



CAN Dashboard Steering Committee

October 1, 2015

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Chantel Bottoms (United Way for Greater Austin), Caitlyn Dalton (Capital Metro), Marianne Gomez (Central Health), Jennifer Lee (Center for Public Policy Priorities), Lawrence Lyman (Travis County Health and Human Services), Louise Lynch (Austin Travis County Integral Care)

Staff in Attendance: Catie Bialick, Hannah Brown and Mary Dodd

Committee Chair, Lawrence Lyman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Due to low attendance, the approval of minutes from the August 6, 2015 meeting was delayed to the next meeting.

Discussion of www.HealthyATC.org: Lawrence Lyman noted that Central Health, the City of Austin and Travis County have released a new health dashboard, called Healthy ATC, which features four indicators: obesity, smoking, diabetes and HIV infection. On most of these indicators, Travis County does significantly better than the State of Texas. Rather than feature the population-wide rates of obesity, smoking, diabetes, and HIV, the dashboard instead features disparities among racial and economic groups. The group discussed adopting this same type of approach for the CAN Dashboard.

Data Update on 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 healthy” Review indicators, report pages and drilldowns for the indicators: Catie Bialick shared a presentation of the newly released American Community Survey 1-Year data for the uninsured rate. Bialick said the newest data for the Community for Disease Control’s Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System has recently been released, but she has not yet had time to analyze that data. The percent of people under the age of 65 who are uninsured in Travis County declined from 20% in 2013 to 18% in 2014. This surpasses the target of 20%, set by the Dashboard Steering Committee several years ago, and is well below the state rate of 21% but is higher than the national rate of 13%. The 2014 data is the first year of data to fully reflect the impact of the Affordable Care Act. Bialick reviewed key disparities for this indicator. While only 11% of non-low income people in Travis County are insured, 32% of low-income people, under the age of 65, are uninsured. Adults are also much more likely to be uninsured than children. Hispanics and foreign born non-citizens are most likely to be uninsured. It was noted that a new target needs to be set for the uninsured indicator at a future meeting.

Consequences of changing housing indicator to severely cost burdened: The new ACS data release also included housing data. At its last meeting, the DSC voted to change the housing indicator to % Travis County residents who are severely cost burdened, or who pay more than 50% of their income for housing. According to the newly released data, the percent of households in Travis County that are cost burdened remained constant at 36% in 2014. The rate of households in Travis County that were

severely cost burdened declined from 17% to 16%. The greatest disparity for both indicators is between home owners and renters. Renters are about twice as likely as home owners to be housing cost-burdened and are more than twice as likely to be severely cost burdened.

The 2015 CAN Dashboard report noted the greatest disparities when the data was analyzed by income level, as stated in the report, "In 2013, 48% of renter and 25% of homeowner households were cost-burdened. Renters with low incomes are most heavily impacted. According to the most recent Census estimates, 73% of Travis County renters earning less than \$50,000 per year were considered housing cost-burdened." Bialick said this statement is derived from data from the American Community Survey 5-year data estimates, which are due to be updated in December. She noted that the income level data is not available for the severely cost-burdened. It is only available for cost-burdened. One consequence of changing the Dashboard housing indicator from cost burdened to severely cost burdened is that an analysis by income level is not available for the latter.

Discuss redesign of CAN Dashboard: The Committee discussed the fact that many indicators on the CAN Dashboard have improved over the past five years, resulting in a "better" icon. The height of the Great Recession was reflected in 2010 data and most community measures have been improving since then. Even though there is improvement across the board, there are also troubling disparities and gaps. These disparities are highlighted in the current report and are represented with data and graphs on the website, but they could be featured more prominently. The Committee discussed several options: one was to reduce the size of the dashboard report to a brochure that highlights key disparities and directs people to the website for more complete information; another option was to more prominently feature the key disparity on each indicator page in the report; another idea was to add a section to the website and report that focused on equity. The Committee agreed to continue the conversation on how best to reflect, not only the overall well-being of the community, but key disparities in future reports.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.