



**El Cajon Collaborative
Core Team Meeting Notes
April 20th, 2009**

In attendance: Suzanne Moser, Sue Christopher, Paula Guerra (for Laura Mustari), Joe Eberstein, Tamara Van Ness, Barbara Ryan, Nancy Saint John, and Steven Jellá.

I. Welcome & Sharing Positives

Steven Jellá, Vice-Chair opened the meeting with introductions and sharing of positive stories by the group.

II. Approval of March Meeting Notes

The March meeting notes were reviewed and a change was requested by Tammy Van Ness of McAlister. Otherwise, the notes were approved for public posting/dissemination.

III. New updates or changes in regional services

- Paula Guerra of Home Start noted that their parenting classes through CSF are lacking attendance. Paula also acknowledged Lea Bush and Collaborative Partners who are helping host the classes for working to keep these classes available to the community.
- Joe Eberstein of Institute for Public Strategies noted that he has been attending/participating in a Second Street Project meeting with the EC Police Dept., business owners and other community partners. Sue Christopher recommended that Crisis House Homeless Outreach Team be involved. Joe will send the meeting information to everyone.
- Nancy Saint John of the El Cajon Library said they are still working on dealing with the chronic homeless population in front of the library and are working with law enforcement to address the problem.
- Tammy VanNess from McAlister Institute noted that budget cuts and the impact of Prop. 36 fund changes over the years have caused staffing cuts and program changes. She shared that Pegasus East is not being run by McAlister with reduced hours. They are still able to offer drug counseling and assessment for students and their CalWORKs clients are still strong.
- Sue Christopher of Crisis House shared that there are lots of people showing up at their doors and that the "Plan to End Chronic Homeless (PTECH)" ends in June.
- Steven Jellá noted that SDYS is doing what everyone else is doing, more with less and trying to make it work.

IV. Review of April Executive Team Meeting Decisions and Discussion

- Lea reviewed the budget changes approved by Executive Team and passed out the draft budgets for ECC and LH Avocado, Inc.
- Lea mentioned that Partnership "contributions" was another topic that was raised again in the Executive Team and that it would be discussed by Finance Team along with small fundraising ideas.

Vision: Through our collaboration, El Cajon's children, youth and families are safe, empowered and thriving.

Mission: The El Cajon Collaborative builds relationships, leverages resources and promotes best practices to enhance the quality of life for children, youth and families in our community.

- Sue Christopher shared some comments regarding the Collaborative and its value. It was recommended that she return to discuss this as part of the strategic planning process or make time on the agenda to address her comments to the Executive Team which acts as the decision making body of the Collaborative.

V. Strategic Planning

We were unable to review the Collaborative Operating Guidelines or discuss parent/community member engagement and participation due to a lack of time on the agenda. These items will be prioritized for the beginning of next meeting.

VI. Updates from the Coordinator

The Coordinator shared her most recent Coordinator's report and gave updates. A second letter of support was approved for License to Freedom, it was agreed that as long as the letter of support used this same format and that it was recorded at Core Team, it would be provided to our Partner.

VII. Team/Work Group Reports

No Team or work group reports were made due to a lack of time in the meeting.

VIII. Smoke-Free Multi- Housing Resolution

Julie Eramo, Communities against Substance Abuse (CASA) came to discuss Collaborative support for a smoke-free multi-housing resolution that they are promoting in El Cajon. The presentation yielded a group conversation about the impacts of support for such a resolution. At the end of the discussion, there was mixed support for the resolution and the group was not able to come to consensus. Sue Christopher in particular noted her strong opposition. Many individuals asked for more information and data to understand the impact, despite most participants sharing support for the idea that this promotes a healthier community. Lea will follow-up with Julie to see if there is more information that can be provided.