



Community Action Network Community Council

October 17, 2011



Community Action Network is...

a partnership of agencies,
organizations and individuals
who work together to
enhance the social, health,
educational and economic
well-being of Central Texas.



CAN's role is...



- ▶ to enhance awareness of community issues,
- ▶ to strengthen partnerships, and
- ▶ to support collaborative strategies to improve the well-being of all people in our community.

CAN Partners – working to promote equity and opportunity

Government	Education/ Workforce	Healthcare	Private/Other
City of Austin	Austin Chamber of Commerce	Austin Travis Co Integral Care	Capital Metro
Travis County	Austin Community College	Central Health	Community Justice Council
	Austin ISD	Seton Healthcare Family	One Voice Central Texas
	St. Edward's University	St. David's Foundation	interfaith Action Central Texas
	University of Texas at Austin		United Way Capital Area
	Workforce Solutions – Capital Area		

Policy, Community, and Service



Policy
makers

- CAN Board of Directors - elected officials and policy makers representing each CAN partner organization



Community
members

- CAN Community Council – self-appointed board of community members with an annual application and election process



Service
providers

- Issue Area Groups and Implementation Teams - professionals who serve our community through agencies or non-profit organizations

Role of Community Council

- ▶ The Community Council provides a communication link between the community at large and the CAN Board of Directors. Its duties are to:
 - ▶ Act as a liaison between the CAN Board of Directors and the community.
 - ▶ Raise community awareness about issues by providing a non-partisan forum for the exchange of information on community conditions and efforts to address needs.
 - ▶ Foster, encourage and enhance collaborative efforts whenever possible.
 - ▶ Consider the impacts of recommended collaborative strategies on vulnerable populations and across issue areas.
 - ▶ Report and make recommendations to the CAN Board of Directors.
 - ▶ Encourage community involvement in assessment, planning, and implementation processes.

from CAN bylaws approved 11/13/09

CAN Community Dashboard



we achieve our full potential

kinder ready
graduation
college ready
employment

Where might efforts be leveraged for greater impact or coordinated to fill gaps or address overlaps?

health insurance
mental health
smoking
obesity
air quality



we are healthy



our basic needs are met

low-income
housing cost burden
vehicle miles traveled
homelessness

violent crime
arrest proportionality
voting



we are safe, just & engaged

Community Council 2011

1/6/11	Dashboard highlights of 2010 and CAN Work Plan Discussion of CC agenda for 2011	Community Council
2/24/11	Single Moms – barriers to educational success Travis County Snapshot of Community Conditions	ACC & Jeremiah Project Travis Co. Research & Planning
3/21/11	Results from new Pre-k indicator Early education initiatives AISD new intervention framework	E3 Alliance United Way Success by 6 AISD Student Support
4/18/11	High school career tracks ACC Workforce education	AISD ACC
5/16/11	Deliberation	Community Council

May Deliberation Outcomes

- ▶ **Start Early**

- ▶ Family focused and strength-based programs in parents' primary language. The goal is to increase early childhood resources.

- ▶ **Connecting Resources**

- ▶ Know your audience
- ▶ Tailor the message
- ▶ Partner with key providers

- ▶ **Explore private-public partnerships**

- ▶ Internship opportunities

- ▶ **Enhance Collaborations**

- ▶ **Maximize Return on Educational Investment**

Community Council 2011

6/20/11	Health and Behavioral Health	ATCIC, Central Health, Chronic Disease Coalition
7/18/11	Connecting Families to Resources	Central Health CAFB, CAN
8/15/11	Housing	Center for Sustainable Development, NHCD, ECHO, HousingWorks
9/19/11	Small Business Development	BiG Austin, PeopleFund, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, City of Austin Small Business Programs
10/17/11	Sustainability Deliberation	UT, City of Austin Community Council
Nov	NO MEETING (CAN Retreat)	
12/19/11	Welcome new members, Discussion of 2012 agenda	Community Council

June – Health and Behavioral Health

- ▶ Mental Health Services to Veterans (Louise F. Lynch, ATCIC and Shirin Bazaz, Psy.D., Stage Seven and Samaritan Counseling Center)
 - ▶ There are more than 200,000 veterans in Central Texas with an economic impact of at least \$2.6m.
 - ▶ Central TX has the highest concentrations of returning vets grappling with PTSD in the nation.
 - ▶ Mental health treatment for vets has been expanded with a focus on vet-to-vet peer support.
 - ▶ More needs to be done to let vets and families know of services available.

June – Health and Behavioral Health

- ▶ Smoking (Phil Huang, Medical Director Austin/Travis County Health Department)
 - ▶ Smoking is the #1 cause of preventable death.
 - ▶ 17% of people in Travis County smoke – they are more often, young, male, low-income and have lower education levels.
 - ▶ 70% of Travis County smokers want to quit.
 - ▶ Communities Putting Prevention to Work effort offers free cessation activities and helps public and private businesses go smoke-free.

June – Health and Behavioral Health

- ▶ Health Access for Uninsured and Under-insured (Ed Gomez, Central Health)
 - ▶ Voters approved Health Care District in 2004 to fund health care for uninsured and under-served.
 - ▶ Since then, MAP enrollment has almost doubled.
 - ▶ MAP provides free health care to people at 100% FPL and services on sliding-fee scale up to 200% FPL.
 - ▶ Safety net providers are at capacity
 - ▶ Only 37% of TX small business provide health insurance

July – Maximizing Enrollment

▶ Chantel Bottoms, CAN

- ▶ 350,000 were low-income in Travis County in 2009 – **NEW** information since meeting - in 2010, this increased to 375,147
- ▶ An estimated 232,414 had no health insurance in 2010
- ▶ Average Medicaid enrollment declined in 2011 to 102,476
- ▶ Average SNAP enrollment also declined in 2011 to 111,371
- ▶ CHIP enrollment increased in 2011 with over 15,000 children enrolled. (CHIP covers children between 100% and 185% FPL.)
- ▶ MAP enrollment increased 45% to 17,138 in 2010

July – Maximizing Enrollment

- ▶ **Kit Abney, Insure-A-Kid**
 - ▶ Medicaider/CHASIS screens patients to determine eligibility for multiple state and local health benefits
 - ▶ Integrated Care Collaboration members use the system to share information and community metrics
- ▶ **Claudia Lindenberg, Central Health and Amy Price, 2-1-1**
 - ▶ A partnership with United Way 2-1-1 helps more clients enroll in MAP and State benefit programs, resulting in increased enrollment
 - ▶ 2-1-1 took over 300,000 calls in 2010
 - ▶ One-third of 2-1-1 staff are bi-lingual
 - ▶ Callers most commonly seek assistance for health insurance, food assistance and mental health services

July – Maximizing Enrollment

- ▶ Kathy Gohlon, Capital Area Food Bank and Rose Marie Linen, Catholic Charities
 - ▶ CAFB helps people enroll in SNAP and other public benefits.
 - ▶ CAFB's new Impact Tracker collects information about clients and alerts them when time to re-enroll in benefits.
 - ▶ Catholic Charities serves 20 counties and helps clients complete and submit paper applications for SNAP and other public benefits.
 - ▶ Barriers include low literacy, lack of transportation, difficult and lengthy applications and numerous forms of documentation required to apply for each program.
 - ▶ Because enrollment is not accessible, clients wait until an emergency to apply.

