



El Cajon Collaborative
Newcomer Support Coordination Meeting Notes
September 3, 2009

I. Introductions

Kara Vickrey, work group Chair led introductions. No additional agenda items were identified.

II. Follow-up items from August Meeting

▪ *Update on ESL Classes*

Cajon Valley presented their schedule for the upcoming ESL classes they will have available. Babysitting is available at all the classes. Most other classes are currently full and due to funding cuts Cuyamaca will not be able to provide teachers for any additional community classes. More classes are needed or people will not be able to meet the requirements for getting their cash assistance. Lea will bring this up with the Collaborative Core Team and Executives to see if further action is possible.

▪ Barbara Tucker said she connected individually with providers of ESL in the East Region particularly the Grossmont Adult School and Cuyamaca College to clarify requirements and needs for ESL providers. She stated that the East County Refugee Center is no longer holding ESL classes.

▪ Feedback from Career Center training was mixed, but some felt it was not specific information that really helped staff learn something new. Lea expressed appreciation for everyone who attended the training and said we can work on additional ideas for job development.

▪ The Catholic Charities staff person that was working on the SDG&E credit events through the MAAC project is no longer working there. Many people were interested in learning more about how to get such events going for their clients or at their own agencies, Lea said she would contact the MAAC project and find out if others can host the events. Catholic Charities plans to continue the events, but needs to identify staff to coordinate.

III. Discuss Target Areas

▪ *Parent Education*

Izela Jacobo reminded the group that she is available to do presentations at community locations (churches, apartment buildings, etc.) regarding entry into the Cajon Valley school system.

Kara Vickrey mentioned the Alliance for African Assistance organized a MTS bus training that helped the Burmese newcomers how to use the bus system and gave them a free day pass. The work group expressed interested that this would be a good training to do in our region and Kara said she would follow-up. The question was raised why people may or may not use the bus and some noted that the schedule is inconvenient.

Child Welfare Newcomer Community Presentations - Lea once again announced that we are working on a partnership with the Child Welfare department to train individuals/organizations who can help answer questions from the community at events or presentations. She is looking for volunteers and asked people to star next to their name on the sign-in sheet to be trained by Neda Rivera on the basics of Child Welfare – Lea will contact you with details.

- *Job Development & Encouragement respect and understanding of other cultures*
The meeting ran long and there was not enough time to talk about job development or the Friendship Fair, these will be at the top of the agenda next month.

IV. Community Events/Announcements

- Lalo Duran of the International Rescue Committee shared information on a benefit concert/event called Colina Fest, coming up on Saturday, September 26th.
- Lea also mentioned that an individual from Neighborhood Healthcare is trying to bring medical interpretation certification training to the El Cajon area, she will send out details over email.
- Christine Sphar from Cajon Valley Union School District shared information about Supplemental Education Services (SES) tutoring that is available at select schools in the district to students for free. She distributed a flyer for a “Provider Fair” on Wednesday, October 14th from 5-7PM at Cajon Valley Middle School which will showcase the organizations who provide the tutoring.

V. Next Meeting: October 1, 2009

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



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