



Community Action Network Community Council 9/21/09 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Eric Blumberg, Terry Cowan, Pat Dabbert, Jason Earle, Anne H. Harutunian, Shawn Lemieux, Penny Lichenstein, Jim Reed, Marquis Williams, Willie Williams, and Amy Wong Mok

CAN Staff: Chantel Bottoms, Mary Dodd, and Vanessa Sarria

Unable to Attend: Barbara Anderson, Michelle Augustine, Barbara Cilley, Cynthia Colbert, Kevin Coleman, Matt Curtis, Linda Kokemor, Linda Murphy, Ruby Roa, Barbara Smith, Clint Smith, Ann Stafford, and Kathie Tovo

- I. **Call to Order, Introductions, and Announcements:** Pat Dabbert announced that the Austin Independent School District (AISD) will be hosting a meeting to develop a new strategic plan. Parents, students, community members, and AISD staff are encouraged to attend. The event will be held in the Travis High School Cafeteria from 6:00-8:30 on Tuesday, September 22nd.

Willie Williams announced that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Texas will be hosting their NAMIWalks at Auditorium Shores on October 10th. Check in begins at 8:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:00 a.m.

- II. **Citizen's Communication:** None.

- III. **Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2009 and August 17, 2009:** Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented for June and August.

IV. **Updates:**

- The CAN Retreat is scheduled from 8:00-11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 5th at Goodwill. Community Council members are welcome and encouraged to attend. At the retreat there will be discussion about the CAN initiatives.
- Intergovernmental Stimulus Coordinating Committee – This committee has developed issue area subcommittees. Currently the body is seeking input from community members and non-profits. For updates on the local impact of federal stimulus dollars, visit <http://caction.org/stimulus.php>
- CAN Website Updated – Mary Dodd presented the website (www.caction.org) which was created by web developer Karen Cook of Austin Community College and CAN staff. The Community Council congratulated CAN on the new website. Suggestions for the website include: 1) adding an application to the community calendar that allows interested persons to sync it with their own calendars, 2) developing a content management tool that allows multiple persons to make updates on the website. Karen Cook will be developing a content management tool and training staff to use such tools in the future.
- Butler Award Nominations – Access the nomination form on the CAN website (www.caction.org). The form requires nominators to answer three questions.
- Community Council Membership – Applications to join the Community Council are also available on the CAN website (www.caction.org). The Community Council will be accepting up to 10 new members this year. The nominating committee, which will review the applications, will consist of the past, current, future chairs of the Community Council and an optional two additional members.
- CAN Bylaws (for approval by Resource Council in November) – Mary Dodd summarized the major changes to the CAN bylaws: 1) the Resource Council will now be called the board of directors, 2) the Executive Committee will include the past, present, and future chairs of the Community Council and the Board of Directors plus up to four additional members as decided by the Board of Directors Chair, 3) the Administrative Team will be replaced by time limited ad-hoc implementation teams, 4) Community Council members will serve three year terms and will have the option to reapply. The Community Council amended the bylaws to state, "Community Council membership can expire after three absences in a calendar year after review by the

Community Council Nominating Committee.” The Community Council approved a motion to recommend the bylaws to the Resource Council as amended.

- Community Council Nominations for Vice-Chair in 2010 – If anyone is interested in the position, e-mail Vanessa Sarria, Marquis Williams, Cynthia Colbert, or Terry Cowan. Also, Community Council members should e-mail any ideas they have for the Community Council in 2010 to Marquis Williams.

V. **CAN Community-wide Dashboard – Recommendations Related to Next Steps:** Mary Dodd presented on the CAN community dashboard. The Community Council was provided with a handout outlining the recommendations that the Dashboard Steering Committee will be making to the Resource Council. Community Council members recommended that the recommendations be condensed before the CAN retreat. Mary Dodd also presented design mock-up for the dashboard created by pro-bono designer Brian _____ from Andy Clark Creative. The Community Council recommended that the graphics not have a black background with white text because it can create printing issues. Community Council members should send any other input on the design to Mary.

VI. **Child and Youth Mental Health Issues FAQ –** Don Zappone, vice-chair of the Child and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership (CYMHPP), presented. Half of all mental illnesses begin by age fourteen. In Travis County approximately 43,000 children and youth under 18 have or at risk of having a mental health disorder. In Central Texas 30% of youth ages 12-20 reported using alcohol in the past month and 18% reported binge alcohol use in the past month. There are local efforts that are making a positive impact on child and youth mental health issues including: grants to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, Safe Schools & Healthy Students Initiative, ACCESS (which includes Positive Behavior Support), and anti-stigma efforts such as the African American Family Support Conference. Children and youth that are vulnerable to mental health issues include ethnic minorities, youth in the criminal justice system, children and youth exposed to violence or trauma, foster care youth, children of parents with mental illness, and youth with substance abuse issues. Local mental health services can be enhanced by reducing stigma toward mental illness and substance abuse by dispelling myths and by providing accurate mental health knowledge, supporting increased access to affordable mental healthcare, supporting early identification, intervention, and prevention programs, and increasing the number of public teen substance abuse beds. The CYMHPP recommended that CAN take immediate action in affecting child and youth mental health issues by recommending that CAN partners commit a staff member to participate in planning for Child and Youth Mental Health Awareness Day.

VII. **Feedback and General Discussion:** The Community Council stated that the community may get involved by encouraging legislators to support funding for mental health programs in schools and pressuring the Austin Independent School District to continue their support for ACCESS. The Community Council can get involved by encouraging people to get involved with the child and youth mental health awareness day, the African American Family Support Conference, or other community initiatives. Terry Cowan took the first step by committing his organization to working on the issue of reducing mental health stigma.

VIII. **Other Business/Adjourn:** Vanessa Sarria stated that there has been some recent community discussion about Austin Energy's efforts to reduce the city's carbon footprint by 35 percent by implementing more renewable energy resources over the next 10 years ("Resource Generation and CO2 Plan") which could cause utility bills to rise an additional 22 percent for residents and 19 percent for businesses. On Friday, October 2nd the City of Austin will host a forum from 9:00-4:00 at the J.J. Pickle Research Center to train non-profits on how they can work together to maximize utility assistance for those in need. There will be a public forum in the future to discuss the potential energy rate increases.

IX. **Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.** Next Community Council meeting: Monday, October 19, 2009 at 5:30 in City Hall.

Presentations and other information from Community Council meetings are available online at: <http://caction.org/Councils/CommunityCouncil/index.htm>