



## **Community Action Network IAG Leadership and Planning Committee 07/20/10 Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Beth Atherton (Basic Needs), Angela Atwood (Aging Services Council), Laurie DeLong (Behavioral Health), Kathy Echols (Housing), Darla Gay (Public Safety), Stevie Greathouse (Transportation), Arturo Hernandez (Child and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership), Suzanne Hershey (Ready by 21), Jeri Houchins (Reentry Roundtable), Shannon Mann (Literacy), Ed McHorse (Homelessness), John McNabb (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), Marietta Noel (Behavioral Health), Kenneth Placke (Behavioral Health), Meg Poag (Literacy), and Sarah Rinner (Afterschool)

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

**Absent:** Early Education and Care, Education, Immigration, and Workforce Development

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Vanessa Sarria called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Issue area group leaders introduced themselves.
  
- II. **Announcements & Updates on IAG Activities:** The Regional Transit Coordination Committee (RTCC) has been working to put together a draft of a regional transit coordination plan for the ten county area. A draft should be released in August or September. There will be community meetings in October for feedback and the plan will be approved in November. This plan will guide the spending of certain federal transportation dollars.

The Basic Needs Coalition (BNC) is planning for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week with an advocacy focus on food. The BNC's housing group is working with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition's (ECHO) housing group to identify key issues and areas that they have in common (e.g. common landlords of clients). Other BNC efforts around food include a review of a study that was done on food deserts in our community with a goal of updating information on small pantries.

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition (IDDC) spent much of the spring doing advocacy work at the capital. They have completed a document with suggested interim charges for the next legislative session. Now the IDCC is gearing up to host a forum for families with children transitioning into adult services.

The Reentry Roundtable (RRT) stated that the new term they are using for their target population is "reentry citizens." The RRT is working to braid work around policy reform and housing with a focus on coordination around reentry services to prevent duplication. RRT will be hosting meetings to discuss potential collaboration to draw down discretionary funds.

The Behavioral Health Planning Partnership (BHPP) is working on the concept of recovery oriented systems of care and a continuum of care for persons with behavioral health issues (such as through an adult Community Resource Coordination Group – CRCG). These are efforts that could be integrated with other issue area groups. Recovery oriented systems of care was cited as a cost-saving strategy.

The Child and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership (CYMHPP) is working on reviewing their strategic plan. The foci of the plan are: improving training opportunities for coalition members, development of better coordination and collaboration across systems, sharing data across systems, empowering parents in accessing services for their children, expanding available child psychiatrists in our community, and developing materials for parents on mental health issues.

The Literacy Coalition is working on a literacy public awareness and education for the community at-large and is conducting intensive outreach to low-literate populations at social service agencies that they may already be affiliated with. The Literacy Coalition is also targeting parents to help them prepare their kids for school. The Coalition's healthcare referral guide will be released on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Dell Children's center. The guide includes information on eligibility criteria, services



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available to the uninsured, etc. It is intended for use by caseworkers. This will be the last year that the guides will go into print, but they will continue to be available online.

Ready by 21 (RB21) announced that the Community Dashboard for Children and Youth is now available online at [www.centex-communitydashboards.org/rb21](http://www.centex-communitydashboards.org/rb21). RB21 is continuing to work with United Way Capital Area to convene the Steering Group on Children and Youth which brings together leaders from child and youth serving coalitions. RB21 is also collaborating with the Central Texas Afterschool Network (CTAN) on a professional development initiative.

The Community Justice Council will be going through a planning process with forums to update the community public safety plan that is required by the Governor's Office every three years. The identified priorities are mental health and substance abuse. The Community Justice Council wants to develop a behavioral health planning initiative that looks at behavioral health issues within the criminal justice system. They would also like to consider what needs to be done across systems to maximize funding streams.

ECHO has rolled out a ten year plan to end community homelessness and is working on a two year action plan. Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is ECHO's primary issue right now. ECHO is identifying funding sources and collaborations to make PSH happen. They are also looking to conduct community education and outreach related to PSH and what it really means for our community in an effort to end stereotypes. ECHO's 100,000 homes campaign is working to identify the most vulnerable individuals in our community. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is being analyzed for possible improvements and data sharing arrangements with public safety and health systems.

