



## Community Action Network Administrative Team 01/05/09 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Dinita Caldwell (Capital Metro), Vince Cobalis (City of Austin), Emily DeMaria (United Way Capital Area), Sherri Fleming (Travis Co.), Rebecca Giello (City of Austin NHCD), Annette Gula (Workforce Solutions), Bergeron Harris (AISD), Roger Jefferies (Travis Co. Criminal Justice), Beth Peck (Travis County Healthcare District), Kenneth Placke (for Sally Spill, ATCMHMR), Dan Pruett (AAHSA), and Gerry Tucker (ACC).

**CAN Staff:** Mary Dodd, and Vanessa Sarria.

**Unable to Attend:** Tommy Darwin (UT), Freddie Dixon (UT), Estela Medina (Community Justice Council), Alan Miller (Workforce Solutions), and Drew Scheberle (Austin Chamber).

- I. **Call to Order, Introductions & Announcements:** Vince Cobalis, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Members introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from December 01, 2008:** The minutes were approved.
- III. **CAN End of Year Report:** Vanessa Sarria reviewed accomplishments of 2008 and plans for 2009. She noted the CAN Resource Council took action on three major objectives in 2008: 1) adopted Ideal Statements which reflect a common vision for our community; 2) voted to work together toward the creation of a Community-Wide Dashboard of key indicators of our community's well-being, 3) voted to work together to develop and adopt a Compact for Children and Youth. These three issues will be CAN priorities for 2009. Vanessa noted that since March 2008 CAN has been fully staffed, which has allowed the organization to direct more focus and attention to Issue Area Groups and to improve communication and reports. CANews, a weekly e-mail newsletter is sent to about 2000 people and shares news, reports and other information of interest to CAN Partners and the CAN community. The Community Conditions Overview was re-established with two editions in 2008 and one edition planned in 2009. Staff has also worked with Issue Area Groups to update FAQs.
- IV. **Updates on CAN Administrative Team Initiatives:** Sherri Fleming said representatives from the Administrative Team, ICC, Catholic Charities and Insure a Kid met with directors of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to discuss a local desire to increase outreach and enrollment for federally subsidized programs such as TANF, Medicaid, CHIP and Food Stamps. Sherri said while many recognize the shortcomings of the new TIERS system for enrollment, the State of Texas is moving forward with that system. The working group will continue to meet with State HHS officials to discuss how local community partners can work with the State to make enrollment in federal subsidy programs more efficient and effective. Sherri said she will continue to keep the Administrative Team updated on the efforts.

Mary Dodd shared a list of people who have agreed to serve on a Dashboard Steering Committee and reviewed the timeline for the committee. The Dashboard Steering Committee will have four meetings. Their task will be to develop a short list of community indicators that, when taken together, offer an assessment of whether our community is moving toward the shared vision expressed in the Ideal Statements that were approved by the Administrative Team and Resource Council in December. Mary noted that the National Association of Planning Councils will hold its annual retreat in Austin in March and will

include presentations about community dashboard projects across the country. Dashboard Steering Committees will be invited and encouraged to attend these sessions. The timeline calls for the Dashboard Steering committee to meet in February, April, June and September and to share its recommendations at the CAN retreat in October.

Vanessa Sarria reviewed the list of people who have been identified by CAN Partners to work with Ready By 21 to finalize the outcomes and indicators for children and youth and to develop a Compact for Children and Youth.

- V. **AISD Student Support Services and Dropout Prevention:** Bergeron Harris, an Administrative Team member and the Assistant Superintendent for Educational Support Services for AISD, introduced Eric Metcalf with Communities in Schools and Dr. Lupita Garcia, the Director of Student Support Services for AISD. Bergeron shared a table with the preliminary AISD drop-out rates for 2007-2008. The report showed that 4% of Austin 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders dropped out of school during the school year and 0.3% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders dropped out. Bergeron shared a list of risk factors at the elementary, middle and high school levels that are significantly related to dropping out of school. He noted that four of the risk factors reach across all K-12 grade levels. Those are: low academic achievement; retention and/or over-age for grade; low socioeconomic status; and poor attendance. