



Community Action Network Community Council 6/16/08 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Anne Harutunian, Bruce Elfant, Clint Smith, Eric Blumberg, Kathie Tovo, Linda Murphy, Michelle Augustine, Nancy Neavel, Ruby Roa, Terry Cowan, Willie Williams

CAN Staff: Mary Dodd and Chantel Bottoms

Unable to Attend: Al Perez, Amanda Arlitt, Amy Wong Mok, Barbara Anderson, Barbara Cilley, Barbara Smith, Carole Belver, Cynthia Colbert, Jessica Flores, John Michael Cortez, Kathy Armenta, Kevin Coleman, Laura Morrison, Laurie Seremetis, Leslie Hernandez, Marquis Williams, Maureen Siu, Mitch Sudolsky, Monica Bedford, Pat Dabbert, Penny Lichenstein, Shawn Lemieux, Susan McCormick, Tara Dixon

- I. **Call to Order, Introductions & Announcements:** Terry Cowan, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Community Council members introduced themselves. Willie Williams announced that the City, the County, and the United Way are organizing community conversations to influence their social services investment planning process. Community Council members have an opportunity to participate in a 1 ½ hour community conversation. Kathie Tovo, Linda Murphy, Michelle Augustine, and Terry Cowan agreed to participate. Another 4-6 members are desired. Interested members should contact Mary Dodd at Mary.Dodd@austinsd.org. Ruby Roa announced that the Community Development Commission will be having a public hearing on June 26th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall to welcome comments on the community plan for housing.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from May 19th, 2008:** Meeting minutes from April and May were not approved because there were not enough members present for a quorum.
- III. **Citizen's Communication:** None.
- IV. **Austin Travis County MHMR Center Local Planning and Network Development:** Louise Lynch presented on ATCMHMR's Local Planning and Network Development process. The process is required by legislative law and articulates a preference for consumers to have the option to choose between multiple mental health service providers, whereby ATCMHMR manages this local process. ATCMHMR is continuing to accept stakeholder input for their draft plan which is available for review at www.atcmhmr.com. The hope is that clients will have increased access and choices after the changes are implemented. Implementation will be a slow process and will take into consideration the desires of the community.
- V. **Proposed Capital Metro Fare Increase:** Matt Curtis presented on Capital Metro's proposed fare increases. A fare increase is part of a financially stable future for Capital Metro. According to focus groups, most citizens recognize that there is a need for Capital Metro to increase fares although a fare increase would be a hardship for people with low incomes, people with disabilities, and seniors. Capital Metro is considering equity issues within the fare increase proposal. They are considering two options: 1) two pricing zones for fares, or 2) no-zone pricing. Results from Capital Metro's fall survey are available at www.capmetro.org. Community Council members were concerned about the following issues: 1) a potential increase in electricity prices in conjunction with Capital Metro's fare increase, 2) why the fare increase for people with disabilities is greater than the fare increase for the general population, 3) how much Capital Metro will actually profit from the disability fare increase, 4) how ridership will be affected by the fare increase. Matt Curtis stated that he will compose a transcript of Community Council member concerns and will provide requested data about these issues. He encouraged Community Council members to respond to Capital Metro's survey to provide written feedback about the proposed fare increase. This survey is also available through Capital Metro's website, www.capmetro.org.
- VI. **Community Council By-Laws:** Terry Cowan stated that the Resource Council has commended the Community Council on its decision to move forward with reviewing the by-laws. However, a quorum

was not present at the Community Council meeting and so no decisions could be made regarding changes to the by-laws. Items to discuss in revision of the by-laws include: references to a master plan that does not exist and Community Council membership, attendance requirements, and term limits.

VII. **Follow-up to Early Education and Care Forum:** At last month's Community Council meeting, several general and policy recommendations regarding early education and care were presented. Terry Cowan suggested that the Community Council endorse the Early Education and Care Planning Group's \$300,000 funding request. Community Council members were reluctant to provide an endorsement because they were unsure as to what other funding proposals may be coming forward in the near future. Community Council members suggested that they may be interested in endorsing the recommendations if they included an ask to the City Council and the City to restore the housing trust fund dollars that are being cut. There was no consensus on a plan for action.

VIII. **Other Business:** None

IX. **Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.** There will be no Community Council meeting in July. The next Community Council meeting will be on Monday, August 18th, 2008 from 5:30-7:30 in City Hall.

Note: All Community Council presentations are available on the CAN website – <http://www.caction.org/Councils/CommunityCouncil/Presentations/index.htm>