



El Cajon Collaborative  
Monthly Council Meeting Notes  
April 3, 2012

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**, gave the group a warm welcome and reviewed the meeting Agenda. The meeting began at 12:32.

**Meeting Participants:**

American Red Cross Disaster Education, Catholic Charities, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Community Services, Child Development Associates, Communities Against Substance Abuse, Crisis House, Crossroads Family Center, Cuyamaca College, East County Refugee Center, El Cajon Valley High School/SDYS, Family Health Centers of San Diego, Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District Welcome Back Center, Fleet and Family Support, Home Start, Institute for Public Strategies, License to Freedom, Mental Health America of San Diego, Molina Healthcare, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Public Consulting Group, Rady Children's Psychiatry, Salvation Army Social Services, San Diego County HHS East Region/ Health Promotions, San Diego County HHS Refugee Services, San Diego County Library/El Cajon Branch, San Diego County Library Rancho San Diego Branch, San Diego State University Research Foundation/ WIC, San Diego Youth Services, Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, Southern Indian Health Council.

II. Collaborative Updates-

**LaVonna Connelly, El Cajon Collaborative Coordinator**, stated that updates on recent Collaborative activity were listed on the back side of the Agenda. She encouraged attendees to review the information at their convenience. LaVonna highlighted the Sample Partnership Agreement that was attached to the Agenda and asked that attendees contact her if they were interested in being a formal Partner of the El Cajon Collaborative. She stated that ECC's Strategic Goals were listed on the back side of the Partnership Agreement, and welcomed anyone who had projects or ideas that addressed those Goals to contact her for possible partnering. LaVonna reminded everyone that the Council Facilitator nominations would be open from May 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, and she stated that she would like to see more than one nominee. If interested, contact LaVonna for details.

III. Presentation- Human Trafficking/Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Charisma DeLosReyes, Child Welfare Services-East, presented information on human trafficking.

Highlights included:

- Pimps/Johns are typically classified as "situational opportunists".
- Much pimping and exploiting of children is done over the internet.
- 1 million children (ages 12-14 yrs) are prostituted in the United States annually.
- 1 in 3 runaways are approached by a pimp within 48 hours of being on the streets.
- San Diego is part of a five city circuit. All five cities are "convention cities".
- In 2008, 128 children were arrested for prostitution in San Diego County.
- San Diego Youth Services offers a program called STARS for girls who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation (aka prostitution). Call (619) 521-2250 x555 to leave a message regarding referral. You may also contact Laura McLean at [lmclean@sdyouthservices.org](mailto:lmclean@sdyouthservices.org)
- San Diego Youth Services is offering a group for youth called AIM. The purpose of this group is to prevent youth from being sexually exploited by others.

Charisma shared a handout containing local resources for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children. Contact LaVonna if you need a copy.

#### **IV. Presentations- Youth Group Cameos**

##### **Take a STAAND:**

Enrique DeLaCruz, Communities Against Substance Abuse (CASA), shared information regarding the "STAAND" youth group. Highlights included:

- The youth group is a public health internship open to high school students.
- Group members raise awareness on why youth do drugs and why drugs are accessible to youth.
- Incentives such as movie tickets or gas cards are given to group members.
- STAAND is currently partnering with CVUSD on an anti-tobacco grant.

Enrique handed out a flyer regarding the Safe and Sober event which is coming up on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the El Cajon Police Department Building from 6:00-9:00pm. Contact Enrique for details or visit our website at [www.elcajoncollaborative.org](http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org) and look under our Resources tab.

##### **East County Youth Coalition:**

Joyce Moore, Institute for Public Strategies (IPS), shared information regarding the "East County Youth Coalition" group. Highlights included:

- Youth must be 14-25 years old and live in East County to be eligible for this group.
- East County Youth Coalition offers youth group members training in writing and speaking so that they can be effective advocates against youth drug/alcohol use.
- East County Youth Coalition meets in various locations in East County.
- IPS is available to do outreach at schools to recruit for this youth group. Contact Joyce if interested.
- Activities include involvement in shoulder tap and sting operations.

Contact Joyce for more information or to express interest.

##### **Teen Coalition:**

Suzie Lowe, El Cajon Recreation, shared information regarding the City of El Cajon Teen Coalition. Co-presenters were Jennifer Martinez and youth group member, Mackenzie. Highlights included:

- The Teen Coalition is an advisory group to the El Cajon City Council.
- There are 8 youth in the Coalition this year.
- Teen Coalition members must be middle school or high school students living in El Cajon.
- Teens attend 1 meeting per month in October through June.
- Teen Coalition focuses on community service and is actively seeking community partners to accomplish great things for youth and families in El Cajon.
- This year's theme is "Learn About El Cajon".
- Teen Coalition sponsors the "Youth of the Year Award" each year for middle and high school students.

