



**PRESS RELEASE
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Community Action Network Unveils Community Dashboard Report

Annual Report to Measure Key Social Indicators

Austin, TX - The Community Action Network (CAN), a partnership of public and private organizations in Austin and Travis County, held a press conference today to unveil the Community Dashboard 2010. "We will update this Community Dashboard annually," said David Evans, Executive Director of Austin Travis County Integral Care and Chair of the Community Action Network, "it is a report card of sorts that tells us how we are doing in enhancing the health, safety, education and well-being of the people in our community."

Community Dashboard 2010 includes 16 key social indicators that will be tracked over time to gauge progress toward achieving shared goals. Austin Council Member Laura Morrison, a member of the CAN Board of Directors, noted that the indicators are interrelated. "Making improvements in one area, while neglecting another, will not achieve the results we want," Morrison said. "These indicators are inter-connected and need to be considered together."

The CAN partner organizations represent many of the public and private agencies that provide resources to enhance the social, health, educational and economic well-being of Central Texas. Travis County Commissioner, Sarah Eckhardt, Chair-Elect of the CAN Board of Directors, said the Community Dashboard will be used to help guide the work the CAN partners do together. "In times of financial stress, it is more important than ever for governmental and private agencies to work together to address our community's needs," Eckhardt said. "We must work together to develop

efficient and effective strategies so that our public, tax-supported investments will go further and have a greater impact.”

The Community Dashboard process began in 2009 when CAN appointed a Dashboard Steering Committee made up of representatives from a broad array of issues, including health and human services, criminal justice, education, workforce and mental health. The Dashboard Steering Committee was chaired by Ashton Cumberbatch, a Vice President with the Seton Family of Hospitals, who highlighted some of the key findings in the report. “We have a larger percentage of households in our area who pay more than they can afford for housing,” Cumberbatch noted. He added that one out of every three people in Travis County are low income and have a difficult time meeting their families’ most basic needs. One of every four Austin high school students in the Class of 2008 did not graduate in four years, and only half of those who did were “college ready” based on ACT, SAT and state test scores.

The Community Dashboard indicators are already being used to help guide community discussions. The CAN Community Council has begun a series of monthly, televised forums on the indicators. Community stakeholders are sharing what is being done locally to improve the indicator as well as suggestions for what more needs to be done. Visit www.caction.org for more information and for a copy of the report.

About Community Action Network

Community Action Network, began in 1995 and is a coalition of public and private community organizations with the common mission of achieving sustainable social, health, educational and economic outcomes through engaging the community in a planning and implementation process that coordinates and optimizes public, private, and individual actions and resources. Community Action Network’s role is to enhance awareness of community issues, strengthen partnerships, support collaborative strategies to maximize community resources and impact, and to mobilize action by reporting on progress made to improve our community well-being.

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