



El Cajon Collaborative
Monthly Council Meeting Notes
March 6, 2012

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 publicly acknowledged last month's volunteer facilitator, **Suzanne Oliver, SD Workforce Partnership**, for her assistance in running the Collaborative Council meeting in February. The meeting began at 12:35.

Meeting Participants:

AKA Head Start, American Red Cross WIC, Cajon Valley Middle School, Cajon Valley Union School District Sevvick State Pre-school Program, California Teacher's Association, Catholic Charities, Center for Community Solutions, Child Development Associates, Communities Against Substance Abuse, Cuyamaca College, East County Refugee Center, East County Transitional Living Center, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/Bethlehem Food Pantry, Family Health Centers of San Diego, Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District Welcome Back Center, Healthy Adventures Foundation, Home Start, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Motivating the Teen Spirit, National Children's Study, National Conflict Resolution Center, National City Nursing Student Association, Neighborhood Healthcare, Public Consulting Group, RADY Children's Psychiatry, Recovery Innovations of CA, San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, County HHS East Region/ Health Promotions, San Diego County Library/El Cajon Branch, San Diego County Library Rancho San Diego Branch, San Diego County Public Health Nursing, SAY San Diego, Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, University of San Diego Legal Clinics.

II. Collaborative Updates-

LaVonna Connelly, El Cajon Collaborative Coordinator, drew attention to the Collaborative Updates listed on the back side of the Agenda. She highlighted:

- Nominations of ECC Council Facilitator will be in July. Nominees must have attended Council regularly for six months prior to the nomination. Please contact LaVonna for more info and/or to express interest in taking on this role.
- Little House (where ECC operates) has had Home Start, Inc. move in to two offices. They are offering medical insurance enrollment, Family Self-sufficiency Program and Income Tax Preparation Program. There is still one office available for rent. Please contact LaVonna if interested.
- ECC Intern, Lanae Wright, is looking for referrals to assist families with online application to several programs (the One-e-App Program). Please contact Lanae if you have families that may be interested (English only): lanae@elcajoncollaborative.org

III. Presentation- State Pre-School Programs

Ginny Pinkerton, Cajon Valley Union School District Sevvick State Pre-school Programs, shared information regarding this free pre-school program offered at several sites within the CVUSD:

- Program is income-based/ free to families who qualify
- Students involved in Child Welfare system have priority registration
- 4 year olds have registration priority, but younger children can also register if space is available
- Teacher child ration is 1:8

- Meals are included
- Resource referrals are available for enrolled families
- Bi-lingual classes available (utilizing ELDAs)

For more info, contact Ginny Pinkerton at: (619) 588-3146 or pinkertonv@cajonvalley.net

IV. Presentation- Head Start Programs

Angie Gonzales and Carmen Fuentes, AKA Head Start, reviewed information regarding programs offered in El Cajon by AKA Head Start:

- Program is income-based/ free to families who qualify/ some space available for families that fall above the income guidelines
- Currently recruiting
- Program is expanding/ there are four new sites in East Region
- Full day and Part day programs are available
- Meals are included
- Home-based program available (Head Start visits the home 1x/ wk to support)

For more info, contact Angie Gonzalez at: (619) 444-0503 ext 20 or agonzales@akaheadstart.org

V. Presentation- Early Childhood Education & CDA Child Development Programs

Maxine Willey, Child Development Associates, reviewed information about the services CDA offers in East Region:

- Early childhood education benefits children socially, emotionally and physically.
- Full day or Part day programs are available
- Have both low/no-cost programs
- 3 centers (1 is in Spring Valley and is open to El Cajon families)
- Meals are included

For more info, contact Maxine Willey at: Mwilley@cdasandiego.com or visit www.cdasandiego.com

VI. Presentation- Update on Children's Study

Diana Simmes, National Children's Study, reviewed information regarding the first of its kind longitudinal study that is in place to study children from pre-birth to age 21.

