



# Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills

## NEWSLETTER

January 2006

**“To Prevent and Reduce Substance Abuse  
Through Opportunities and Activities that Promote  
Positive Youth Development”**

This is the first newsletter issue by the Coalition. A format and a timetable for additional newsletters will be developed in the near future.

### Formation of Executive Committee

The following members of the Coalition have agreed to serve on the Coalition Executive Committee:

- Vicki Barber, Superintendent, ED Office of Education
- Mary Muse, Board Director, ED Union High School District
- Mark Getchel, Captain, ED Sheriff’s Office
- Vanessa Alves, Wells Fargo
- Christi Kessler, Public Health Supervisor, ED County Public Health Dept.
- Stephen Weir, Principal, Oak Ridge High School
- Wayne Lowery, General Manager, EDH Community Service District
- Bob Pedersen, President, EDH Community Vision, Inc.
- Todd White, Student Liaison

Authority and responsibilities for this committee, that will provide general oversight of the coalition, will be developed over the next month. The Executive Committee members will identify alternates for meetings they are unable to attend and the Grant Leadership Team of Buzz Nunn, Angie Mrva, Pat Kriz, and DJ Peterson, will provide staff support.

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

Buzz Nunn, Executive Director of the Vision Coalition announced that Kathy Getchel has been appointed to the Volunteer Coordinator position. Kathy, an El Dorado Hills resident, has a Master of Arts in teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science. She has a Single Subject teaching credential in Health Science and is currently a substitute teacher at Oak Ridge High School. She was worked with the recent Friday Night Live events at CSD.

Kathy will be a part time coordinator and while her primary responsibility will be to solicit volunteers from the community for activities at the Teen Center but may be available to assist in other coalition projects. Kathy may be reached at [kagetchel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kagetchel@sbcglobal.net).

Coalition members who have a skill, talent, or profession, or know someone with these attributes, and would like to share this with community young people should contact Kathy. The teen center will be looking at these kinds of activities shortly.

## **Secretarial Position**

An announcement was distributed to all coalition members on January 27<sup>th</sup> advertising for a part time secretary. The position is currently available. If you need a copy of the announcement, please email [buzznunn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buzznunn@sbcglobal.net) or [amrva@aol.com](mailto:amrva@aol.com).

## **News Update from Oct. 1, 2005– January 15, 2006**

- On Nov. 28-30, as required by the SAMHSA, DJ Peterson and Angie Mrva traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in a meeting of representatives of all new grantees receiving funds to operate coalitions under the Drug Free Communities Program. Program and budget information was explained in detail. Interactive training was provided to help coalition representatives to use logic models that are effective and based on research. Our program and logic appear to be consistent with SAMHSA guidelines.

Meetings were also held with our federal project officer, Evelyn Copeland. She encouraged us to become partners with others, and to continue seeking other opportunities to seek support from foundations, agencies, and organizations that offer organizations financial help.

**Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills**  
**January 2006**

- DJ Peterson, Project Director, of the Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills, returned from a 2 day training program for community coalition leaders sponsored by *the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)* in San Francisco. Over 200 people participated from dozens of states including Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Nevada, Alaska, and California to name a few. A particular focus was on developing a *logic model* that shows how the activities conducted by each coalition will make an impact on youth to prevent and reduce substance abuse.
- On Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, DJ Peterson attended an orientation meeting about mini-grants of \$5,000 that Vicki Cowley from the El Dorado County Dept. of Public Health will offer for representatives of organizations that serve youth in the county. The funding is to address the prevention of tobacco use among youth, and can include youth development practices where youth are used as resources. This may fit with Coalition objectives to train youth to create public service announcements through animation and live action media, with a focus on tobacco. DJ will write the grant proposal when the application is available in the spring of 2006.
- On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the members of the Vision Coalition met at the new Holiday Inn to celebrate their success at winning the federal Drug Free Communities Support Grant Award and to provide an update on the progress so far. Bob Pederson, President of the El Dorado Hills Community Vision, Inc., the non-profit organization which leads the coalition, welcomed attendees and congratulated them for the support that was significant in convincing SAMSHA to approve our application.

Grant objectives were described by DJ Peterson who stated that if we are successful with our coalition, we can reasonably expect a similar grant for the next 5 years to expand the coalition and pursue a healthy, drug free community environment. Research strongly supports the role that health drug free alternatives for youth play in preventing and reducing substance abuse.

Marni Francisco-Cady from the EDH Community Services District (CSD) provided an update of the CSD's teen center and skate park plans. Bob Pedersen raised the idea of having a major event centered on a teen concert in the late spring or early summer, and asked for input.

**Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills**  
**January 2006**

- In December, we began to develop the process that would allow young people to establish their own Television Studio to film youth doing positive community service in El Dorado Hills such as creating Public Service Announcements (PSAs). Royer Studios will provide the training and equipment needed. Royer Studios, affiliated with Disney and the Simpsons, has won many national awards and credits and will bring a high level of expertise to this project. Training and filming are proposed for Feb. 27- March 3 and March 6- March 10 after school, from approximately 3 PM - 6PM in coordination with the animation program. There are openings for 20 youth ages 13-18 to apply. Especially needed are middle school youth. Interested youth may apply to the Vision Coalition or CSD.

The plan is to contact local media and theaters to ask them to show these public service films, which will include substance abuse themes. It is expected that local cable television, the new teen center, community screening events, schools, and other local events where youth are present may be suitable venues to show these PSAs. Ideally, we would also like to have a middle school, elementary, or high school make arrangements to have the program implemented at their school and train students in their school on the same days during school hours. Interested community members or school staff should contact DJ Peterson at 916-933-1771 or email [djpeterson99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djpeterson99@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

- The El Dorado Hills Community Services District reports that it has begun construction of a teen center and skateboard park in early January. Groundbreaking ceremonies were canceled due to inclement weather. This represents a dream coming true for many young people and parents who want to have safer, supervised activities for young people, especially after school. Congratulations to CSD on implementing this project.

CSD plans to have a portable building ready to be used as a temporary teen center in February 2006.

- The coalition has entered into a contract with El Dorado Musical Theater arranging to offer training opportunities to young people in participating in the Theater productions. The coalition will work with EDMT to determine the feasibility of filming these productions by youth trained in film studio production for cable television, theater and teen center use.

**Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills**  
**January 2006**

- The firm of Kristin Domenichelli, CPA, has agreed to provide fiscal and accounting services for the Vision Coalition, and has been working with us since the beginning of the grant period. She has extensive experience in working with grant reporting, non-profit corporations and with youth activities.
- January 12, 2006, DJ Peterson submitted a grant on behalf of the coalition and EDH CVI, to Sierra Health Foundation. This foundation supports non-profit agencies to improve program services for youth. Our purpose for the grant funding is to obtain permanent equipment to operate the Youth Film Training and Production Program and to provide follow-up training and assistance for our young people. The grant proposal was submitted prior to the Jan 15 deadline. Winners are to be announced in about 8 weeks.
- A grant application to continue of the Federal Drug Free Communities Grant funding for the second year is due in March. Work will begin on preparing this grant application as soon as the instructions are received from Washington D.C.
- Vicki Cowley from the El Dorado County Dept. of Public Health contacted the Coalition to discuss whether we would like to become partners to help young people to have better eating habits, to learn skills on cooking and meal preparation, and to become involved in positive recreation and exercise. The goal is to prevent and reduce the high prevalence of overweight and obese youth in a positive way.

For more information on Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills, email

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