



**El Cajon Collaborative**  
**Newcomer Support Coordination**  
Meeting Notes – April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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

**I. Information on ESL classes from Robyn Wiggins, Principal at El Cajon Adult Center**

Robyn Wiggins discussed ESL classes through the Grossmont Adult School, they are offering 29 ESL sections during the summer compared to 14 last year. If someone can provide a free site, they can provide a teacher for the class. Their last class registration was full for ESL in less than an hour. There is a continued need and they recognize the importance of the classes. A healthcare interpreters certification course is scheduled for the Fall at the Helix Adult Center.

**II. Information from Kecia Kellam and Randi Hart of Maximus**

Kecia and Randi discussed the options for CalWORKs recipients to have a Work Experience count as an alternative to ESL, the County takes Worker's Comp liability and will pay for a background check. Individuals then can volunteer at a site to get additional work experience. Job development preparation is included along with resume preparation and supervision. Kecia and Randi passed out information and handouts. They are looking for additional sites and approaching the El Cajon Community Development Corporation was discussed.

**III. Discuss Target Areas**

- Job Development (see above information from Maximus staff)  
Lea noted that the National organization Refugee Works ([www.refugeeworks.org](http://www.refugeeworks.org)) has been contracted through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to help with job development for refugees in the San Diego area. An employment task force has been meeting over the phone and discussing a summertime "International Night of Networking". The next phone call is on April 13<sup>th</sup> and Lea will continue to share updates and information.
- Encouragement respect and understanding of other cultures
  - The El Cajon Library is hosting a "Rainbow Family Fair" on May 22<sup>nd</sup>) for members of the community, particularly focusing on Latino families. They are looking for organizations to participate in hosting booths, etc. Here is a link to the flier:  
[http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/ec-fiesta\\_poster.pdf](http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/ec-fiesta_poster.pdf)
  - Due to the event above, the planning for a Cultural Exchange Fair has been postponed. We are still hoping to continue the discussion at a later date and come up with new ideas!

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**El Cajon Collaborative Vision:** *An El Cajon community working collaboratively to ensure children, youth and families are safe, empowered and thriving*

**Mission:** *The El Cajon Collaborative builds relationships, leverages resources and implements best practices to serve the children and families of the El Cajon Community.*

- **Parent Education**

In addition to the information discussed about regarding the Grossmont Adult School ESL classes the following was discussed:

- Charles Ross also reminded everyone of the upcoming tutor training for the Laubach Literacy Council on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Flier is available here: [http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/leadership\\_project\\_flyer\\_7.pdf](http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/leadership_project_flyer_7.pdf)
- Lea announced that the network of East Region Collaboratives is hosting a Food Stamp Training for staff on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IV. Announcements/ Program Updates**

Brent Freeman from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) hared that their International Film Series is coming in April, information will be sent out through Lea.

Marilyn Nahas of Episcopal Refugee Network shared that they are hosting homework help and tutoring for children and youth (1<sup>st</sup> grade to High School) on Monday's from 3:30-5pm at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in El Cajon. They are looking for additional volunteers and it was recommended that they consider connecting with Maximus for possible volunteers with teaching experience.

**Next Meeting: - May 6th**