



El Cajon Collaborative Council Meeting Notes

June 2nd, 2009

I. Welcoming Remarks

Cheryl Cosart welcomed everyone and shared information about leaving her post as Council facilitator starting next month. Lea asked that anyone interested in helping in providing Leadership to the Council to sign up on a sheet that was passed around.

II. ECC Workgroup Reports

None of the workgroup chairs were present, so Lea asked other participants to share information about the Newcomer Support Work Group that is meeting on June 4th. The Neighborhood Safety Work Group is on hiatus until an appropriate meeting time can be found to meet the objectives of the group.

III. Presentation – “Orientation to the Collaborative”

Lea presented a Power Point (see separate document) on the overall Collaborative structure as well as some of the roles and responsibilities of the different Collaborative bodies. The Collaborative has updated its operating guidelines and Lea will post these to the website at www.elcajoncollaborative.org.

IV. Community Announcements & Other News

Institute for Public Strategies (IPS) /East County Community Change Project Joyce Moore
Joyce announced their upcoming “Report to the Community” on outcomes of the East County Community Change Project on June 15th at the El Cajon Library and their sticker shock campaign with Mother’s Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Mental Health America Laura Andrews
Laura offered her organization as a resource for advocacy, community awareness and free presentations to eliminate stigma and discrimination towards mental health.

St. Luke’s Refugee Network Elaine McLevie and Marilyn Nahas
Elaine shared that they are serving Burmese refugees in El Cajon and would like to connect with other agencies to help the network of services available to refugee families.

Harmonium, Inc. Krissy Buxton
Krissy notified the group that they have a variety of classes and programs to serve families on a sliding scale basis, anyone interested can contact her at (619) 258-3740 x.276.

Community Services for Families (CSF) Report CSF Staff
Tiffany Atalla, CSF Team Leader for El Cajon and Krystal Guzman case manager reported for the in-home case management program that the current CSF caseload is 14 dependency cases, 14 voluntary cases, 33 prevention cases and 3 community prevention cases.

International Rescue Committee Brent Freeman
Brent informed everyone that they are continuing to see large numbers of clients coming in, that for June they are looking at over 100 new individuals being resettled, mostly in the East County.

Center for Social Advocacy Carmen Aparicio
Carmen offered herself as a housing specialist resource who can help renters with landlord/tenant issues and her organization can help with immigration advocacy.

Motivating the TEEN Spirit Alex Limon
Alex shared information on the TEEN emotional literacy workshops that have increase self-esteem and help prevent suicide and drop-outs. She is looking to partner with more organizations to offer the workshops.

Communities Against Substance Abuse Enrique De La Cruz and Julie Eramo
Julie is focusing on smoke-free multi-unit housing policy and tobacco control in El Cajon and looking to partner with community groups and apartment complexes. Enrique is leading a youth summer internship program to teach youth the effects of alcohol and substance abuse as well as advocate in the community.

East Region Health and Human Services Agency (San Diego County) Romalyn Galacgac
Romalyn offered the East Region Health Promotion office as a resource for health data, information and possible letters of support for grants. She recently helped with the El Cajon Safe Routes to School grant which is hoping to help calm traffic around Bostonia and Chase elementary schools.

Volunteers in Medicine Maureen Hartin
Maureen is the new Executive Director of the free medical clinic in El Cajon which offers a full array of services by appointment to the working uninsured population. They host women's health screening clinic on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, by appointment.

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.

Cuyamaca College Jonathan Kropp
Jonathan shared information about Vocational ESL programs, which are targeted to help gain knowledge about specific fields, such as automotive maintenance and/or landscaping.

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). For more information you can call (619) 441-1907.

El Cajon Valley High School (ECVHS) Carmen Lopez and Suhim Mati
Carmen and Suhim introduced themselves as Parent mentors who assist families at the school whose primary language is Spanish and/or Arabic.

Set Free Ministries Denise Valence
Denise informed the group of their Christian-based center for at-risk families and youth which includes help for homeless families and alcohol and drug addiction.

El Cajon Community Development Corporation Rebecca Reyes
Rebecca shared her vision for making downtown El Cajon an exciting, vibrant and prosperous place to work and play. She notified everyone that the next Saturday morning clean-up is on June 27th, which will include a special electronic waste collection event.

Child Welfare Services, El Cajon Cluster Cynthia Hernandez
Cynthia shared great news that all the East County foster youth who are high school Seniors graduated from high school!

El Cajon Branch Library Kristin Ward and Cheryl Cosart
Kristin gave information on some upcoming summer events at the Library including a battle of the bands and their summer reading program. Cheryl gave information on the El Cajon library, and encouraged everyone to take a look at the online calendar for the library 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.

V. Next Council Meeting
July 7th, 2009

Coordinator Contact Information:
Lea Bush, (619) 447-4380
lea@elcajoncollaborative.org