



**El Cajon Collaborative
Monthly Council Meeting Notes
June 4, 2013**

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, welcomed everyone and began the meeting.

Meeting Participants:

American Red Cross/ WIC, Angels of Hope Counseling, Borrego Health, Catholic Charities, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, Communities Against Substance Abuse, Crossroads Family Center, Cuyamaca College/ CalWORKs, Cuyamaca College/ CTE, EJE Academies, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/ Bethlehem Food Pantry, Episcopal Refugee Network, Family Health Care Centers/ Mental Health, Family Health Centers of San Diego/ Outreach, Institute for Public Strategies, International Rescue Committee, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Molina Healthcare, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare/ Oral Health, Neighborhood Healthcare/ CAA, Private/ Amir Tamimi, Private/ Jerry Barber, Public Consulting Group, Silvercrest Senior Living/ Salvation Army, San Diego County HHS/ El Cajon Mental Health, San Diego County Library/ Rancho San Diego Branch, SDSU Research Foundation/ WIC, San Diego Youth Services East County Behavioral Clinic, Southern Indian Health Council, USD Legal Clinics, and Volunteers in Medicine

II. Collaborative Updates-

LaVonna Connelly, Collaborative Coordinator, reviewed a few highlights about the El Cajon Collaborative's activities:

- Anyone interested in being nominated for the Council Facilitator position please contact LaVonna. The term will be from September 2013-June 2014 and elections will be held in July.
- The Collaborative welcomes Council attendees to attend Core Team meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Little House at 8:30am. This team oversees the Collaborative's operations.
- The Collaborative welcomes you to join a regional think tank to shape government policies. A \$20 gift card will be offered to all Collaborative Council attendees as an incentive. SANDAG Workshop/ La Mesa Community Center, June 27th/ 6-8pm. See LaVonna if interested.

PLEASE NOTE: All contact information for these agencies can be found on our meeting roster at:

http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/roster_march2013.pdf

III. Presentation- Culture as a Tool for Collaboration

Nicola Ranson, Tea and Empathy Counseling, gave a brief presentation on culture. Brief highlights:

- We all have culture. We all have cultural blind spots/ Our own values, beliefs
- Two lens theory= There are two ways of seeing culture: 1) We are all the same or 2) We are all different. We need to be conscious of which lens we are using.
- Cultural groups are not homogenous- there is within group difference
- Seeing people as all the same leads to stereotyping. Avoid it, there are always exceptions.
- Every cultural exchange is co-created. Be kind.

Nicola is not on our roster. Contact: (760) 753-2604 Website: www.teaempathy.com

IV. Presentation- What is SANDAG?

LaVonna Connelly, El Cajon Collaborative, gave a brief overview of the San Diego Assoc of Gov'ts:

- SD County is large; more than 4,000 sq miles and 3.1 million people
- The SANDAG Board is made of Mayors, City Council members and County Supervisors

- SANDAG Board also has advisory members; (1) each representative for Imperial County, CalTrans, Dept of Defense, SD Port Dist, SD Water Auth, MTS, NCTD, and Mexico. There is also (1) representative for the combined 18SD area Indian Tribes.
- SANDAG exists to make regional planning decisions that impact multiple jurisdictions. Activities include consensus building, planning, resource allocation, info & technical assistance
- Policy areas include: transportation, housing, energy, economic prosperity, safety and health
- SANDAG funding comes mainly from TransNet Sales Tax, Federal and State grants. SANDAG is an important source of funding for transportation, transit and infrastructure projects.
- SANDAG regional plans are important because our City plans will essentially nest within them. What we want for our communities NEEDS to be reflected in the larger regional plans.
- El Cajon is considered a “town center” on their Smart Growth map (not a urban or metro center)
- Smart Growth areas are characterized by higher density and plans for “mixed use” areas
- SANDAG is launching a community education and outreach project to inform the creation of their SD Forward Regional Plan. The Collaborative wants to collect your input and welcomes you to schedule presentations with us for your groups!

Anyone interested in learning more/having a SANDAG presentation for your group, contact LaVonna.

V. Roundtable (Announcements, Trends, Issues)

Council attendees shared information regarding their ideas, services, programs and events. That information is not captured in the meeting Notes. If you have any questions about the announcements, please contact LaVonna.

VI. Adjournment-

Council Facilitator, Veronica Mikho, adjourned the meeting.