



El Cajon Collaborative  
Monthly Council Meeting Notes  
March 5, 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:**

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Catholic Charities, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, Crossroads Family Center, Cuyamaca College- CalWORKs, Disability Help Center, EJE Academies, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/Bethlehem Food Pantry, Family Health Centers of San Diego, Fleet and Family Support, Grossmont Adult School, Institute for Public Strategies, International Rescue Committee, Journey Community Church, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Planned Parenthood, Salvation Army Silvercrest Senior Living, San Diego American Indian Health Center, San Diego County HHSA Refugee Services, San Diego County Library/El Cajon Branch, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, San Diego Youth Services/ East County Behavioral Clinic, Southern Indian Health Council, Steele Canyon High school, USD Legal Clinics, Vista Hill Parentcare, and WIC- SDSU Research Foundation

**II. Collaborative Updates-**

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

- The Collaborative's Core Team, whose purpose is to provide oversight and direction for the Collaborative, is open to Council members. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact LaVonna.
- The Collaborative is forming a Fund-Development Workgroup. Persons with financial/fund-development know how are wanted, as well as others with passion for the Collaborative. Please contact LaVonna if interested.
- The El Cajon Resident Leadership Academy will begin March 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. This will be a free course covering crime prevention, community safety and healthy food systems. If interested, please contact LaVonna.

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

**III. Presentation- 5150: Legal Rights of Mental Health Patients**

**Andrea Carlin, Esq. and Mike Phillips, Esq., Jewish Family Services**, reviewed information regarding the legal rights of mental health patients:

- JFS is contracted by San Diego County to assist all mentally incapacitated residents with their legal needs (legal rights of patients, 5150 holds, hearings, conservatorships, etc.)
- Persons placed on a 5150 hold have the right to refuse services and to have visitors.
- A 5150 hold can be for up to 72 hours. If deemed stable, the patient can either leave or volunteer for further services. If deemed to still be unstable, can be placed on another hold, this time for 14 days. At the end of 14 days, if still unstable, patient is given a hearing to consider a temporary 30 day conservatorship.

#### **IV. Presentation- San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program**

**Andrea Scripps, Esq., El Cajon Domestic Violence Clinic**, reviewed information the services available through the SD Volunteer Lawyer Program:

- El Cajon DV Clinics accept walk-ins and have no income guidelines for eligibility.
- Clinics assist with issues related a domestic violence victim's divorce or custody proceedings.
- Elder Abuse Clinics also accept walk-ins. Must be 65 years or older to be eligible.
- Issues that SDVLP helps with include: civil harassment (abuse outside blood/marriage), unlawful detainers, landlord clinics, guardianship clinics, immigration law for children, special education law for social service recipients (educational and medical needs met, etc.), legal support for those who are HIV/AIDS positive, legal support to non-profits, civil rights of inmates, and more.

#### **V. Presentation- Mini-Overview of USD Legal Clinics**

**Dalia Astalos, USD Legal Clinics**, reviewed information about services available through the USD Legal Clinics. In summary:

- All work done through USD Legal Clinics is supervised by an attorney
- Offers free tax clinics for persons of limited means
- Supports clients in negotiating with the IRS when money is owed (reduce amount/pymnt plan)
- Offers legal clinics/services specifically for veterans

#### **VI. Presentation- Resources at the El Cajon Law Library**

**Benita Ghura, J.D., El Cajon Law Library**, reviewed information regarding the resources and services available through the El Cajon Law Library:

- Membership is \$10/ year
- Librarian is happy to consult you on what materials may be of use (point in the right direction)
- Open to everyone and is FREE (do not need to be a member to use library)
- Open Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
- Library has case law, statutes, court rulings, etc.
- Library has forms, templates, legal databases (Nexus Lexus, etc.)
- Has Wi-Fi, copy and FAX machines

#### **VII. Presentation- Divorce and Family Law Mediation and Other Related Services**

**Robin Duboe Seigle, National Conflict Resolution Center**, reviewed information regarding services available for divorce mediation:

- Offers free consultation to those preparing for a small claims case
- Offers fee-based services for family law mediation (based on joint income)
- Although a fee is charged, the mediation process is typically completed in 1-4 sessions, and in the end is far less than the traditional process
- Family law mediation is for families with no house, no assets and \$25,000 max in savings
- Divorce information workshops called "Third Saturdays" cost \$35
- Also offer legal paperwork preparation for a flat fee

#### **VIII. 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.

#### **IX. Adjournment-**

**Council Facilitator, Veronica Mikho**, adjourned the meeting.