

ESL Forum at Central Christian Church
Summary of Community Priorities & Action Goals
November 14, 2009

Identification of Needs:

Individual Needs Perspective

<u>Issue/Concern</u>	<u>Number of "Votes"</u>
Lack of training for volunteer teachers/tutors	13
Lack of resources (child care, transportation, personnel)	2
Directory of ESL classes/services available	3
Literacy needs of English language learners	5
Lack of mental health services for refugees	10
Embracing the families and connecting them to and with other Families, churches and outreach programs	6
Targeting individual needs and interest and levels	1
Dispel community hostility for ESL- (esp. Hispanics)	2

Organizational Needs Perspective

Language classes for social service agencies	8
Program is state/federal government run/controlled	1
Transportation to ESL site(s)	1
Help with identifying funding sources that could facilitate cooperation	8
Early childhood issues	4
Knowing with whom and how to coordinate together with ESL efforts	1
Promote understanding of KY General Assembly about the value of our Hispanic community and stop using the community for cheap political points	4
Understanding differences in expectations between ESL learners And organization's goals	3
Provide supportive services that allow participation such as transportation, childcare, etc.	14

Community Needs (System-Wide Perspective)

Identify/goal oriented classes/participant developed materials	1
Knowledge of availability	2
Identifying all those who need/want ESL services (apart from	1

children's involvement in school-based programs)	
Helping to meet basic needs	4
Identification of mental health providers in the community with cultural awareness	6
Identifying and raising awareness of structural and institutional barriers that prevent non-English speakers from accessing resources in the community	11
Prevent this community from growing resentment and hostility toward Hispanic brothers and sisters	4
ESL transportation on the job	1
PR/Publicity	3
Funding	3
Advertising ESL	2

Top Five Priorities

- 1) Consistency of instruction and training at all levels of service**
- 2) Mental health services to support individuals and families**
- 3) Supportive infrastructure (transportation, child care, etc.)**
- 4) Identifying and raising awareness of structural and institutional barriers that prevent non-English speakers from accessing resources in the community**
- 5) Funding**

Group Responses to Priorities & Recommendations

Group 1: Consistency of instruction and training at all levels of service

Members: Marilyn Daniel, Sarah Hesler, Wilma Clapp, Kathryn Sallee, Kristen Perry, Kate Covington, Liga Abolins, Isabel Taylor

Strengths: Operation Read, 12 hours of training; the range of topics is broad; follow-up professional training is available; technology is available; often passionate volunteers; pre and post testing.

Weaknesses: 12 hours of training may not be enough; how to build confidence in classroom teaching; how to increase number of people to train teachers; how to incorporate technology; tutors/trainings are all volunteers; need curriculum updates.

Opportunities: Rewarding for volunteers; need evaluations of training materials; focus training on specific sources of volunteers (e.g., churches, etc.)

Threats: Training materials may not meet the needs of clients; teaching methodologies vs. instructional curriculum ... there is a need for both; attendance and retention issues

Who else needs to be involved in the discussion? All ESL trainers, including public schools and universities.

Recommendations:

- 1) Comprehensive directory of ESL trainers and services and kind and amount of training.
- 2) “Town and Gown” cooperation with UK, Transy, ECU, Georgetown, cooperative efforts with different groups/agencies offering training

Team Facilitator: Marilyn Daniel

Team Recorder: Kate Covington

Group 2: Mental health services to support individuals and families

Members: Marie-Jeanne Dridi, Lauren Copeland, Rebecca Linares, Laura Purdy, Brigitte Nduwimana, Lynn Fors, Christen Bouchard, Jill Blackman, Susan Prout, Vivian Johnson, Mary Leffel and Lori Mutiso, Isabel Taylor

Strengths: Providers open to working with families (private provides – small numbers); nurse practitioner program at work (free provider services); rape crisis-provide services to victims mostly

Weaknesses: Lack of cooperation from large providers (CompCare); lack of support for cultural needs; lack of services during resettlement process; lack of knowledge of second language acquisition; cultural views of mental health and over medication due to lack of knowledge of resettlement; need for psychologists and psychiatrists to diagnose ... & therapists, lack of bilingual post trauma stress and other therapists.

