



## Community Action Network Board of Directors 05/13/2011 Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Judge Sam Biscoe (Travis County), Sylvia Blanco (CAN Community Council), Debbie Bresette (Executive Director, United Way Capital Area), John-Michael Cortez (for Dianne Mendoza, Capital Metro), Terry Cowan (CAN Community Council), Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt (Travis County), David Evans (Executive Director, ATCIC), Mary Faria (Operations Chief, Seton Healthcare Family), Christie Garbe (for Trish Young-Brown, President and CEO, Central Health), Debbie Johnson (Austin Chamber of Commerce), Tim Mahoney (ACC Board Member), Alan Miller (Executive Director of Workforce Solutions- Capital Area), Walter Moreau (2011 Vice-Chair, One Voice Central Texas), Councilmember Laura Morrison (City of Austin), Councilmember Randi Shade (City of Austin), Tom Spencer (Executive Director, Interfaith Action of Central Texas), Suki Steinhauser (2011 Chair, One Voice Central Texas), Mark Williams (President, AISD Board), and Michael Wilson (for Bobbie Barker, St. David's Foundation)

**Unable to Attend:** Josie Barrett (Vice President, St. Edward's University), Christine Brister (AISD Board Member), Robiaun Charles (University of Texas), Ashton Cumberbatch (Vice President of Advocacy & Community Relations, Seton Healthcare Family), Judge Elizabeth Earle (Community Justice Council), Travis County Attorney David Escamilla (Travis County Community Justice Council), Joene Grissom (Workforce Solutions Board Member), Mary Hensley (Vice President, ACC), Martha Martinez (Trustee, ATCIC), Jim Reed (Chair, CAN Community Council), and Dr. Gregory Vincent (Vice President, University of Texas)

**Staff:** Chantel Bottoms, Cristell Laurel, Mary Dodd, and Vanessa Sarria

**Call to Order and Announcements:** Sarah Eckhardt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. David Evans announced that the ATCIC Board will be hosting a public budget forum on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The forum will take place at ATCIC's main office located at 1430 Collier St., Austin, TX. Walter Moreau announced that Foundation Communities is leasing two new properties. Visit [www.foundcom.org](http://www.foundcom.org) for more information. Tim Mahoney announced that Austin Community College has a new president, Dr. Richard Rhodes. Maria Faria announced that Seton Family of Hospitals is changing its name to Seton Healthcare Family. Vanessa Sarria announced that voter turnout is an indicator on the CAN dashboard (available online at [www.communitydashboard.org](http://www.communitydashboard.org)) and tomorrow is voting day. She encouraged everyone to vote and help move the voter turnout indicator in the right direction.

**Citizen's Communication:** None.

**Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Approval of Minutes from 4/8/2011:** Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Executive Director Update on 2011 CAN Budget/Revenues:** Postponed until July 2011.

**Consider and take action on composition and charge of membership committee:** Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt reviewed the charge of the membership committee.

- Evaluate the current membership of the CAN Board and recommend additional organizations that should be approached for CAN Partner consideration.
- Evaluate current partner contributions and recommend a fair structure for contribution levels based on agreed upon criterion.
- Evaluate coalitions designated or desiring designation as CAN Issue Area Groups (IAGs) and recommend any changes to the CAN Board of Directors

The charge of the membership committee was voted on and approved by the Board. Eckhardt solicited volunteers to recruit for or to participate on the membership committee. Eckhardt will announce committee members at a future meeting. Among issues noted by Board members was that CAN may be interested in courting organizations such as CAPCOG for Board membership despite their more regional jurisdiction. While they are critical in conversations about sharing resources, there could be a danger in bringing in players with additional needs and limited resources. It was suggested that the membership committee consider what the strategic needs of CAN are. There could be an assessment of what gaps we have as an organization, and what potential partners could fill those gaps. An introductory letter from the Board could be sent to potential partners introducing them to the strategic issues CAN is grappling with. A draft of this letter will be presented to the CAN Board at a future date. Other ideas related to this conversation should be sent to Eckhardt.

**Update on City of Austin Economic Outlook:** Ed Van Eenoo, Budget Officer with the City of Austin, presented. The presentation Van Eenoo summarized was originally given by John Hockenyo to the Austin City Council. Nationally the economy is improving. Consumer confidence is increasing, there is positive employment growth, and industrial capacity utilization is now back on the upswing. A risk to the economy is that stimulus funding is going away. Another issue to consider is how state deficits will impact the economy. Nationally people are still experiencing problems with credit and still require sustained long-term job growth. The City of Austin has been seeing job growth and tax rebate growth for a number of quarters now. Austin's population is increasing, in part due to in-migration from other areas of the country. Home prices have escalated in Austin, unlike many other metro areas where home prices have dramatically declined. There is a potential for rising prices that will put pressure on disposable incomes. The potential impact of State budget cuts will be a potential drag on our economy; impacts will not be fully understood for at least another two or three months. The full presentation is available online here: [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/budget/10-11/downloads/2011\\_forecast.pdf](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/budget/10-11/downloads/2011_forecast.pdf).

