can DASHBOARD

CAN Dashboard Steering Committee
August 6, 2015
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Chantel Bottoms (United Way for Greater Austin), Megan Cermak (Central Health), Caitlin D'Alton (Capital Metro), Tiffany Daniels (Workforce Solutions-Capital Area), Mandy DeMayo (HousingWorks), Bini Foster (Ready By 21), Darla Gay (Community Justice Council), Phil Huang (ATC Health and Human Services), Chris King (Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources), Jennifer Lee (Center for Public Policy Priorities), Lawrence Lyman (Travis County Health and Human Services), Louise Lynch (Austin Travis County Integral Care), Jonathan Tomko (NHCD),

Staff in Attendance: Hannah Brown, Mary Dodd and Kevin Paris

Committee Chair, Lawrence Lyman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Review results of Dashboard user survey: Kevin Paris shared CAN Dashboard survey results. The survey was distributed to CAN's entire Constant Contact list serve of over 5,000 people and was open from June 15 to July 15, 2015. We received 42 responses. 62% of respondents had used the dashboard website more than once in the past year, but less than monthly. Almost half reported using the dashboard for professional purposes and another one-third use it both professionally and personally. 74% use the report to gather general information about the community. A little over one-third use it to gather information for advocacy, to inform community groups, or to inform friends, neighbors and colleagues about community trends. Respondents appreciated the simplicity of presentation and disparity data. Many written comments applauded the simplicity of presentation, ease of use and accessibility of data.

The Dashboard Steering Committee agreed that the survey reinforced the idea that the Dashboard audience is mostly lay people, rather than researchers, and its accessibility and communicability are important features to maintain and improve upon in the future.

"We are safe, just & engaged" Review indicators, report pages and drilldowns for the indicators: the Committee reviewed the indicators for crime, voting and proportionality of jail bookings. It was noted that preliminary data shows the crime rate will once again decline. The definition of "rape" has been expanded somewhat, so there will likely be an increase in the violent crime rate. With regard to the voting indicator, the Committee discussed the fact that reports published in the spring of even numbered years face a difficulty of not having new data to report, since the state/gubernatorial and national/presidential elections are held in November of even numbered years. It was noted that the 2016 report will provide an opportunity to remind people of the goal that is set for presidential voter turnout and efforts to increase voter registration. It could also provide a recap of the impact of the new 10-One single member district elections on local voter turnout. There was also discussion of including data from the Annette Strauss Centers' Texas Civic Health Index.

"Our basic needs are met" Review indicators, report pages and drilldowns for the indicators: Jonathon Tomko, with City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development shared concerns about the current housing indicator, which shows that % housing cost-burdened is "better." The Committee

discussed other possible indicators and the idea of reporting the number of people who are cost burdened, rather than the %. A majority agreed that it is important to continue to report data as a percent of the total, rather than as a number. The Housing+Transportation Affordability Index http://htaindex.cnt.org/map/ was discussed, but it provides mapping comparisons of relative affordability, and is not a population wide indicator, for instance, it does not state what percentage of people within a geographic are a paying more for H+T than the recommended 45%. The Committee discussed using "extreme costs burdened" as the indicator. This indicator measures the percent of households that spend half or more of their income on housing. After some discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the housing indicator be changed from housing cost burdened to severe housing cost burdened. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was noted that many of the indicators on the Dashboard report "better" because the five-year trend line covers a time that is emerging from the recession. Indicators in the 2016 report are likely to continue this trend, due to the lag time in data reporting. Phil Huang noted that the partners in the www.HealthyATC.org initiative faced the same difficulty in reporting population-wide indicators. Travis County, as a whole, is a very healthy community, but there are important health disparities that need to be communicated. To deal with this, HealthyATC chose to feature a key disparity for each of its four health indicators, rather than a population wide statistic. There was discussion about how the CAN Dashboard could adapt this idea for its own use.

Adjournment: Kevin Paris announced that he is leaving CAN. Committee members wished him well. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.