Opportunities: Nurse Practitioner program at UK provide free services; partnering with doctoral program in nursing for culturally competent practice; continuing education courses for professionals, Paid for school/community personnel. Develop liaison committee with private/community providers

Threats: Lack of bilingual therapists/’mental professionals; lack of money; lack of research; lack of support for mental health research; lack of training opportunities for professional training.

Who else at table? Therapy programs at UK, KSU, ECU, Transy, Georgetown ... medical schools; non-profit and private providers-FCPS.

Resources needed: Money and coordinator.

Recommendations:

- 1) Coordinator/committee to reach above mentioned groups and meeting for collaborative services/training.
- 2) Directory of providers for refugees/immigrants.
- 3) Educate mental health providers through PD’s and handbook of working with culturally and linguistically diverse families.

Team Facilitator: Susan Prout

Team Recorder: Kristen Bouchard

Note: Need Center for Study Against Violence and Child Abuse involvement.

***Group 3: Supportive infrastructure (transportation, child care, etc.)
(A clearinghouse/single source for community resources)***

Members: Dee Dee Brumfield, Sandra Berger, Diane Sumney, Kate Marcum, Kyle Chafin, Wendi Keene, Marge Keller, Phil Points.

Strengths: Conversation has begun; ESL programs in public schools; Vial of Life program L.F.D.

Weaknesses: Overcoming barriers within the system; lack of useful care for mental health vision, dental, and medications; lack of coordination of information; transportation; misappropriation of resources of local agencies.

Opportunities: Buddy system to welcome and mentor families; network for support services; cultural education; provide facilitation of common ground/unity; Refugee House concept.

Threats: Loss of jobs and lack of job search assistance; exploitation; system working against families and difficulty navigating system.

Who else at table? LexTran folks, Mayor Newberry, Bluegrass Farm Chaplaincy, funding sources, legislators, more churches, university, powerful people.

Recommendations:

- 1) The establishment of a single clearinghouse for community resources.
- 2) Revamping of public transportation system to more efficiently access suburban areas where more families are settling.
- 3) Establishment of a Refugee/Immigrant House to serve as a local meeting place.

Team Facilitator: Wendi Keene

Team Recorder: Dee Dee Brumfield

Group 4: Identifying and raising awareness of structural and institutional barriers that prevent non-English speakers from accessing resources in the community

Members: Katie Hintze, Vicki Feola, Jen Stevens, Elena Domatov, Nathan Hoskins, Kay Wright, Tony Aja, Tim Mitsumori, Cathy Sutphen, Nancy Noll, Solake Bomani, Lindsay Mattingly, Susan Dworkin, Isabel Taylor

Strengths: 13 different programs; academic resources, community; variety of providers.

Weaknesses: Lack of coordinated effort; lack of targeted publicity; lack of communication among ESL providers; lack of public awareness.

Opportunities: Economic opportunities; business connections; plenty of eager students; free publicity.

Threats: Bad economy; documentation status; ignorance/unacceptance/negative perceptions among native population.

Who else at table? Media, LFUCG, community representatives, businesses, sister city mentors, etc.

Recommendations:

- 1) Convene regular meetings of ESL providers to share information.
- 2) Create an ESL class directory for distribution.
- 3) Identify community contacts in order to distribute information in most efficient way.

Team Facilitator: Lindsay Mattingly

Team Recorder: Lindsay Mattingly

Group 5: Funding

Members: Kara Cecil, Gia Mudd, Liga Abolins, Nathan Hoskins, Isabel Taylor

Strengths: Interest in securing funding; there is funding targeted for refugees; ability of organizations to collaborate; funding can target issues (i.e., mental health); share resources

Weaknesses: Political priorities; amount of available funding; competition for funding; lack of group organization; lack of experience in preparing funding proposals; general economy.

Opportunities: Unplaced migrant funding with FCPS; potential to collect data of need; first grant builds capacity and experience; potential for use of technology; potential education by funders.

Who else at table? Funding sources; programs currently receiving funding-successful programs; business and community leaders; politicians; representatives of major organizations serving this community; media.

Resources Needed: Information; grant writing assistance; sharing data.

Recommendations:

- 1) Continued organized collaboration ... through ESL funding taskforce.
- 2) Data sharing.
- 3) Public relations initiative.

Team Facilitator: Kara Cecil

Team Recorder: Kara Cecil