



**El Cajon Collaborative  
Monthly Council Meeting Notes  
December 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-**

**Facilitator, Veronica Mikho, National Conflict Resolution Center**, welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 12:32.

**Meeting Participants:**

American Red Cross, Cajon Valley Middle School, Center for Community Solutions, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, Child Development Associates, Crossroads Family Center, Cuyamaca College, East County Refugee Center, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/Bethlehem Food Pantry, Family Health Centers of San Diego, Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District Welcome Back Center, Grossmont Union High School District/International Newcomers Center, Healthy Adventures Foundation, Home Start, Inc., Institute for Public Strategies/East County Community Change Project, Molina Healthcare, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Public Consulting Group, Recovery Innovations of CA, San Diego County HHS Health Promotions East Region, San Diego County HHS Refugee Services, San Diego County Library/El Cajon Branch, San Diego County Library/Fletcher Hills Branch, San Diego County Library Rancho San Diego Branch, San Diego County Probation Department, San Diego County Public Health Nursing, San Diego Law Library/ El Cajon Branch, Southern Indian Health Council, UCSD Talent Search, Woodglen Vista Apartments.

**II. Collaborative Updates-**

**LaVonna Connelly, ECC Coordinator**, highlighted the Collaborative summary on the back side of the Agenda. She pointed out that the El Cajon Collaborative is seeking (5) community group meetings that would be willing to allow a presentation on SANDAG’s Regional Comprehensive Plan, its potential impact on the community, and to collect input from community members to feed back to regional planners. The meetings would take place between January and June 2012. Interpreters and incentives would be provided. She welcomed anyone to contact her if they had questions or were interested in becoming more involved with the Collaborative.

**III. Presentation- Structural Barriers that Perpetuate Poverty**

**Jen Henry, SDSU Consensus Organizing Center**, gave an overview of the Consensus Organizing Center. She also shared information regarding the importance of building relationships among the people in the community, and getting them to work together around areas of mutual self-interest. She cautioned providers to avoid one-way communications with clients and encouraged engagement of clients as allies, rather than service recipients. Jen spoke about the typical implementation of services based on available funding, and stated that there were alternative ways of building programs, which were based on relationships and were likely to be more sustainable. She shared that the Consensus Organizing Center was available to discuss project ideas that may benefit from their involvement. If

you would like to contact Jen Henry, please contact LaVonna for Jen's email and/or phone number.

**IV. Presentation- Overview of SD County HHSA Basic Services**

**Toni Warmuth, San Diego County Health and Human Services Family Resource Center/ El Cajon,** gave an overview of the HHSA services available; CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, General Relief , Cash Aid Program for Immigrants, and Low Income Health Program. She stated that case management was available for all programs, with limited enrollment. Toni discussed the ACCESS Customer Service Line, in which recipients can call regarding their case. Recipients are no longer given individual case workers, but each worker on the ACCESS Customer Service Line can assist clients with their cases. She shared that the only way to know if someone is eligible is to have them apply. She also stated that prospective clients could call 211 for additional program information. Services in all languages are available. To contact the ACCESS Customer Service Line, call (866) 262-9881, or email at: [pubassist.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:pubassist.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov) . For more info, visit: [www.accessbenefitsSD.com](http://www.accessbenefitsSD.com) MediCal and CalFresh benefits can also be applied for through the CalWIN website at: [www.benefitscalwin.org](http://www.benefitscalwin.org) (Applications, renewals and Status Reports can be filed at the CalWIN website.)

**V. Activity/ Speed Networking-**

In lieu of the usual Resource Sharing Roundtable, meeting attendees participated in a Speed Networking activity. Participants sat facing each other, with each participant sharing information regarding their organization or promoting one of their organization's programs/events for one minute. After each pair had done their one minute exchange, participants shifted seats and repeated the process. This was a fun and exciting activity and participants gave positive feedback.

**VI. Adjournment-** Veronica adjourned the meeting at 1:58pm