CTAN has received funding from the KDK Harmon Foundation to hire an intern who has helped to collect data on out-of-school time programs in low-income schools in Travis County. The data will be used to produce a report which will be launched sometime in the next quarter.

The Aging Services Council (ASC) announced that the Austin-Round Rock area has the fastest growing population of persons ages 50 and older in the nation. Austin is reportedly the number one retirement destination in the community. The ASC is gearing up to do some community planning and has been working on respite efforts among volunteers and family members of the aging in the community.

HousingWorks held their annual affordable housing bus tour and reception to increase awareness of affordable housing needs and models in our community. They are working to ensure that there is money for affordable housing in future bond packages. HousingWorks is also coordinating with the Austin Housing Repair Coalition, weighing in on the City of Austin's comprehensive plan, and analyzing issues related to student mobility and housing developments (these conversations are being held within the City/County/Austin Independent School District subcommittee).

- III. **Quick Update on the 2011 CAN Work Plan:** Vanessa Sarria shared a copy of the CAN Work Plan (available online here: <http://www.caction.org/initiatives/CAN2011WorkPlan.pdf>) and an update on what has been accomplished to date in implementing the plan.
- IV. **Presentation on 2011 State Budget Cuts:** Vanessa Sarria presented an overview of the impacts of state budget cuts based on information gathered by the Intergovernmental Public Policy Committee. The overall loss from state budget cuts is \$15 billion, an 8% decrease. Eleven billion of the budget cuts are from health and human services. A component of this is cuts to Medicaid reimbursement rates which will decrease the ability of people to receive health care even if they are eligible for and enrolled in a public healthcare program. Current state funding does not meet the needs of our communities. Cuts to state agencies will impact direct services to residents of Travis County by the state, services provided to residents through state contracts with non-profits, and



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through job losses. Federal cuts and the end of stimulus funding will exacerbate the situation. Travis County received over \$566 million in stimulus funding. Budget cuts will affect our community's ability to positively impact dashboard indicators. The full presentation on the impact of state budget cuts can be found online here: [http://www.caction.org/councils/Board\\_of\\_Directors/presentations/Jul2011\\_ImpactOfStateBudgetCuts.pdf](http://www.caction.org/councils/Board_of_Directors/presentations/Jul2011_ImpactOfStateBudgetCuts.pdf).

### V. Overview of CAN Structure, Issue Area Groups, CAN Staff Support, IAG Guidelines

- Aging Services Council\* (Mary Dodd)
- Basic Needs Coalition\* (Mary Dodd)
- Behavioral Health Planning Partnership\* (Vanessa Sarria)
- Central Texas Afterschool Network\* (Chantel Bottoms)
- Child & Youth Mental Health PP\* (Chantel Bottoms)
- Ending Community Homelessness Coalition\* (Mary Dodd, Chantel Bottoms)
- HousingWorks (Mary Dodd)
- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities\* (Mary Dodd)
- Literacy Coalition of Central Texas (Chantel Bottoms)
- Ready by 21 (Chantel Bottoms and Vanessa Sarria)
- Reentry Roundtable\* (Vanessa Sarria)
- Regional Transit Coordination Committee (Vanessa Sarria)
- Early Childhood Stakeholders/Success by Six (Chantel Bottoms)

Organizations designated with (\*) receive website support from CAN.

### VI. Discussion on IAG and CAN Structure Strengths, Opportunities, Threats, and Weaknesses:

IAG Leaders stated that CAN assistance that has been beneficial to their organizations include: website support, support from CAN staff in convening and connecting people, data analysis, and FAQs. IAG Leaders noted that the Community Dashboard does not share an adequate amount of information on vulnerable populations. There were also concerns that the dashboard is not being marketed to the general public who could benefit the most from the information. It was also noted that some issue area groups are focused on issues and some are focused on populations. There is a need to examine the feasibility of community planning among issue area groups and the feasibility of facilitating planning efforts.

**VII. Next Steps:** CAN needs to continue having a conversation about how to reach the general population with information from the dashboard. The Community Dashboard should also have an increased focus on specialized populations. This will be done through the continual refinement of drill-down statistics. Questions that need to be answered are: How can CAN use the Issue Area Leadership and Planning Committee optimally? What does the Board and Executive Committee need from Issue Area Groups? It was suggested that perhaps this conversation can be picked up at the CAN retreat.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.** Next meeting: TBA