



El Cajon Collaborative  
Monthly Council Meeting Notes  
September 6, 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-**

**LaVonna Connelly, El Cajon Collaborative (ECC) Coordinator**, thanked everyone for coming and for their patience in waiting for the resolution of our technical difficulties, and began the meeting at 12:40.

**Meeting Participants:**

Big Brothers-Big Sisters of San Diego, Catholic Charities, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, Child Development Association, Communities Against Substance Abuse, East County Career Center, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/Bethlehem Food Pantry, El Cajon Valley High School, Grossmont Union High School District/International Newcomers Center, Healthnet, Healthy Adventures Foundation, Jewish Family Services, Just Yell Fire, Mental Health Systems, Neighborhood Healthcare, Recovery Innovations of California, San Diego County Library/Rancho San Diego Branch, San Diego Youth Services/East County Behavior Clinic, Sharp Mesa Vista Intensive Cognitive Outpatient Program, and the Southern Indian Health Council.

**II. Collaborative Updates-**

LaVonna briefly reviewed the following Collaborative updates:

**Strategy Work Priorities fro 2011-2012:** LaVonna reviewed the Collaborative’s Strategic Objectives and stated that the Collaborative would consider involvement in activities aligned with these priorities.

**Open Positions on ECC Leadership Teams:** LaVonna announced that there were open positions on the Collaborative’s Executive Team in the business and faith sectors and that there were open positions on the Core Team in the parent and community sectors.

**Newcomer Support Work Group:** LaVonna shared that the Newcomer Support Work Group was in the process of identifying new leaders and welcomed involvement. Next meeting will be Thursday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary of July’s Council Survey:** LaVonna shared a summary of the information she collected from Council attendees at July’s meeting. She stated that more detailed information was available.

**Office Space for Lease at Little House:** LaVonna announced that there are still four offices available.

**New Council Facilitator:** LaVonna announced that the new Council Facilitator for September 2011 through July 2012 will be **Veronica Mikho, National Conflict Resolution Center**. Nominations for the FY 2012-2013 Facilitator will be solicited in June 2012. Nominees must be regular Council attendees.

**III. Presentation-**

**Bridget Lambert and Veronica Mikho, of National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC)**, presented information on the mediation process and the mediation trainings/services their agency offers. NCRC Mediators are trained professionals, and the mediation process takes place in 1-2 meetings to resolve a dispute. Trainings are open to the public and are available in English or Spanish. Groups of 15 or more can call NCRC to schedule training. Individuals can contact NCRC for open seats in trainings. Issues

and disputes related to felonies, divorces or custody proceedings are excluded from NCRC services. Trainings are available for businesses or communities.

**IV. Resource Sharing/Community Announcements-** *(see Council Roster for contact information)*

Council attendees shared announcements during the Resource Sharing Roundtable.

**WELCOMED NEW COUNCIL ATTENDEES:**

**San Diego Law Library-** The Law Library is one of the best kept secrets in El Cajon. This library is open to the public and offers legal information and workshops. The library is at: 250 E. Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020. Contact the SD Law Library at (619 441 4451).

**Just Yell Fire-** This organization offers training on prevention of sexual assault for teen girls 12-19 years old. Trainer, Karla Kettrick, is interested in working with organizations who would like to host these trainings.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM REGULAR COUNCIL ATTENDEES:**

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters-** Big Brothers/Big Sisters is seeking volunteers, both men and women, to act as "bigs". Contact them if you are interested. (858) 536-4900

**Cajon Valley Middle School-** Maria Napolitano is the new community liaison for the Cajon Valley Middle School. They are currently pursuing a community garden grant, and Maria is looking for other ideas for engaging the community. Contact Maria with ideas. [napolitanom@cajonvalley.net](mailto:napolitanom@cajonvalley.net)

**Catholic Charities/Refugee Services-** Catholic Charities and International Rescue Committee are opening an office in El Cajon. The new office at: 131 Main St, will be open some time in October.

**Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services-** A fundraiser is being hosted on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to support the first Chaldean medical clinic. Funds are needed for this important effort. Donations are welcome.

**Child Development Associates-** CDA has three child care centers in San Diego County. One has recently opened in Spring Valley and is open to El Cajon families. CDA offers low and no cost programs, but currently their no cost program is full. There are low cost (\$35 a day) spots still available. Meals are provided. Parenting workshops are also available. Call for more info. (619) 427-4411 x293

**Communities Against Substance Abuse-** Youth/teens are wanted to participate in an undercover tobacco purchase program. Contact Enrique for more information: [Enrique.delacruz@eccasa.org](mailto:Enrique.delacruz@eccasa.org)

**East County Career Center-** ECCC has a new website with lots of good employment information: [www.eccc.guhsd.net](http://www.eccc.guhsd.net)

**Bethlehem Food Pantry-** Bread is being given out twice a week at 772 S. Johnson on Mondays and Saturdays from 9:00am-12:00noon. Emergency food is given out by appointment. Golden Share program is under-utilized, and offers food for half price. To find out more, contact Gwen at (619) 517-4364

**Cajon Valley High School/ Family Resource Center-** The FRC at the CVHS now has three case managers. One of the case managers speaks Arabic.

**Episcopal Refugee Network-** ERN serves refugees who have fallen in a crack. Contact Elaine McLevie for more info: (760) 633-4445.

**Grossmont Union High School District/Newcomer Center-** GUHSD will be hosting an iparent forum/event on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Encourage parents to attend. For more info, contact Jason: [jmartinez@guhsd.net](mailto:jmartinez@guhsd.net)

**Institute for Public Strategies-** Second Street project has been successful in creating a safer environment for shoppers and families. IPS is working with the community on the possibility of starting a farmer's market in that area, as well as a craft fair.

**San Diego County Library/Rancho San Diego Branch-** September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Rancho San Diego branch is hosting safe driving classes for teens. Contact Brenna for more info: [brenna.ring@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:brenna.ring@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**San Diego County Public Health Nurse-** The Not to Be Forgotten Rally will take place in El Cajon at the Promenade Park on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Hope in the Park will be in Balboa Park on October 8<sup>th</sup>. These events will highlight the tragedy of domestic violence, and honor those who have died as a result of DV.

**San Diego Youth Services/East County Behavioral Health Clinic-** The clinic has a new Intake Coordinator, JoAnna, who will be conducting intake with youth under 18 years of age.

**Cuyamaca Community College/Welcome Back Center-** The Welcome Back Center offers education guidance and educational services to those with foreign degrees. Assistance is available for immigrants who were trained in engineering or medicine and would like to transfer into those areas of employment in the United States.

**V. Adjournment/Networking-** LaVonna adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm