



El Cajon Collaborative
Monthly Council Meeting Notes
November 5, 2013
Cajon Valley Union School District
750 E. Main St, El Cajon, CA 92020

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 Education, CA Health Network, Cajon Valley Union School District/ Student Support Services, Care 1st, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, City of El Cajon Recreation Department, Communities Against Substance Abuse, County of San Diego/ Aging and Independence Services, Crisis House, Crossroads Family Center, East County Career Center, El Cajon First United Methodist/ Bethlehem Food Pantry, El Cajon Valley High School, Grossmont Adult School, HealthNet of CA, Home Start, Institute for Public Strategies, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Mental Health Systems, Molina Health Care, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Silvercrest Senior Living, County of San Diego HHSA/ Community Health Promotions, County of San Diego Library Branch/ Rancho San Diego, San Diego State University Research Foundation/ Women, Infants and Children, San Diego Youth Services/ HereNow, San Diego Youth Services/ East Behavioral Clinic, Sharp Mesa Vista Research, St. Paul's PACE, Steele Canyon High School, United Way San Diego, VistaHill Parentcare, Heartland Geriatric Mental Health, Alliance for African Assistance, and UC Cooperative Extension

II. Collaborative Updates-

LaVonna Connelly, Collaborative Coordinator, gave brief updates on the Collaborative projects:

- The Collaborative has been funded to promote and support San Diego Youth Services' Here/Now Suicide prevention program which will be implemented with youth in schools and in the community. Anyone interested in knowing more about this worthwhile program, contact LaVonna.
- The Collaborative has also been funded to be part of an Advisory Committee to support and promote Home Start's First Five First Steps program. This will be a home visitation program for pregnant women through their child's 3rd birthday. Please contact LaVonna for more information.
- SANDAG outreach and education in El Cajon continues. Anyone interested in having a presentation about regional planning, transportation and local decision making, please contact LaVonna.
- The Positive Youth Development Advisory Group is putting together a youth guide. A form was attached to the Agenda for anyone who would like to submit a resource for this guide. Contact Veronica Mikho if interested.

III. Presentation- Homeless Issues in El Cajon

Captain Jeff Davis, El Cajon Police Department, gave an overview of the issues law enforcement face in managing the homeless in El Cajon. Highlights included:

- There are approximately 400 homeless residents in El Cajon.
- Homeless state that they come to El Cajon because they feel tolerated and because there are resources.
- ECPD works closely with East County Transitional Living Center to get help for those who truly

want to get off the streets.

- An estimated 40% of the homeless in El Cajon suffer from significant mental health issues which make them challenging for law enforcement (and the community). All ECPD officers to a week-long training to learn to deal with substance abuse and mental health issues.
- ECPD's bike officers are the primary law enforcement interface with El Cajon's homeless. There are two teams of two officers on bicycles patrolling El Cajon.
- ECPD recommends that community members direct homeless to Crisis House, East County Transitional Living Center and other appropriate resources rather than giving them money or food.

IV. Presentation- Older Adults/ Issues and Resources

Kathy Holmes-Hardy, County of San Diego/ Aging and Independence Services, shared information regarding older adults. Highlights included:

- Kathy offers presentations about issues related to older adults (a variety of topics). Contact her for more information.
- Kathy handed out information and resources covering a spectrum of topics for older adults (too many to list). If interested in learning more about older adult issues, or to get copies of handouts to share with your clients, please contact Kathy.

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. Contact LaVonna for more information.

VI. Adjournment/ Informal Networking-

Council Facilitator, Veronica Mikho, adjourned the meeting.