



El Cajon Collaborative
Monthly Council Meeting Notes
September 4, 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-

LaVonna Connelly, El Cajon Collaborative Coordinator, welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting Agenda. The meeting started at 12:40. (informal networking was from 12:30-12:40). Council Facilitator, **Veronica Mikho, National Conflict Resolution Center**, facilitated the rest of the meeting.

Meeting Participants:

American Red Cross-Disaster, American Red Cross-WIC, Big Brothers- Big Sisters of San Diego County, Cajon Valley Union School District, Catholic Charities, Chaldean Middle-Eastern Community Services, City of El Cajon- Public Information, Communities Against Substance Abuse, Crossroads Family Center, East County Career Center, EJE Academies, El Cajon Adult Center, El Cajon Valley High School FRC, Episcopal Refugee Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego, Fleet and Family Support Center, Harmonium, Healthy Adventures Foundation, Home Start, Inc., Institute for Public Strategies, International Rescue Committee, Journey Community Church, License to Freedom, Meals 4 Hunger, Mental Health America of San Diego, Mental Health Systems- Wraparound, Mental Health Systems-CalWORKS, Molina Healthcare, National Conflict Resolution Center, Neighborhood Healthcare, Newcomer Support and Development, Planned Parenthood, Public Consulting Group, Rady Children's Psychiatry, Recovery Innovations of CA, San Diego County HHSA/ Health Promotions, San Diego County Library El Cajon Branch, San Diego County Library Fletcher Hills Branch, San Diego County Library Rancho San Diego Branch, San Diego County Public Health Nursing, Southern Indian Health Council, St. Pauls PACE, University of San Diego Legal Clinics, UC Cooperative Extension- Nutrition Education, WIC- SDSU Research Foundation.

II. Collaborative Updates-

LaVonna stated that the Council leaders who convened in August decided that Collaborative Updates were useful and therefore we will continue to do them for the rest of this fiscal year. LaVonna asked attendees to read the updates on the back of the Agenda. She called special attention to the Collaborative's current projects and stated that she was recruiting El Cajon residents for the next phase of the Healthy Food Initiative. The next phase will focus on projects the residents can work on to increase healthy eating in El Cajon.

III. Presentation- El Cajon Centennial

Monica Zech, City of El Cajon Public Information, reviewed information about the City of El Cajon's 100th birthday celebration on November 11th. In summary:

- The celebration will focus on the history and culture of El Cajon.
- On November 12th, parts of downtown will be blocked off for the celebration.
- There will be free activities for kids.
- El Cajon volunteers with at least 100 hours of volunteer time will be honored (contact Monica).
- The public is welcome to share their ideas or volunteer for the occasion.
- Volunteer Interest Form and all other information can be found at: www.elcajon100.com

IV. Presentation- El Cajon Healthy Food Initiative

Nora Bota and Christopher Shamoon, El Cajon residents, reviewed a summary of their project, the El Cajon Healthy Food Initiative. Highlights of this presentation included:

- 15 residents met over a four month period.
- Residents assessed (11) fast food restaurants and (6) food markets for access to nutritional food.
- 24 blocks of “walkability” to and from stores was also rated and any safety concerns were noted.
- Data was collected by residents and sent to the State for compilation and analysis.
- The State determined that few fast food restaurants and food stores met the State standards.
- Residents plan to work with the restaurants and the City of El Cajon on projects that improve access to nutrition in El Cajon.

V. Cameo Presentation- Community Garden

Maureen Hartin, Volunteers in Medicine, shared that they will be implementing a new community garden in El Cajon. Highlights of this presentation included:

- The garden will be funded by the American Medical Association.
- Participants will learn to read nutrition labels and how to shop for nutritious food.
- A planning meeting will take place soon. Anyone interested should contact Maureen directly.

VI. Cameo Presentation- Community Garden and Farmer’s Market

Victoria Haddad-Salah and Troy McKinney, International Rescue Committee, shared that they will also be implementing a community garden and farmer’s market in El Cajon. Highlights of this presentation included:

- These projects are being done under IRC’s Food Security and Community Health department
- The garden will be on Travelodge Drive and will be funded by Kaiser Permanente
- Applications are currently being accepted for the community garden plots.
- This garden will have (44) 20’x30’ plots.
- The farmer’s market will be at the Promenade Park in downtown El Cajon and will have a Fresh Fund so that EBT card users can get \$15 credit toward produce when they spend \$15 on produce. This will help make the farmer’s market more accessible to the community.

VII. Cameo Presentation- Agricultural Ordinances-

Romalyn Watson, County of San Diego Health Promotions-East, shared information about El Cajon’s local agriculture ordinances. She stated:

- Currently the City of El Cajon is working to revise their ordinances related to residents having chickens on their property and the implementation of community gardens.
- The next City of El Cajon Planning Meeting will be September 10th at 7pm. The City Council will review these proposed ordinance changes at their meeting on November 13th.

VIII. Roundtable (Announcements, Trends, Issues) *Contact List (for follow up) can be found at:*

http://www.elcajoncollaborative.org/uploads/1/4/1/5/1415935/council_contacts_oct_2012.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.