- NCS is the largest longitudinal (over time) study of its kind
- Follows children from pre-birth to 21 years of age
- 105 communities in the nation are involved. El Cajon is one of the communities (200 families).
- Emphasis is on retention of subject families

For more info, contact Diana Simmes at: dsimmes@projects.sdsu.edu or visit www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov

VII. Roundtable (Announcements, Trends, Issues)

Contact information can be found on our Contact List at:

http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/jan2012_council_contact_sheet.pdf

County of San Diego Health and Human Services/ Health Promotion announced the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren event, April 21st from 9am-1pm at Meridian Baptist Church. Call 855-238-5978 to register. Building Better Health presentation by Mark Fenton will be March 13th at 9am at the Kroc Center at 6605 University. The Live Well Summit will be on June 15th from 9am-2pm at the Ronald Reagan Community Center. Call 858-514-4652 to register. **East County Refugee Center** announced that they continue to offer ESL classes Monday-Friday from 9am-8pm. ECRC is offering an Arabic language class for children 7-15 years old (250 E. Douglas #200) For more info, call Joseph. **Communities Against Substance Abuse** announced that they are seeking high school age kids for their public health internship program. The annual Safe and Sober promotion/ graduation event April 25th, 2012 from 6-9pm at 100 Civic Way. For more info, call Enrique.

SAY San Diego announced that they are interested in assisting residential care facilities to become smoke free. They can assist domestic violence shelters, mental health facilities and farmer's markets to certify smoke free. Call Juan for more info. **Bethlehem Food Pantry** announced that they have food and bread distribution at 737 Grand on Mondays and Saturdays from 9am-12pm. Golden SHARE program available. Community service hours to satisfy court orders available. Contact Gwen for more info. **National University Student Nursing Association (student Interns)** announced that they are looking for volunteer opportunities, especially in the Chaldean community. Contact ECC Coordinator, LaVonna, if you would like their contact info. **SDSU BASW Intern** announced that she is seeking referrals of families who would like application assistance for several programs all at once. The program, the One-e-App, program allows Lanae to assist in the application of CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, SDGE Care program, low-cost car insurance ,etc. Contact ECC Coordinator, LaVonna, for Lanae's contact info. **Catholic Charities** announced that they are offering smoking cessation services to healthcare and residential treatment facilities. Contact Anya for more info. **SD County Library/ Rancho San Diego Branch** announced that they are hosting bilingual story time on Mondays at 10:15am. English story time is on Tuesdays at 10:15am. March 25th at 1pm there will be a Tolkien reading (The Hobbit). There are lots more activities to choose from, call Brenna for more info. **SD County Library/ El Cajon Branch** announced that they have 100+ free activities/events at their site every month. A calendar of activities is available. On Sunday, March 11th, the Monda Basso duet will be playing at the library 1t 2pm. On Sunday March 18th, the library will be hosting a screening of the film "Harvest of Loneliness" about the U.S. Bracero Program. On April 14th, the library will be hosting their annual Multi-cultural Family Fiesta from 12-3pm. For more info, contact Nancy. **POPS Program** announced that they are working with fathers who have open cases with Child Welfare Services. They are educating dads on how to prepare for their court appearances. There will be a program to support fathers at Casey Programs on Friday, March 16th. Contact Eric for more info. **Motivating the Teen Spirit** announced that the will be having a workshop on March 17-18th for parents, teens and/or staff that work with teens. Discounts are available. Youth/staff scholarships are available. Seats still available. Contact Alexandria for more info. **CA Teacher's Association** announced that they have formed a community outreach program. They are seeking ideas for how they can engage with communities across the San Diego Region. If you have ideas and/or would like more info, contact Mike at mritter@SCHSCougars.org **USD Legal Clinic** announced that they have free legal services for persons with low-incomes. For more info contact Patty for more info.

VIII. **Adjournment-** Veronica adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm