

**Santee Community Collaborative**  
**COLLABORATIVE**  
**Meeting Minutes of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**In-Person**  
**Santee, CA 92071**

**Welcome & Introductions** – Janessa called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Members/Guests present: 18 guests.

**Review of Agenda & Minutes** – A motion was made by Camille/Jean to approve today's agenda and a motion was made by Jean/Camille to approve the January minutes.

**Santee School District Homeless Grant Update** – Kirsten Stretton presented on the District's McKinney-Vento grant. The McKinney-Vento Act, also known as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, is a federal law that was passed to address the educational challenges faced by homeless children and youth. The primary purpose of the McKinney-Vento Act is to ensure that homeless students have access to a free, appropriate public education, regardless of their living situation. The Act emphasizes the importance of providing educational stability and support for students experiencing homelessness. This is meant for children/youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Kirsten showed the Collaborative some demographics and statistics of this population in our district. Homeless students in Santee School District have several educational rights and protections under the McKinney-Vento Act. School stability is crucial for homeless students as it provides them with a sense of consistency and support during challenging times. Santee School District offers a range of support services to assist homeless students in overcoming educational challenges. These services may include: counseling and social-emotional support to address trauma and stress related to homelessness, tutoring and academic assistance Hotel vouchers for families, out-of-school-time programs, food, clothing and other basic needs, and medical and dental services. We asked for input from the group on some needs they see in the community. Some of these comments were:

- Housing resources are needed
- Grossmont College students can get housing vouchers, so if they are enrolled in a program, they qualify
- Limited transitional housing (i.e. Interfaith)
  - SB4 allows housing to be built between churches and other entities without certain limitations
- Jamboree housing waitlist is very long and by the time you get a call, most families have found a solution (could take as long as a year)

**Global Communities** – Marissa Cardwell talked about human trafficking and the Project ROOTS Youth Community Prevention Program. She began by providing different definitions as they relate to trafficking. Marissa gave us some statistics on sex trafficking in San Diego. San Diego is 8<sup>th</sup> on the list with an average entry age of 14. Components of sex trafficking are: trafficker, victim, and buyer. The victim is at risk because they have no defense/protection or they are marginalized. The trafficker could be family, friends, peer, supervisor, social media friend, etc. Some indicators of a trafficker are: control, threats, etc. Marissa gave the group some signs of grooming and recruitment. She also mentioned the indicators of victimization: changes in behavior/mood, secrecy, social media posts about money, no contact with friends/family, etc. It is very important to report any sex trafficking. If you observe someone in immediate danger or if any violence is observed, call 911. Tell the dispatcher: "You have reason to believe you are witnessing someone in immediate danger who appears to be a victim of sex trafficking." If you have reasonable suspicion that you are observing a situation that alludes to sex trafficking, but no immediate harm is apparent, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline number: 1-888-373-7888 or Text BEFREE (24 hours a day, 7 days a week in more than 200 languages. Calls confidential and answered live by trained Call Specialists). Project ROOTS is an after-school program that addresses the root causes of gender-based

violence, exploitation, and unhealthy relationships through group mentoring and social emotional learning. As a primary prevention program, it aims to build protective factors in elementary and middle school youth. Marissa provided a list of resources, please reach out to Janessa or Shannon for these resources. A question was asked about the toolkit and if they provide training, and Marissa said they do.

**San Ysidro Health** – They were unable to attend, and we will be rescheduling this guest speaker.

**Public Communication** – None.

**Announcements** – There were a few announcements. Vanessa talked about the City of Santee Community Celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup>; they are looking for more vendors. If you are interested, contact us and we will get you connected. Camille mentioned an open house at Grossmont-Cuyamaca that is upcoming, more information to follow. Our DA representative mentioned that the Lemon Grove Sheriff is hosting a gun-safety seminar, please email us at [santeecollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:santeecollaborative@gmail.com) for more information.

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

**Next Collaborative Meeting** – Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. at PRIDE Academy.