#### **Update on Partner Funding:**

- **City of Austin – HHSD:** Randi Shade presented. She indicated that last year the City undertook a process to build a new Request for Proposals process along with a scoring matrix. The matrix is being used for the City's legal procurement contracts. Staff scored applications and the City has shared the top scoring proposals. The amount of money being awarded to the community is not being cut. This process has been the best opportunity for the City to make a case for why there needs to be more money in health and human services. The more the City can quantify what services can be bought with more money, the better the City can advocate for increasing those dollars. Sarah Eckhardt encouraged Board members to think about what areas the City is funding, what gaps in services this leaves, and how can CAN may respond to ensure that our community is optimizing resources and meeting the needs in the community. Dorinda Pullium of the City of Austin presented next. The goals related to the RFP from the City's Comprehensive Plan are: safety net/infrastructure services, transition out of poverty, problem prevention, universal support services, and enrichment. The total funding for the social services RFP is \$13.2 million. Sixteen proposals received the highest scores with 32 agencies serving as leads or partners in those proposals. Current contracts are being extended until March of 2012 and new contracts will start after March of 2012. This adds an additional six months to current contracts. Services that were not funded through this process include mental health and child care. Two out of three AISD programs were not recommended, one ACC program was not recommended, and no ATCIC programs were recommended. Council will take action related to the RFP process on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The staff proposal is for a six month extension of existing contracts. The authorized contact person related to the RFP process is Wilbur Jones who can be reached at (512)972-4013 or [Wilbur.jones@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Wilbur.jones@ci.austin.tx.us).
- **St. David's Foundation** – Michael Wilson, Program Officer for Healthy Aging, presented. He stated that the foundation has grown significantly since it was founded in the 1940s. The focus areas of the foundation are healthy aging, healthy futures, healthy living, healthy minds, healthy people, and healthy smiles. The foundation also has specific areas of focus within each of these broad areas. The foundation helps their partners through challenges and also has capacity building grants. Partners are expected to have a diverse array of funding sources. Since 2005, St. David's

Foundation's financial impact has grown significantly. The foundation is looking at a projected \$34 million investment in 2011. This is up from \$24.6 million in 2010. Sixty-one percent of the foundation's funding goes to entities in Travis County and 23% goes to entities in Williamson County. There are smaller investments within Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays Counties.

- **United Way Capital Area (UWCA)** - Debbie Bresette of United Way Capital Area presented. She stated that UWCA raises money within about 400 companies. Approximately 58% of those dollars are donor designated. Over the last year the UWCA Board went through a process to discuss new strategies. Over 200 volunteers helped to vet this process. The end result was a desire for UWCA to invest in education, financial stability, and health. UWCA funds are strategically invested in vulnerable or underserved populations. There is about \$3.4 million to invest in the community. The dollars are given to established organizations that are relatively stable. Grant applications are viewed by many people. The UWCA believes that when public and private dollars can be matched, great things can be accomplished.

**Local impact of State and Federal budget cuts and local response – continue discussion on opportunities for collaboration and consider coordinating response to cuts:** The Board discussed that there is more need in the community than there are dollars for. This may signal a heightened need for a community plan. Funders and processes should be connected in funding and in support of strategies. The community should not be caught up with agency issues, but should focus on broad community needs and goals. A long-term plan at the local level could help to inject some stability back into the non-profit sector. Some Board members expressed concerns about a community planning process citing ongoing collaborative work and a larger need for our community to identify additional funding and draw down more dollars. A more immediate issue for funding entities is discussion on how to meet existing or new community needs that may arise as a result of state budget cuts. It was suggested that a meeting or forum be scheduled for a time when our community expects budget issues to be settled.

**Consider and take action on approval of support letter for City of Austin grant proposal for Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan:** Shannon Jones, Acting Director of HHS for City, spoke. The City is seeking a grant for \$35,000 and would include a community health assessment, a community health improvement plan, and a model community engagement process. The grants are only available to local health departments, but they must have partners who will support them in the community assessment process. The City asked CAN for a letter of support that describes partner roles and responsibilities. Jones stated that the City will undertake these efforts whether or not they receive the grant. The Board voted to approve the letter of support included in the Board packet.

**Reminders and Adjournment:** Reminder: The CAN Board will not meet in June. The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m. The next CAN Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at City Hall.