For additional information or to express interest in "partnering", please contact Suzie.

##### **Week of Hope:**

TC Porter, Adams Avenue Crossing, shared information regarding the Week of Hope project.

Highlights included:

- Seeking projects that groups of youth (6-108 in multiples of 6) can accomplish. Projects should keep youth busy and ideally have a noticeable impact.
- Service projects will be done on Mondays-Thursdays, from July 18<sup>th</sup>- August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.
- October 20<sup>th</sup> will be the "big service day".
- Supervision is 1 adult per 5 youth.
- Youth are covered by liability insurance.

In a nutshell, youth are coming to San Diego from other parts of the Country to do service projects. TC is looking for projects these youth can work on. Youth and their supervisors will be sent in multiples of 6, and can do a wide variety of services; yard clean up, grocery shopping for shut ins, running games or manning tables at events, etc. If you are interested, please contact TC Porter at: [ecc311@gmail.com](mailto:ecc311@gmail.com) or (619) 800-4631.

#### V. Roundtable (Announcements, Trends, Issues)

*Contact information can be found on our Contact List at:*

[http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/council\\_contact\\_sheet\\_march2012.pdf](http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/council_contact_sheet_march2012.pdf)

- **El Cajon Collaborative** announced that they are recruiting 15 El Cajon residents that would be interested in advocating for the health and wellness of their community. Residents will meet for 4 months and will assess the access to nutrition in food outlets in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street area. Contact LaVonna if interested.
- **Child Development Associates** announced that they are accepting applications for low/no cost childcare. Contact Maxine Willey if interested.
- **City of El Cajon Recreation Department** announced that their Spring Registration has begun. Activities are available for all ages (babies to older adults). If interested, call (619) 441-1516 or visit [www.elcajonrec.org](http://www.elcajonrec.org)
- **Cuyamaca College** announced that even though budget cuts have impacted the college, there are still some great educational opportunities available. English classes for persons who desire to work in an office setting are available for CalWORKs clients. This program is 5 days/week, 6 hours/day for 6 months. If interested, contact Sheryl Ashley
- **Family Health Care Centers of San Diego** announced that they now have a mental health therapist on staff (an LCSW) at their Chase Avenue Clinic. A psychiatrist is also available 1 day/month at the Chase Avenue Clinic. Medi-Cal is accepted for these mental health services. Contact Charissa Ruud for more information.
- **Crisis House** announced that they would be hosting the "Project Connect" that will connect people experiencing homelessness, on May 30<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00pm at the Christ Unity Church 311 Highland Ave El Cajon CA 92020
- **San Diego County Library/ Rancho San Diego Branch** announced that they will be celebrating their 10 year anniversary on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Events are planned for April 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00am-3:00pm. Please contact Brenna Ring for additional information.
- **SDSU Research Foundation WIC Program** announced that they are seeking referrals of pregnant or parenting ages 0-5 families of limited means. Please contact Lily Rincon for more information at: (619) 241-3374.
- **Crossroads Family Center** announced that they are offering counseling services at their site. Medi-Cal is accepted for those services. Call Kitzia Cesario for more information.
- **Fleet Family Support Services** announced that they are offering services to connect Navy families to Navy and community services. For more information contact Kerra McAhren at (619) 556-1795.
- **San Diego County Library/ El Cajon Branch** announced that they are hosting the Annual Multicultural Family Fiesta on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 12-3pm and will be having the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Prom Dress Give Away which will be Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am-4:00pm for teens in grades 9-12 (by appt only). Both events will be at 201 E. Douglas, in the library Community Room. Contact Nancy Saint John for more info.
- **International Rescue Committee** announced that they are having a Citizenship Class on Mondays. For more information contact Erica Bouris for more information.

- **San Diego Youth Services/ El Cajon Valley Union High School Family Resource Center** announced that there would be an opportunity to support SDYS through purchasing tickets for the Cirque de Soleil performance on April 27, 2012. 100% of the proceeds will go to SDYS. For more information contact Kara Vickrey.
- **San Diego Youth Services East Behavioral Health Clinic** announced that they have many mental health and other supportive services available including anger management classes, anti-theft group, boy's group, girl's group and the new AIM group that will equip girls to avoid becoming sexually exploited. For more info contact Judi Park.
- **Family Health Centers of San Diego** announced that they offer free mammograms to women 40 years or older who are low-income. Application assistance is also available for Medi-Cal, LiHEAP and other programs. For more info contact Rosy Davis-Gonzales.
- **Communities Against Substance Abuse** announced that they are recruiting youth for involvement in a project to increase awareness of issues surrounding tobacco sales to youth. For more information contact Enrique DeLaCruz.

VI. **Adjournment-** Veronica adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm