



## El Cajon Collaborative Council Meeting

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Meeting Notes

### I. Welcome & Introductions

Council Chair, Cheryl Cosart opened the meeting with a few announcements and passed around the sign-in sheet which will be emailed to all Council participants, in order to facilitate further discussion beyond the meeting. Anyone wishing to have their name or contact information withheld from this public sharing should contact Lea Bush, [lea@elcajoncollaborative.org](mailto:lea@elcajoncollaborative.org).

### II. Information Roundtable – Community Announcements & Other News

Cheryl invited everyone to participate in the information roundtable. All flyers were distributed through the El Cajon Collaborative Resource e-mail on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Please use the council contact list if you are seeking additional information on any of the announcements recorded below:

- Community Services for Families (CSF) Report – currently El Cajon CSF Case Managers are serving 75 families a majority of which are prevention cases.
- Marilyn Nahas and Elaine McLevie from the St. Luke’s Refugee Network were in attendance and interested in bringing services to El Cajon, particularly for the Burmese and Sudanese refugee populations.
- Debbie Comstock from the East County Family Justice Center made an announcement about a trauma treatment training on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Kathy Holmes-Hardy made several announcements about upcoming events through the East County Action Network for seniors.
- Melissa Crase from the San Diego County Immunization Branch came to promote Immunization Month and hand out flyers and information regarding Pre-Teen Vaccine Week.
- Susan Roberts from the East County Career Center promoted their upcoming job seeking and money management training opportunities.
- Kelly Poell from San Diego Gas and Electric promoted her their program which gives discounts on utility bills for anyone who is receiving other financial assistance.
- Dave Meyer and Megan Joseph from the East County Refugee Center attended and are working on action to help refugees in the region.
- Sheryl Eaves from Cuyamaca College CalWORKs program noted that classes start on January 26<sup>th</sup> and that she can help anyone who is in the CalWORKs program get enrolled.
- Laura Carter, public health nurse with San Diego County announced that there is a new Farmer’s Market starting in Lakeside and they will be accepting food stamps (EBT card).
- Laura Andrews and Wendy Schlater from Mental Health America can offer trainings to help eliminate the stigma of mental illness. Laura can offer a particular focus for Latino families and Wendy can offer outreach to American Indian families. Laura also notified attendees of their “Mental Health First Aid” training in February.
- Monica Torres from Family Health Centers of San Diego passed flyers out advertising their new walk-in clinic.

### ***Continued – Community Announcements & Other News***

- Eva Gutierrez-Hornero informed everyone of the Family Health Centers of San Diego pre-natal program and passed out flyers.
- Several staff from the International Rescue Committee were in attendance to give information about their programs and services.
- Nora Cole notified the group about the Family Health Centers of San Diego mental health services currently located in Spring Valley, which include low-cost and sliding scale mental health and psychiatry services. She also informed the group that Family Health Centers is looking to add these services to their Chase Avenue Clinic in El Cajon.
- Pam Toohey from the Birthparent Association announced that she is looking for financial partnerships for her parent partnering organization. She is currently hosting a weekly support group from 6-8pm every Wednesday at the El Cajon Library. More information can be found on [www.birthparentassociation.com](http://www.birthparentassociation.com).
- Shahin Rahimi from the Legal Aid Society of San Diego can offer a low-income tax clinic to share tax relief information and tax advice for low-income individuals.
- Estela de los Rios from the Center for Social Advocacy announced a Santee housing workshop upcoming in 2009.
- Paula Guerra from Home-Start reminded everyone of the Family Self-Sufficiency program which can help low-income individuals with tax returns in addition to basic needs assistance contact (619) 401-8375 for an appointment.
- Free posters that say “I want the abuse to stop” in multiple languages were distributed by Dilkhwaz Ahmed from License to Freedom.
- Cheryl Cosart from the San Diego County Library El Cajon Branch notified participants of the ongoing and free computer classes held in Arabic on Tuesdays and Thursday at 8am, as well as their Arabic, English and Spanish language story times. On Mondays at 8am the library hosts English as a Second Language (ESL) class and at 6pm there is an Arabic dance program. Contact Cheryl for more information.
- Rebecca Reyes from the El Cajon Community Development Corporation gave information about the Saturday Morning Clean-Up scheduled for January and debuted a handy resource sheet for a variety of services in the City of El Cajon.

### **III. ECC Committee/Workgroup Reports**

The Program Committee meets regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm to discuss collaborative programs and El Cajon Collaborative Family Night. Debbie Comstock of the East County Family Justice Center is the chair.

Joyce Moore from Institute for Public Strategies announced that the Neighborhood Safety workgroup will be meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4pm. Susan Caldwell is the chair.

### **IV. Next Council Meeting**

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:30-2pm at the Cajon Valley Union School District Board Room (750 East Main, El Cajon, CA 92020).

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