



Community Action Network Board of Directors 11/2/2011 Meeting Minutes

Present: Judge Sam Biscoe (Travis County), Sylvia Blanco (Vice-Chair, CAN Community Council), Robiaun Charles (for Dr. Gregory Vincent, University of Texas), Terry Cowan (CAN Community Council), Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt (Travis County), Travis County Attorney David Escamilla (Travis County Community Justice Council), Christie Garbe (for Trish Young-Brown, Central Health), Joene Grissom (Workforce Solutions Board Member), Debbie Johnson (Austin Chamber), Tim Mahoney (ACC Board Member), Alan Miller (Executive Director of Workforce Solutions- Capital Area), Jim Reed (Chair, CAN Community Council), Dr. Dr. Matt Snapp (Chair of Austin Travis County Integral Care Board of Trustees), Tom Spencer (Executive Director, Interfaith Action of Central Texas), Suki Steinhauser (2011 Chair, One Voice Central Texas), and Mark Williams (AISD Board President)

Other Attendees: Tommy Darwin and Rip Rowan

Unable to Attend: Michael Wilson for Bobbie Barker (St. David's Foundation), Cristina Bordin (Vice President, St. Edward's University), Christine Brister (AISD Board Member), Ashton Cumberbatch (Vice President of Advocacy & Community Relations, Seton), Judge Elizabeth Earle (Community Justice Council), Ashton Cumberbatch (Seton), David Evans (ATCIC), John McNabb (2011 Vice-Chair, One Voice Central Texas), John Michael Cortez (Capital Metro), Debbie Bresette (United Way), Councilmember Laura Morrison (City of Austin), Councilmember Kathie Tovo (City of Austin), and Judge Elisabeth Earle.

Staff: Chantel Bottoms, Mary Dodd, and Vanessa Sarria

Call to Order and Announcements: Sarah Eckhardt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Citizen's Communication: None.

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Approval of Minutes from Aug. 12 & Sept. 9, and October 14, 2011: Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Board Feedback on CAN Retreat and CAN Work Plan: Board members thanked Tommy Darwin and Rip Rowan for facilitating the CAN Retreat.

Board members expressed concern over the manner that the Texas Benefits Bank (TBB) was specifically mentioned in the presentation on proposed 2012 CAN Work Plan initiatives. Vanessa Sarria indicated that the Streamlined Common Eligibility work group, a CAN implementation team, was interested in specifically exploring the potential of using the TBB as a strategy for implementing the *Stable Families, Healthy Community Plan* adopted by the CAN Board in December 2009 (<http://www.caction.org/initiatives/StableFamiliesHealthyCommunityProposedImplementationPlan.pdf>). Sarria explained that since Texas Health Institute (THI), a nonprofit association, who is managing the TBB is working with the Health and Human Services Commission at the state-level to electronically submit applications for Medicaid, CHIP, and food stamps by February 2012, the TBB tool is the only mature option at this time for achieving the goals on the *Stable Families, Healthy Community Plan*. Sarria explained that CAN and the Streamlined Common Eligibility Work Group conducted an inventory of tools being used for eligibility determination in 2010 to ensure that all options were being considered. Sarria indicated that an endorsement was not needed from the Community Action Network since THI was working on rolling out the tool in all the Department of Health and Human Services regions regardless of CAN's endorsement. Travis County is one of 30 counties in Region 7. However, given that the Streamlined Common Eligibility Work Group wants to explore the option of using the TBB, CAN, in its role as convener, can assist with connecting organizations who provide enrollment assistance to THI and its Region 7 TBB Advisory Committee. To protect the organization of CAN, Commissioner Eckhardt indicated that at the next Board meeting an amendment in the bylaws will be considered regarding vendor solicitation of CAN. Sarria explained that the language on the presentation will be modified so that it matches the general language

used in the work plan. The language on the 2012 Work Plan "generally" states that "CAN will work with stakeholders and CAN board members to maximize enrollment in Medicaid, CHIP, food stamps, Earned Income Tax Credits, FAFSA, Medicare, and other programs through initiatives *such* as the Benefit Bank of Texas".

Commissioner Eckhardt asked Board members to forward comments on the 2012 work plan to Vanessa Sarria at vsarria@austinisd.org. CAN staff noted that the Strategic Framework will be tweaked according to feedback from the retreat. Retreat minutes will be provided to retreat attendees. There was Board discussion on next steps. Some members proposed conducting an inventory of services and funding for each of the areas of the framework. This could help show where services are not meeting the need. Members mentioned that 2-1-1 already has a database of thousands of programs for specific service areas. This could be a crosswalk between 2-1-1 and the Strategic Framework and could be used to help CAN tell the story of what is happening in our community. Other Board members agreed on the importance of telling the story, especially in highlighting success stories and dilemmas. Board members noted that they were surprised that retreat participants placed a lesser emphasis on public awareness than on collaboration, but the Board agreed that it is still a critical piece of the workplan. It was suggested that the public awareness piece of the workplan be moved to the top section of the workplan related to enhancing the Community Dashboard. It was suggested that public awareness efforts could build on using the information on the dashboard. It could help people to identify what kind of ideal we want for our community (and the State of Texas) and what public policy and funding is needed to get to that ideal. It was suggested that CAN staff serve in dynamic enough roles to take on some of this responsibility.

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on CAN Board Membership Recommendations: The membership committee determined that CAN Board membership is light on housing, homelessness, environment, civic engagement, transportation, and land use. There is an issue of limited diversity on the CAN Board as compared to our community's population and an issue of quorum not being met at Board meetings due to each Board organization have two seats. The membership committee recommended that the Board convene a separate finance committee to discuss financial contributions of CAN Board members. Board members suggested that the CAN bylaws be amended to award one seat to each partner with a standing proxy. It was also recommended that CAN bylaws be amended to reflect the current names of partners.

Board members stated that before we approach new partners, several issues must be considered:

- What are we asking of these new partners and what will we be providing them in return?
- What is the role of the Board and who do we need on the Board to fulfill this role?
- What are our goals for membership?
- What tables should each of the proposed members be sitting at?

Sarah Eckhardt will send the membership committee document out to the Board. Board members will then have the opportunity to look at proposed members and comment as to whether they think they should be on the Board or not at the December 9th Board meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m. The next CAN Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2011 at City Hall in the Boards and Commissions Room.