



El Cajon Collaborative Council Meeting February 1st, 2011 Meeting Notes

Meeting Purpose: *To engage service-delivery staff and community members in resource sharing, networking, and action to benefit the children, youth and families of the El Cajon Community.*

I. Welcoming Remarks & Collaborative Updates

Pam Toohey, Council Facilitator was unable to attend the meeting so Lea Bush, Collaborative Coordinator welcomed everyone and made announcements about upcoming events in El Cajon.

II. Presentation: Income Tax Preparation and Assistance with Federal Tax Disputes for Low Income Individuals

Shahin Rahimi of Legal Aid Society of San Diego gave a brief overview of income tax preparation resources for low-income individuals in San Diego. Since there are many free resources available, Shahin recommends that individuals who qualify for free services avoid paying a tax preparer as it will help them save money.

Christine Ellingsen of the USD Legal Clinics shared a Power Point which covered their free legal tax clinic services and an example of a successful mediation between their student lawyers and the IRS. Shahin then shared more detailed information about how and why someone should utilize tax mediation with the IRS instead of “not opening the envelope”.

Federal tax disputes for previous years can be handled by both Legal Aid and USD Legal Clinics, State tax disputes can be handled by the USD clinic. Current year tax preparation services are offered by Home Start for free by appointment. Lara Gamble of Home Start shared briefly about their tax preparation service for families (with children) who make less than \$48,500 a year. To make an appointment you can call (619) 283-3624 or email taxes@home-start.org.

III. Resource Sharing – Community Announcements

The following organizations and community groups were present and shared resources and/or program updates. We recommend that all participants utilize the Collaborative Council contact list to follow up on information presented at the meeting. The most recent version can be accessed online at the El Cajon Collaborative website www.elcajoncollaborative.org under the “Meetings” tab.

- AKA Head Start
- American Red Cross – WIC
- At Your Home Family Care
- Bethlehem Food Pantry
- Chaldean-Middle Eastern Social Services
- Communities Against Substance Abuse
- Courage to Call
- Family Health Centers of San Diego

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- Healthy Adventures Foundation
- Home-Start
- Institute for Public Strategies
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego
- Mental Health America – San Diego
- Mental Health Systems, Inc.
- Meridian Southern Baptist Church
- Motivating the Teen Spirit
- National Children’s Study
- Neighborhood Healthcare
- San Diego County Library – Rancho San Diego and El Cajon Branches
- San Diego Youth Services
- SHARP Mesa Vista
- USD Legal Clinics

We welcomed for the first time:

- Kristen Nielsen of Vista Hill ParentCare
- Gail Patterson of the Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District Welcome Back Center
- Juan Estrada of Molina Healthcare

Coordinator Contact Information:
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