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## Locals share their vision for schools, community

By Penne Usher Telegraph Correspondent



Philip Wood / The Telegraph

Various community organizations gathered last week for a full meeting for the Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills.

About 45 members of the El Dorado Hills Vision coalition met Thursday to update one another on the year's happenings.

"This is to let one another know what is going on and to look toward the future," said Dr. Vicki Barber, superintendent of schools for El Dorado County.

Each group representative had one minute to update the others on their organization.

"We want them to provide a snapshot of what they are doing," Barber said.

The Vision Coalition is a non-profit group comprising community members that focuses on helping youth by providing "positive youth development," opportunities that increase knowledge and built strength, skills and talents, according to its website.

Members include business leaders youth organizations, law enforcement, religious and fraternal organizations, healthcare workers, volunteers, teens, parents and school officials.

Barbara Narez, principal of Oak Meadow School, said her school was fortunate to benefit from the coalition in the form of a grant that now funds the primary intervention program.

She said the program focuses on kindergarten through third grade students who may need additional emotional or social assistance.

"For whatever reason the little guys don't connect well — and it could be as simple as being shy," Narez said.

The 12 to 15 week program connects a qualified educator/counselor with the student and need for play focused sessions.

"It's very interactive," she said. "We want to make the student comfortable and bring the association that school is a positive place to be."

For Barber, the coalition represents the support for positive growth of area children and teens.

"What we need to do is to make this a better community," she said. "This is just one way."