



Community Action Network Dashboard Steering Committee 10/04/10 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Ashton Cumberbatch (Seton Family of Hospitals), Frances Deviney (Center for Public Policy Priorities), Darla Gay (Travis County District Attorney's Office), Suzanne Hershey (for Bob Rutishauser), Roger Jeffries (Travis County Criminal Justice), Chris King (Ray Marshall Center, UT Austin), Louise Lynch (Austin Travis County Integral Care), Amy Wong Mok (Community Council), Beth Peck (Central Health), and Susan Stone (Mental Health Task Force).

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

Unable to Attend: John-Michael Cortez (Capital Metro), Sherri Fleming (Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service), Susan Gehring (City of Austin HHS), Anjum Khurshid (Integrated Care Collaboration), Emily de Maria (United Way Capital Area), Ryan Robinson (City of Austin), Bob Rutishauser (Workforce Solutions-Capital Area), Jim Walker (Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project & UT Austin), Michael Wilson (St. David's Foundation)

Call to Order, Introductions, and Announcements: Ashton Cumberbatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Overview of data, information and recommendations to be shared with CAN Board on Oct 8:

- **Presentation:** Mary Dodd shared highlights of presentations made by stakeholders to the CAN Community Council on the following Community Dashboard indicators:

- Unemployment
- Smoking
- Obesity
- % with no health insurance
- Violent crime
- Proportionality of arrests

Discussion: It was noted that an increase in aggravated assaults was driving the increase in violent crime in Travis County. The Sheriff's Office theorizes this could be due, in part, to fighting at bars and the building of establishments such as strip clubs in the unincorporated county areas. We know that aggravated assaults on the felony level that are incidents of domestic violence are increasing for the sheriff's office. The Pflugerville area/Wells Branch areas have shown spikes in violent crime. Data has not been overlaid with drug use issues. The Committee recommended that for the arrest disproportionality indicator, the data be changed to compare the demographics of those booked into the Travis County jail with the demographics of those 18 and older in Travis County, rather than the total population. This will help adjust for the large child population.

- **Consider new indicator for Mental Health–** Dr. Susan Stone, with the Mental Health Task Force, gave an update on the progress with the Mental Health Indicator Improvement Initiative. The Initiative has identified five community indicators for mental health.
 1. **Criminal Justice:** The percent of individuals in the Travis County Jail who have been identified as having serious mental illness.
 2. **Youth:** Austin Independent School District patterns regarding discretionary removals to alternative learning settings for youths with behavioral health issues.
 3. **Access:** Readmission patterns for publicly funded hospital beds within 30 days of hospital discharge.
 4. **Housing:** Self-reported housing instability for high-risk populations.
 5. **Substance Use:** Percent of individuals presenting to local area emergency departments with primary substance use diagnoses.

The Committee discussed changing the current mental health indicator on the dashboard “% adults who report poor mental health days” to “readmission to public psychiatric hospital within 30

days of discharge.” It was noted that the indicator focuses on a limited population and is not indicative of the well-being of the whole community. It was noted that if the mental health indicator could provide a link to the Indicator Improvement Initiative with further information on all five of the Mental Health Task Force indicators.

- **Setting a Goal and Targets for the Indicators** - Staff provided an overview of how other indicator projects go about setting goals and targets. Committee members discussed the benefits, issues and challenges of setting goals and targets for the indicators.

Schedule for remaining Community Council indicator forums and CAN Retreat: Mary Dodd listed the upcoming community council forums on the indicators. She also announced that the CAN Retreat will take place on Wednesday, November 3rd from 8:30-11:30 at Goodwill, 1015 Norwood Park Blvd.

Adjournment: Ashton Cumberbatch, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m. The Dashboard Steering Committee will hold its final meeting of the year on December 6, 2010.