



**El Cajon Collaborative
Monthly Council Meeting Notes
October 4, 2011**

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-

Veronica Mikho, El Cajon Collaborative (ECC) Council Facilitator (employee of National Conflict Resolution Center), gave a warm welcome to Council attendees. She gave an overview of the meeting Agenda items, making note that our speaker from Goodwill Industries was not available to give a presentation today. Veronica began the meeting at 12:31.

Meeting Participants:

American Red Cross, American Red Cross/WIC, Big Brothers-Big Sisters of San Diego County, Cajon Valley Middle School, Catholic Charities, Center for Community Solutions, Chaldean American Institute, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, Child Development Associates, Communities Against Substance Abuse, County of San Diego Refugee Assistance, Crossroads Family Center, East County Career Center, East County Refugee Center, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/Bethlehem Pantry, Family Health Centers of San Diego, El Cajon Valley High School, Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District Welcome Back Center, Grossmont Union High School District-Newcomers' Center, Healthy Adventures Foundation, Home Start, Institute for Public Strategies-East County Community Change Project, International Rescue Committee, Jewish Family Services, Laubach Literacy Council, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc., Mental Health Systems, Motivating the Teen Spirit, Neighborhood Healthcare, Public Consulting Group, Recovery Innovations of CA, Salvation Army/ El Cajon Silvercrest Independent Senior Living, San Diego County HHS East Region Health Promotions, San Diego County Library/Fletcher Hills Branch, San Diego County Public Health Nursing, San Diego Youth Services Behavioral Health Clinic-East, Sharp Mesa Vista Intensive Cognitive Outpatient Program, Stephanie Fillmore/MFTI, UCSD Talent Search, Cuyamaca College EOPS/CARE/UP!

II. Collaborative Updates-

LaVonna Connelly, ECC Coordinator, highlighted the ECC Updates that were printed on the back side of the meeting Agenda. The document included updates on Council, Website, Executive Team, Core Team, Newcomer Support Work Group, ECC Intern and Little House. The details of these updates are not listed here, but if interested in more detail, contact ECC Coordinator (contact info on bottom of doc)

III. Presentation- Domestic Violence 101

Caity Meador, YWCA of San Diego/Becky's House, gave a presentation about domestic violence. She covered information regarding the signs/symptoms, the cycle of violence and resources available. A handout was attached to the Agenda regarding the domestic violence resources available in San Diego County.

IV. Presentation- Domestic Violence in the Refugee Community/Emerging Issue of Forced Marriage
Dilkhwaz Ahmed, License to Freedom, reviewed some of the reasons why the refugee community

tends to be impacted by various forms of abuse, including domestic violence. She reviewed her work with the refugee community to educate, support and assist families suffering from domestic violence. She also briefly reviewed the emerging issue of forced marriage that is occurring within the refugee community, and some potential solutions.

V. Presentation- Citizen Legislation/ Privacy Issues of Domestic Violence Victims & Advocates
D. Black, Caledislator, shared her story of how she became a citizen legislator. She reviewed the extra need for privacy protection that domestic violence victims and their advocates have. She cautioned attendees about sharing personal information such as name, birth date, etc. online. She encouraged service providers to Google themselves to find out what was posted about them and then follow up with any website that is posting something that puts them at risk for privacy breach.

VI. Special Announcement- Not to Be Forgotten Rally & Hope in the Park Event
Laura Carter, HHSA East Region Public Health Nurse, announced that annual Not to Be Forgotten Rally which would be held in El Cajon on October 7th, 2011 at 10:00am.

VII. Announcements/Trends/Issues- (see Council Roster for contact information)
Council attendees shared announcements during the Resource Sharing Roundtable.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL ATTENDEES:

Catholic Charities- Announced that Catholic Charities will be opening their new office in El Cajon at 131 E. Main Street some time in October. They will be offering refugee supportive services, immigration support and some ESL classes for their clients (not open to the public).

Motivating the Teen Spirit- Shared that they will be offering a parent/teen workshop on October 15th and 16th. Scholarships are available.

International Rescue Committee- Announced that they will be co-habiting the new office in El Cajon with Catholic Charities at 131 E. Main Street. Citizenship and immigration services will be offered.

Family Health Centers of San Diego- Shared that they serve persons of limited means. No Social Security number is needed to receive assistance. Everyone is welcome. A wide variety of services are available.

Communities Against Substance Abuse- Announced that Prescription Take Back Day would be Saturday, October 29th at the El Cajon Police Station. CASA's first 5K walk/run will be Sunday, October 16th, 2011. CASA is still recruiting students to be interns to work on alcohol/substance abuse activities.

East County Refugee Center- Announced that their agency has moved to 250 E. Douglas. They stated that they are still offering ESL classes.

Sharp Mesa Vista Intensive Cognitive Outpatient Program- Shared that there would be a presentation on teen substance abuse and prevention on October 10th, 2011. They also shared that program representatives are available to give presentations on a variety of subjects related to adolescents, substance abuse, and mental health, including suicide prevention and self-injury.

Neighborhood Healthcare- Announced that they will be hosting a health fair on October 6th, 2011 from 2-5pm at NHC/Lakeside. They also announced that they offer home visits to families with children 0-5 years old, and can also assist with CalFresh (foodstamp) applications.

Salvation Army/ Silvercrest Independent Senior Living- Shared that Salvation Army has an 80 unit building for seniors who can live independently. Representative is interested in having resource presentations given to the seniors who live there currently. Call (619) 442-1995, if interested.

First United Methodist Bethlehem Pantry- Announced that they will be having a Halloween party on October 31st, 2011 with games and fun for families. They are also collecting food to distribute to needy families during the holidays. Information on the Golden Share program is available. Golden Share offers quality food for a discounted price.

Stephanie Gilmore- Announced that they are offering mental health services on a sliding scale. They offer home visits and domestic violence classes.

Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services- Announced that they are offering outpatient rehabilitative services for children and adults. They are offering domestic violence services and have both LCSW and MFT staff.

County of San Diego Public Health Nurse- Announced that HHSA will be giving free flu shots at the Reagan Center from 10:00am-3:00pm. People 65+ can get a free pneumonia vaccine.

Jewish Family Services- Announced that they are offering citizenship services. The charge is \$70 for the whole process.

Healthy Adventures Foundation- Announced that they are writing a grant to install a community garden at Cajon Valley Middle School.

East County Career Center- Shared that their website has lots of great information regarding employment (www.eccc.guhsd.net). They will be hosting a workshop on Federal jobs, as well as Business Connection workshops.

UCSD Trio Program- Shared that they work in schools encouraging youth to attend college. They help youth pursue a college track; advising, financial aid navigation and tours of universities.

Child Development Associates- Shared that they offer early child care and education through the Preschool for All movement. They have three programs in San Diego. The one in Spring Valley is open to El Cajon families.

VIII. **Adjournment/Networking-** Veronica adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm