



El Cajon Collaborative  
Monthly Council Meeting Notes  
October 2, 2012

*Purpose:* "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 attendees, gave a brief overview of the meeting Agenda and facilitated brief introductions.

**Meeting Participants:**

American Red Cross-WIC, Center for Community Solutions, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Community Services, Communities Against Substance Abuse, Crisis House, Crossroads Family Center, Cuyamaca College/CalWORKs, Cuyamaca College/Workforce Innovations, East County Transitional Living Center, El Cajon First United Methodist Church/Bethlehem Food Pantry, El Cajon Valley High School FRC, Episcopal Refugee Network, Grossmont Union High School District/ International Newcomers Center, Harmonium, Institute for Public Strategies, Institute for Transformational Communication, Journey Community Church, License to Freedom, Mental Health Systems/ Wraparound, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Planned Parenthood, Recovery Innovations of CA, San Diego County HHSA/ Aging and Independence, San Diego County HHSA/ Refugee Services, San Diego County Library Rancho San Diego Branch, San Diego County Public Health Nursing, San Diego Youth Services East County Behavioral Clinic, Southern Indian Health Council, St. Pauls PACE, Steel Canyon High School, The Salvation Army, United Pan Asian Communities/EMASS, Volunteers in Medicine Walk San Diego, and Youth and Leaders Living Actively.

**II. Collaborative Updates-**

**LaVonna Connelly, El Cajon Collaborative Coordinator**, reviewed the Collaborative Updates on the back of the Agenda. She encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Obesity Awareness Forum on Oct 26<sup>th</sup> in honor of National Food Day. She also invited anyone interested in working on youth issues to the Positive Youth Development Workgroup meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>. LaVonna pointed out the El Cajon Police Department Community Forum calendar, encouraging everyone to get involved in community safety. Lastly, LaVonna highlighted the Annual Not to Be Forgotten Rally in El Cajon scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> in honor of those who have lost their lives due to domestic violence, and encouraged everyone to come out and support. LaVonna informed everyone that there were domestic violence resources, and a child maltreatment resource guide attached to the Agenda as well.

**III. Cameo Presentation- Fire Expo Event**

**Monica Zech, City of El Cajon Public Information**, reviewed information about the City of El Cajon's Disaster Preparedness and Fire Expo event on October 13<sup>th</sup>. In summary:

- The event will be from 10am-2pm at 100 E. Lexington in El Cajon
- Free family fun including a helmet give away
- Info on safety related careers
- 911 practice for kids
- Tours of emergency vehicles/K-9 and SWAT demonstrations
- More info can be found at [www.heartlandfire.org](http://www.heartlandfire.org)

#### IV. Presentation- Animal Abuse and Human Violence: The Link

Jayne Reinhardt, County of San Diego/ HHSA, gave a presentation on how animal abuse can be a sign that other types of abuse are occurring. Highlights of this presentation included:

- Covering animals in the home can be a tip off that other abuse is occurring
- Some animal abuse happens within a sub-culture such as cockfighting and dog fighting
- Research on convicted violent criminals indicates that most had a history of animal abuse
- A program called Anicare is available to teach helping professionals best practices in treating animal abusers
- For more information, contact Jayne at [Jayne.Reinhardt@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jayne.Reinhardt@sdcounty.ca.gov)

#### V. Presentation- Domestic Violence: Dialogue for Change

Dilkhaz Ahmed, License to Freedom, gave a presentation on her agency's community-based, holistic approach to decreasing domestic violence and increasing healthy living within the refugee and immigrant communities. Highlights of this presentation included:

- L2F has served 1500 victims of violence over the past 5 years. 90% of those victims returned to the cycle of violence.
- L2F launched the Community Dialogue for Change program in an effort to facilitate REAL change in families, so that the cycle of violence is permanently broken.
- The Community Dialogue for Change program is not marketed as a domestic violence program, but instead focuses on family health and well-being.
- The Community Dialogue for Change program is fund and helps participants find their own solutions to their problems.
- L2F reports that there have been 0 incidents of domestic violence among graduates from the Community Dialogue for Change program.
- For more information, go to: [www.licensetofreedom.org](http://www.licensetofreedom.org)

#### VI. Roundtable (Announcements, Trends, Issues) *Contact List (for follow up) can be found at:* [http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/roster\\_council\\_nov2012.pdf](http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/roster_council_nov2012.pdf)

Multiple organizations made announcements regarding services, programs and events. Due to the timeliness of those announcements, they are not included in these Notes. However, for more information, please contact the organizations who were present at the meeting (see link above).

#### VIII. Adjournment- Veronica adjourned the meeting at 2:02pm.