

2011 Summary of Findings and Recommended Key Areas of Focus

Overarching Finding: Funding should be tied to outcomes that reduce social costs while increasing tax revenues.

| Date | Topic | Presenters | Key Findings |
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| Jan | Dashboard Highlights 2010 | | |
| Feb | Barriers to Educational Success for Single Moms | ACC / Jeremiah Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crucial barriers are child care, safe housing, and transportation, in order of influence • Additional needs include peer support, tutoring, mental health counseling, and parenting classes • 93% of the single parents served by the ACC Support Center stayed in school from the fall to spring semesters; the persistence rate was 63% for ACC students at-large. • 60% of families living in poverty are single parents (48% single mothers, 12% single fathers) • <u>Action 2012</u>: support workforce and education programs specifically designed for single parents including wrap around services with housing, child care, transportation, and counseling. |
| Mar | Early Education | E3 / Success by 6 / AISD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The educational gaps that exist in kindergarten often persist throughout a student's education. • Texas has the fastest growing (0-5) child population in the country, and the Central Texas child population is growing at twice the state rate. • Not investing now will be more expensive later, in lost productivity and tax revenue as well as costly interventions. • 48% of children are not kindergarten ready; TX has no standard for kinder-readiness. • Students who participate in pre-k are more kindergarten ready than those who do not. Among economically disadvantaged students, 12% of those with no pre-k were kinder-ready, whereas 42% who participated in pre-k were kinder-ready. • <u>Action 2012</u>: Complete funding strategy for full day Pre-K. • <u>Action 2012</u>: Parenting classes, online and library resources, along with mentor and peer support groups. |
| April | Career Training | AISD / ACC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most living wage jobs need completion of secondary education. • AISD and ACC are currently working together for college and career prep programs. • AISD career and technical programs are mostly funded by state. • <u>Action 2012</u>: Seek private industry partners for career training, including funding, curriculum, and internships. |
| May | Deliberation | | |
| June | Health & Behavioral Health | ATCIC / Central Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco causes more deaths than AIDS, crack, heroin, cocaine, alcohol, car accidents, fire, suicide and murder combined. • Highest rate of smokers are lower social-economic demographic without secondary education. • Cessation brings business rewards in return of productivity and lower health insurance rates. • <u>Action 2012</u>: Promote workplaces to be tobacco free and increase awareness of free cessation |

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| | | | <p>programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.8% of the Texas population is veterans. • <u>Action</u>: Connect vets and families to available services. • 79% of uninsured Texans work or have a working household member. • 70% of Texas employers are small businesses of less than 50 employees, and only 37% of small employers offer health insurance benefits. • <u>Action</u>: Create, if non-existing, and educate the public about individual and small business health care plans. • <u>Concern</u>: Shortage of health care workers. <u>Action</u>: Support creation of a local medical school. |
| July | Connecting to Resources | Central Health / United Way 2-1-1/ Capital Area Food Bank / Catholic Charities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued need for streamlining eligibility determination for public assistance programs • 2-1-1 effective as referral clearinghouse • <u>Action</u>: Collect data to evaluate the enrollment rates of people who are referred and screened for programs. |
| Aug | Housing | HousingWorks / ECHO / NHCD / Center Sustain. Dev. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48% of Travis County households are renters, almost half of which are housing cost-burdened. • 92% rental occupancy rate. • One quarter of owner occupied are housing cost-burdened. • 1998 median home sale 130K, 2008 median home sale 245K, while median income has dropped 7K in this same period. • The market is not creating affordable housing through the city, therefore social commitment is needed. • Housing continuum across the city is needed to avoid economic segregation and to reduce traffic and air pollution. • <u>Action</u>: Retool development regulations to encourage a continuum of housing stock. |
| Sept | Small Business Develop. | Austin SBD / Hispanic Chamber of Commerce / PeopleFund / BIG Austin / AIBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of businesses in Austin employ less than 20. • Austin has twice the national rate of start-up companies. • 4 of the top 10 Hispanic markets are in Texas. • Local businesses have excellent retention. • Health care costs and access to capital (bank financing) are the two largest obstacles for small business creation and expansion. • <u>Action</u>: Create and promote small business health care plans without minimum length of time without coverage and greater range of employees for qualification. (TexHealth, 12 month no coverage, 2-50 employees only.) • <u>Action</u>: If national banks are failing in small business financing, create local solutions. |
| Oct | Sustainability Deliberation | Central Texas Sustainability / Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy, Equity, Environment = Sustainability • Development sprawl is not sustainable due to higher infrastructure and service costs. • Density and multi-family properties are part of the Imagine Austin Plan. |