



**El Cajon Collaborative**  
**Monthly Council Meeting Notes**  
 May 7, 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-**

**LaVonna Connelly, ECC Coordinator**, welcomed everyone and began the meeting.

**Meeting Participants:**

American Red Cross/ Disaster, Cajon Valley Union School District/ Homeless Liaison, California Health Network, Catholic Charities/ Anti-tobacco, Catholic Charities/ Services to seniors, refugees and homeless, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services, Child Development Associates, Communities Against Substance Abuse, Community Housing Works, Crisis House, Crossroads Family Center, Cuyamaca College/ CalWORKs, Episcopal Refugee Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego/ Outreach, Health Net, Home Start/ Nutrition Education, Institute for Public Strategies, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Mental Health America of San Diego, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Private/ Camilia Sadik, Private/ Jerry Barber, Public Consulting Group, Rady Children's Psychiatry, San Diego County HHSA/ Health Promotions, SDSU Research Foundation/ WIC, SAY San Diego, San Diego County Library/ Fletcher Hills Library, San Diego Youth Services East County Behavioral Clinic, Southern Indian Health Council, Steele Canyon High School, UCCE/ Nutrition Program, and UPAC-EMASS.

**II. Collaborative Updates-**

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

- **LEADER WANTED:** The El Cajon Collaborative Council will be hosting elections for the Council Facilitator position in July, 2013 (for term Sept 2013-June 2014). Please let LaVonna know if you are interested in knowing more about/ being nominated for this position.
- Council attendees are welcome to attend the El Cajon Collaborative CORE TEAM meetings. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month from 8:30-10:00am. These meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.
- Recruitment continues for the El Cajon Collaborative Fund-development Workgroup. Persons with financial expertise, fund raising expertise or just plain passion for sustaining the Collaborative are wanted. Let LaVonna know if you are 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](http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/roster_march2013.pdf)

**III. Presentation- Fair Housing**

**Estela DeLosRios, CSA-San Diego**, gave an overview of CSA's fair housing program:

- Consults residents on discrimination rights including: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and disability. *Discrimination is a violation of Federal law*
- Fair housing and landlord/tenant hotline are available
- Educational workshops and presentations
- Mediation services to resolve housing rights disputes
- Assistance with the fair housing complaint process
- Legal advice clinic
- Referrals to other services and organizations as appropriate

#### **IV. Presentation- Foreclosure/ Affordable Housing**

**Ali Tarzi, Community Housing Works**, provided information about their foreclosure prevention services:

- The Homeowner Bill of Rights was passed on January 1, 2013. This has several mechanisms for helping homeowners (can't be evicted without notice, injunctive relief, timelines for decisions).
- The Keep Your Home California program is still up and running but will expire soon. Currently, this program helps with: unemployment mortgage assistance, mortgage reinstatement assistance program, principal reduction program, and transition assistance program.
- Qualifications for programs include income limits and flow, residency, documentable hardship, delinquent loan status, and principal balance limits

Community Housing Works is actively helping residents who would like to benefit from this program.

#### **V. Presentation- Section 8 Housing**

**Robin Ramirez, Department of Housing and Community Development**, gave an update on the Section 8 housing program:

- County of SD Department of Housing and Community Development has several different programs including : rental assistance, housing development, community development/revitalization.
- Section 8 is Federally funded. The sequestration has had an impact on the program but all families have been allowed to continue with the program (program is spending reserves).
- Currently, Section 8 has a 8-10 year wait. 11,000 families are currently on Section 8 and there are 70,000 families on the wait list.
- There are income and residency requirements for Section 8.
- Once approved, residents pay 40% of their income toward rent. Section 8 pays the rest directly to the landlord.
- Section 8 Vouchers can be transferred anywhere in the U.S. where they are accepted.
- Priority is given to veterans, disabled and working families.

If interested, please call (858) 694-4801.

#### **VI. 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.

#### **VII. Adjournment-**

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