



El Cajon Collaborative
Monthly Council Meeting Notes
April 2, 2013

Purpose of the Council: "To engage direct service staff and community partners in resource sharing, networking, joint planning and action around issues that benefit the youth and families of the El Cajon community, consistent with the mission, vision and priorities of the Collaborative."

AGENDA ITEMS/ DISCUSSION

I. Welcoming Remarks-

Council Facilitator, Veronica Mikho, National Conflict Resolution Center, welcomed everyone and began the meeting.

Meeting Participants:

American Red Cross/ Disaster, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Catholic Charities/ Anti-tobacco, Catholic Charities/ Homeless, Seniors & Refugees, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, Child Development Associates, City of El Cajon/ Recreation Services, Communities Against Substance Abuse, Crossroads Family Center, Cuyamaca College/ CalWORKs, Cuyamaca College/ Workforce Innovations, East County Refugee Center, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/Bethlehem Food Pantry, El Cajon Valley High/ SDYS Family Resource Center, Family Health Centers of San Diego/ Outreach, Family Health Centers of San Diego/ Cancer Prevention, Family Health Centers of San Diego/ Mental Health, Health Net, Grossmont High School District, Institute for Public Strategies, License to Freedom, Mental Health America of San Diego, Mental Health Systems/ Wraparound, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Planned Parenthood, San Diego American Indian Health Center, San Diego County HHSA/ Health Promotions, San Diego County Library/Rancho San Diego Branch, San Diego County Public Health Nursing, and WIC- SDSU Research Foundation

II. Collaborative Updates-

LaVonna Connelly, Collaborative Coordinator, reviewed a few highlights about the El Cajon Collaborative's activities:

- Elections for the 2013-14 Council Facilitator will be held in July. The role of the Facilitator is to work closely with LaVonna to help in the Council Strategic Planning process, give input in to Agenda content, to assist with meeting set up and break down and to facilitate Council meetings from September 2013 to June 2014.
- The Collaborative's Core Team is open to interested Council members. This team, which provides oversight and direction to the Collaborative, would be an excellent opportunity for community leaders to contribute to the direction of the Collaborative.
- The Collaborative is forming a Fund-development Workgroup to assist in planning for the Collaborative's sustainability. People with financial expertise, fund-development know how and/or people with passion for sustaining the Collaborative are wanted for this special workgroup.

PLEASE NOTE: All contact information for these agencies can be found on our meeting roster at:

http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/roster_march2013.pdf

III. Presentation- Issues that El Cajon Youth Face

Officer Eric Thornton, School Resource Officer/ El Cajon Police Department, shared the top three issues that he sees among youth at Granite Hills High School:

- Issue #1: Drugs/Alcohol/Caffeine/Tobacco/ Marijuana
 These are the drugs that are used most frequently. Other hard drugs are used less frequently. These drugs cause all types of disruptions on campus and sometimes lead to addictions that make it challenging for youth to finish school and obtain their high school diploma.
- Issue #2: Internet-related Drama

Computer and cell phone-related drama has developed in to a substantial issue at the high school level. Threats, bullying, inappropriate photos and sexting are activities that lead to violence and/or social drama that have potential to disrupt learning and can lead to anxiety and depression in youth. ECPD provides mediation when the drama is caught early enough.

- Issue #3: Gangs/Bullying/ Sexual Exploitation of Children

Gang issues begin in middle school. There are several gangs local to El Cajon. In addition, gangs from other areas are also active in El Cajon. Bullying continues to be an issue, with internet drama playing a role. Sexual exploitation of children often begins through “recruiting” of youth by peers within the school setting. All three of these issues are being addressed through community education and law-enforcement activities.

IV. Presentation- El Cajon City’s Assets for Positive Youth Development

Jannette Kutchins, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, reviewed a list of programs and services that are available to youth in El Cajon (grouped by the “5 Promises” of positive youth development).

- Caring Adults:

1. Big Brothers Big Sisters of SD County
2. Gen You Coaching

- Safe Places:

1. American Lung Assoc of CA: Asthma Camp for Kids (SCAMP CAMP)
2. Big Brothers Big Sisters of SD County
3. SD Youth Services/ East County Community Center

- A Healthy Start:

1. Big Brothers Big Sisters of SD County
2. Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services
3. East County Youth Coalition
4. Harmonium Community Behavioral Health Services
5. Healthy Adventures Foundation
6. Planned Parenthood: Community Engagement
7. SD Hunger Coalition
8. SD Youth Services/ East County Comm. Ctr, Behavioral Health Clinic & Family Resource Ctr

- Effective Education:

1. Big Brothers Big Sisters of SD County
2. East County Career Ctr Young Adult Program
3. Rancho San Diego Library
4. UCSD Trio Talent Search
5. Cuyamaca College Workforce Innovations Ptrship/ Green Ventures Program

- Opportunities to Help Others:

1. American Red Cross SD/Imperial Counties
2. Big Brothers Big Sisters of SD County/ High School Bigs Program
3. Communities Against Substance Abuse/ Students Together Against Alcohol ‘n Drugs

V. Roundtable (Announcements, Trends, Issues)

Council attendees shared information regarding their ideas, services, programs and events. That information is not captured in the meeting Notes. If you have any questions about the announcements, please contact LaVonna.

VI. Adjournment-

Council Facilitator, Veronica Mikho, adjourned the meeting.