



Community Action Network Dashboard Steering Committee 09/19/2011 Meeting Minutes

Present: Katie Coburn (Central Health), John-Michael Cortez (Capital Metro), Ashton Cumberbatch (Seton), Rachel Douglas (UT – LBJ School), Frank Fernandez (HousingWorks), Jasmine Griffin-Ives (Workforce Solutions), Carolyn Hanchen (Austin ISD), Mike Hemby (Travis County Sherriff's Office), Erica Linneman (CAPCOG), Lawrence Lyman (Travis County), Louise Lynch (ATCIC), Ellen Richards (Central Health),

Staff: Chantel Bottoms, Mary Dodd, and Vanessa Sarria

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Mary Dodd, CAN Assistant Director, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

- **Take Action on Recommendations for Goals and Targets:**

- % of people who are low-income:** Rachel Douglas, a doctoral student at the University of Texas, worked with Dr. Pat Wong, Associate Professor of Public Affairs at the LBJ School, to convene a group of people to discuss the low-income dashboard indicator. The group of stakeholders included CAN issue area group leaders and Basic Needs Coalition leaders. Their proposal is that the goal for this indicator be to reduce the % low-income in our community and the target is for to reduce the % of low-income persons to 30% in Travis County by 2017. Thirty percent is the national rate reported in the 2011 dashboard report. Dashboard Steering Committee (DSC) members approved a motion to accept the goal and target for this indicator.
- % in Travis County who are unemployed:** Jasmine Griffin-Ives spoke. Workforce Solutions proposes that a goal and target be set for the unemployment indicator based on typical unemployment rates for our community during non-recession periods. The goal is to reduce the unemployment rate and the target is 4% by 2017. Griffin-Ives emphasized the importance of communicating how our community has very little ability to impact this indicator and that there are many drivers that complicate the issue of unemployment. DSC members noted that these are concerns for all of the dashboard indicators. DSC members approved a motion to accept the goal and target for this indicator.
- % of households in Travis County that are cost-burdened:** Frank Fernandez spoke. Housing stakeholders proposed that a target for this indicator be based on pre-recession numbers. The goal is to decrease the % of people who are housing cost-burdened and the target is 36% by 2017. This is considered to be an aggressive target that is intended to help drive action and inspire people to work to turn the curve. It was noted that there are strong ties between the unemployment, low-income, and housing cost-burdened indicators. For example, if a person is employed then they are less likely to be low-income and if they are less likely to be low-income then they are less likely to be housing cost-burdened. The housing stakeholder group also discussed what other key data points need to be explored in the dashboard drill-downs. Fernandez suggested that key potential impacts on the housing cost-burdened indicator include the housing bond that will be up for a vote in 2012, and our community's ability to improve the quality of our existing housing stock. DSC members approved a motion to accept the goal and target for this indicator.
- Homeless indicator:** Right now the goal for ECHO is just to get an accurate count of the homeless in our community. A representative from ECHO will be asked to join the next DSC meeting to explain what an accurate count may look like and when it can be expected.
- % of people under the age of 65 who have no health insurance:** Katie Coburn and Ellen Richards spoke. The goal is reduce the % of people with no health insurance

and the target is 22% by 2014. A group of health stakeholders felt that having an achievable target was important, and estimates show that this proposed target could be met through efforts such as enrolling all eligible children in Medicaid/CHIP. It was suggested that Tarrant County and Wake County be benchmark cities to consider in evaluating this community indicator. Health reform, a regional healthcare coverage collaborative, and Central Health's new efforts to enroll clients in state health insurance coverage programs will help drive change on this indicator. DSC members approved a motion to accept the goal and target for this indicator.

- vi. **Violent crime rate:** Mike Hemby spoke. He stated that the Community Justice Council proposed that the goal for the violent crime rate be to maintain our community's current violent crime rate. This was proposed as our community has a relatively low crime rate compared to other major metro areas. Hemby explained that Travis County has a surge population of 1.2 million people. This means that at peak times such as during the work day or during weekend events Travis County's population is significantly higher than the population that is reported as living in Travis County. We know that based on this, population growth, and other such factors, holding steady on the violent crime rate is a fairly ambitious goal. A factor to consider in future years is that the City of Austin is hiring more officers, and this increase of law enforcement is likely to create an increase in the crime rate. It was suggested that the dashboard drill-downs give increased consideration to the variation of rates for the different types of crimes that are considered to be "violent crime." DSC members approved a motion to accept the goal and target for this indicator.
- vii. **Arrest disproportionality:** Mary Dodd spoke. The Community Justice Council (CJC) agreed on a goal for this indicator: to reduce arrest disproportionality. The CJC, however, recommended that a higher level group of criminal justice professionals be engaged in order to develop a target for this indicator. No motion was made to approve the goal for this indicator as it was agreed that the goal should be presented in conjunction with a proposed target.
- viii. Other Discussion: DSC members expressed some concern about the criteria for setting goals and targets. Some struggled with the issue of whether goals and targets should be developed according to what is realistically accomplishable or if they should be developed with the intention of inspiring political action. DSC members noted that due to rapid population growth in our community, even holding steady on the current percentages for our indicators would be a great challenge. DSC members recommended that the dashboard offer both number and percentage changes in indicators to emphasize exactly how large of populations we are referring to in each case. It was suggested that the dashboard report include some language about how it will be difficult to positively impact our dashboard indicators in the near future due to our community's rapid population growth.

- **Review Remaining Indicators:** Not discussed.
- **Review and Provide Feedback on CAN's draft "Strategic Framework" (Note: This framework will be shared at the CAN Retreat on Wednesday, November 2nd from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.):** DSC members were provided with strategic framework. Feedback may be sent to Mary Dodd at mary.dodd@austinsd.org.
- **Review Early Draft of Dashboard Drill-Down for 2012:** DSC members recommended that all language in the vulnerable populations section be "people first language."
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m. The next CAN Dashboard Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5th from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at Seton.