child Welfare Training**
The first Child Welfare Training we did was a beginning. Neda Rivera from San Diego County Child Welfare Services is available to help with additional trainings for agency staff. She is also helping Jewish Family Service with their cultural orientations. This brought up that it would be good to this kind of cross training with the newcomers and community/field experts.
Neda discussed that an Arabic version of the “Yellow Pages” is available and this could be a helpful tool for additional cultural orientation and help with local resources.
- **ESL classes update**
Meredith Riffel of the Santee Collaborative announced that there are 2 classes that currently have availability in Santee with childcare. Contact Donna: (619) 258-2343 for more information, location and class schedule.
- **Refugee Summit on Education & Employment – Cuyamaca College**
Lea announced the Refugee Summit is happening tomorrow at Cuyamaca College, she passed out parking passes and noted that it is important that everyone be there. Cuyamaca will be documenting need, which will be helpful for regional grant funding ideas.

III. Discuss Target Areas

Friendship Fair update: Cheryl Cosart of the El Cajon Library announced that they are moving forward to hold this on one weekend day in September 2010. The Center for Social Advocacy, El Cajon Collaborative, Episcopal Refugee Network, Grossmont Union High School District and Ladies of Hope all volunteered to help with planning. Contact Cheryl Cheryl.Cosart@sdcounty.ca.gov if you would like to participate or help plan.

Job Development

- Lea still needs to work on a letter to businesses who could help provide some training or support to newcomers who are looking for jobs.
- Lea will also invite a representative from the “Welcome Back Center” to our next meeting.