



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vision Coalition Hosts Meeting on Youth Behavioral Health Needs in El Dorado County

June, 16 2010 marked the Town Hall meeting regarding youth behavioral health held at the CSD Pavilion in El Dorado Hills. The meeting was organized by the Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills, a program of El Dorado Hills Community Vision, Inc. The objective of the forum was to explore local mental health resources and gather information on any unmet needs for delivering these services to youth in El Dorado County.



Participants included parents, youth, school principals and counselors, family support services, substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, and representatives from county and state government.

The meeting consisted of 15 panelists who each gave a brief presentation on their program or services and their particular concern regarding youth behavioral health. Dr. Vicki Barber Superintendent, El Dorado County Office of Education and chairperson for the Vision Coalition, moderated the meeting. Some of the presenters included

Darryl Keck, Program Coordinator for El Dorado County Mental Health; Pam Bartlett, Assistant Principal of Oakridge High School; Kathy Brooks-Johnson, Associate Director of Programming for New Morning; Bob St. Pierre, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and Crisis Intervention Team, and Laurie Ellis, representative from Assemblywoman Alyson Huber's office.

After the presentations, everyone in attendance joined in breakout sessions to brainstorm needs and recommendations as they related to the topic. Then everyone, including youth, voted on the highest priority needs and the most effective strategies to address each need. The best strategies will be summarized and used to apply for funding and resources, and also to provide recommendation to policy makers.

When the meeting concluded, participants filed around the perimeter of the Pavilion which was lined with resource tables displaying informative brochures, educational handouts and contact information provided by the attending agencies and organizations. The crowds lingered for an additional hour to network. Many commented on the success of the meeting in addressing such an important topic.

For more information on this meeting, next steps, and other activities sponsored by the Vision Coalition, visit www.edhvisioncoalition.org or call 916-941-8482.

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