



El Cajon Collaborative Council Meeting

May 5th, 2009 Meeting Notes

I. Welcoming Remarks Cheryl Cosart

- We are looking for a new Council Facilitator, Cheryl will be stepping down in July and we will need someone who can help facilitate the Collaborative Council meetings, planning agendas and organizing presentations at the meeting. Please contact Cheryl (619) 588-3708 or Lea (619) 447-4380 for more information.
- Lea announced that the El Cajon Collaborative now has a website! www.elcajoncollaborative.org. The site has meeting minutes and more information about the Collaborative and will be updated regularly.
- Since parking can be an issue for some Council meetings, Lea reminded everyone that there is an additional parking lot which is accessible by driving one street West of the School District Main Street lot, to Roanoke, the additional lot is on the right hand side of the street.

II. Information Roundtable – Community Announcements & Other News

For more information on any of the following events or organizations, please use the Council contact list to connect with the person who shared the information.

- Collaborative Update Lea Bush
There is a lot of good news about the El Cajon Collaborative! In addition to the website, we are starting a strategic planning process and are looking for individuals to help. Lea invited anyone interested in participating in that process to speak with her. Also, she noted that the next El Cajon Collaborative Council meeting will have a short presentation on the new Collaborative Operational Guidelines as an “Orientation to the Collaborative”.
- Community Services for Families (CSF) Report CSF Staff
Tiffany Atalla, CSF Team Leader for El Cajon was unable to make the meeting, but Lea reported that the current CSF caseload is 11 dependency cases, 12 voluntary cases, 32 prevention cases and 3 community prevention cases.
- El Cajon Valley High School (ECVHS)Kara Vickery
Kara mentioned that the ECVHS Family Resource Center is serving 65 families at the High School. They have an upcoming Coffee Talk for parents on “gang awareness”. Additionally, she works with three High School Parent mentors who assist families at the school who speak Spanish and Arabic.
- Crossroads Family Center Kelley Fitzgerald-Keyser
Crossroads is a mental health outpatient clinic that sees about 75% of their clients through the school district once they have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan).
- St. Luke’s Refugee Network Elaine McLevie and Marilyn Nahas
Elaine shared that they are a donation based volunteer network serving Burmese and Sudanese refugees who are falling through the cracks. They have two tutoring programs in San Diego and are developing services in El Cajon at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church.
- Cuyamaca College Jonathan Kropp
Jonathan shared information about Vocational ESL programs available, which can help people obtain jobs in specific fields, like healthcare, hospitality, automotive, etc.) Also, there will be a two day workshop on June 20 and 27 for job seekers called “Ready, Set, Work”, the cost is only \$10. Finally, Jonathon promoted the Cuyamaca College for Kids program that offers students ages 8-14 an

opportunity to explore possible careers in the arts, business, fitness and sports, science, history, and more.

- Cuyamaca College CalWORKs/cash-aid students Sheryl Ashley
Sheryl shared that school is an option for welfare and cash-aid recipients, her program can help with transportation/childcare/books and she is willing to come and give a presentation to a group. The summer schedule is now available and classes start the second week in June.
- Birth Parent Association Pam Toohey
Pam announced that she has 15 parents participating in her support group, 5 of which are peer-to-peer partners offering help to the other 10 families. 7 of those 10 families are progressing on a positive path. She also had the opportunity to meet with the East County Neighborhood for Kids program which expressed support for her program.
- Vista Hill ParentCare Candice Harris
ParentCare offers intense wraparound case management services for young women to stay drug free and deliver healthy babies.
- City of El Cajon Recreation Department Marilee Gorham
Marilee came to promote the six neighborhood-based recreation centers available to the El Cajon Community. They offer affordability and accessibility for families in the upcoming summer months and positive opportunities for kids after school. The summer recreation guide is available at: <http://www.ci.el-cajon.ca.us/dept/rec/recguide.pdf>
- Center for Community Solutions Ma'at Crook
Ma'at shared that CCS is a resource to anyone who has been affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. They offer a 24-hour hotline (888) DV-LINKS, legal and counseling services as well as prevention and education information. She can be a resource for community presentations on healthy relationships, as well as a 3-hour self defense class for women/girls.
- El Cajon Community Development Corporation Rebecca Reyes
Rebecca shared the CDC's mission of ensuring the economic vitality of downtown El Cajon. She encouraged everyone to get out and have a good time at the upcoming Cajon Classic Cruise events on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer, as well as Concerts on the green on Friday evenings. The next Saturday morning clean-up is on May 30th, and the CDC is looking for artists to partner with and paint utility boxes in the downtown area. Finally, Rebecca shared information on the San Diego Broadband Initiative to help low-income families get access to computers and other technology related assistance.
- Motivating the TEEN Spirit Alex Limon
Alex shared information on TEEN emotional literacy workshops that focus on getting teens in touch with their worth, value and voice. She is looking to partner with more organizations to offer the workshops.
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego Shahin Rahimi
Shahin offers a low-income tax clinic through the legal-aid society and can enroll students in a Financial Literacy Class up until May 31st of this year. The class focuses on savings/investing, avoiding bank fees, etc. If participants are able to keep a bank account and pay a bill for 3 months, they will receive \$50 towards a savings account. Individuals can call (877) Legal-Aid for more information.
- FAMNET..... Jenny Mork
Jenny shared information about their Safe Exchange and Supervision Program, which is building linkages in the community.
- Communities Against Substance Abuse..... Enrique De La Cruz and Julie Eramo
Enrique discussed their Youth Internship Program and introduced their new staff person, Julie who will focus on smoke-free multi-unit housing policy and tobacco control.
- Project SHIELD (High School District)..... Tracy Wilson
Tracy shared that Project SHIELD is funded through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant which provides on and off-site mental health resources and services to 5 schools in the Grossmont Union High School District.

- Harmonium Leslie Gallagher
Leslie shared information about her role at Chaparral High School as a counselor and the Wednesday night parenting class that parallels their teen anger management and substance abuse group.
- Project PEACE (Elementary School Districts) Tracy Real
Tracy shared information about Project PEACE, which covers 5 school districts and 52 schools. The 3 year grant which will sunset this Fall, 2009 has provided training and resources to schools to improve outcomes for school-age children. She is currently working on a resource list that she passed around and asked everyone to review and add information to as available.
- Family Health Centers of San Diego Monica Torres
Monica let everyone know of the new walk-in clinic at the Chase Avenue center, open Monday-Friday. Additionally, they have a dental clinic and mental health clinic in Spring Valley.
- Institute for Public Strategies/East County Community Change ProjectJoyce Moore
Joyce discussed their alcohol and beverage control forum which can help communities be aware of the voice they have in new establishments that serve alcohol. She also mentioned the work she is doing with youth.
- Catholic CharitiesMike McKay
Mike shared that Catholic Charities along with other resettlement agencies are helping refugees during the first 8 months of their arrival work toward self sufficiency. There are still large numbers of refugees arriving from Iraq.
- El Cajon Branch Library Cheryl Cosart
Cheryl gave information on the El Cajon library, which has seen an increase in attendance in their community programming. She mentioned that the El Cajon branch has one of the largest circulating DVD collections in the County and that they are focusing on early literacy with pre-school programs as well as having computer instruction and story-times available in Spanish and Arabic. The online calendar for the library is available at www.sdcl.org/elcajon. As always, there is space available at the library for community groups and presentations, their largest room hosts 80 people.

III. Next Council Meeting

June 2nd, 2009 – Orientation to the Collaborative!