August – Housing Continuum

- ▶ **Rebecca Giello, City of Austin NHCD**
 - ▶ Just over one-half of Austin households are renter households
 - ▶ Austin rent is at an all-time high and renters are much more likely to be housing cost burdened
 - ▶ NHCD has a budget of about \$24.5 million with a 50/50 mix of federal and local funding (local funding is due to \$55 million in affordable housing GO bonds approved by voters in 2006)
 - ▶ City Council has set a goal to create 350 units of Permanent Supportive Housing by 2014. This will house chronically homeless, people with mental illness and/or substance abuse and other vulnerable people.
 - ▶ NHCD is participating in a Housing Stakeholders Group being convened by CAN to promote better collaboration

August – Housing Continuum

- ▶ **Jessie Aric, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition**
 - ▶ ECHO is the homeless planning entity for Austin and Travis County
 - ▶ **Activities include**
 - ▶ Coordination of HUD Continuum of Care funding (\$4.4 million in 2010)
 - ▶ Annual point-in-time count of homeless for HUD (also CAN indicator)
 - ▶ Resource fairs for people who are homeless
 - ▶ Homelessness Awareness and efforts to fight NIMBY
 - ▶ **Strategies that work include...**
 - ▶ Permanent Supportive Housing
 - ▶ Prevention efforts
 - ▶ Improved access to mainstream benefits
 - ▶ Collaboration with VA, hospitals and jails to make sure people are not released to homelessness

August – Housing Continuum

▶ Francie Ferguson, HousingWorks

- ▶ Housing should be viewed as a part of the community infrastructure and policy should encourage all kinds of housing in all parts of town. If not, affordable housing will be pushed further out and there will be concentrations of poverty which impact schools and crime.
- ▶ Recommendations:
 - ▶ Imagine Austin Comp Plan should state specific affordable housing goals for all parts of town.
 - ▶ Public entities (HACA, City, Austin Energy, Cap Metro) should incorporate affordable housing into their public land use plans.
 - ▶ City zoning and development regulations should be revised to protect affordability.
 - ▶ Another election for Affordable Housing General Obligation Bonds is needed.

August – Housing Continuum

- ▶ **Sarah Gamble, Alley Flats Initiative**
 - ▶ In-fill housing increases density and affordability without jeopardizing neighborhood character.
 - ▶ There are as many as 30,000 – 40,000 lots in Austin that have the potential to add an “alley flat” or an additional unit to the property.
- ▶ **Sylvia Blanco, Housing Authority of the City of Austin**
 - ▶ HACA provides public housing and Section 8 housing waivers for low-income residents, but the federal funds for these efforts are not sufficient to meet demand.



September – Small Business

- ▶ **Joy Miller, City of Austin Small Business Development Program**
 - ▶ Over 90% of Austin employers have fewer than 50 employees
 - ▶ Nearly 2 out of 5 jobs in Austin is with a small business
 - ▶ The City offers low-cost and no-cost services to small businesses and weekly trainings
 - ▶ City staff also assist small businesses with zoning and permit processes.
- ▶ **Gary Linder, PeopleFund**
 - ▶ Provide business loans and non-profit loans for existing or new start-ups who cannot get funding through traditional channels.
 - ▶ Interest rates are fixed at 7.5% to 15% depending on risk.

September – Small Business

- ▶ **Andy Martinez, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber**
 - ▶ Local Hispanic buying power was about \$9.2 billion in 2009.
 - ▶ The GAHCC's New Emerging Enterprises Center provides free technology and business management tools and, over the past year and a half, the Center has helped created 30 new businesses and more than 150 new jobs.
 - ▶ Hispanic Organizations Working Together as One (HOWTO) focuses on business development and education.
 - ▶ Hispanic Austin Leadership (HAL) identifies and trains Hispanic leaders
 - ▶ TexHealth – is a small business health benefits plan offered through partnership with Central Health, the Austin Community Foundation, and others.

September – Small Business

- ▶ **Stacy Dukes-Rhone of BiGAustin**
 - ▶ Greatest barriers are lack of capital and inability to afford professionals to manage books and provide expertise
 - ▶ BiGAustin provides business services to small businesses; has a new program to help ex-offenders start businesses; and a youth entrepreneurship program that targets high school drop outs.
- ▶ **Dan Gillotte of the Austin Independent Business Association**
 - ▶ AIBA provides business marketing and peer-to-peer support and networking.

CAN Community Council Discussion

Where might efforts be leveraged for greater impact or coordinated to fill gaps or address overlaps?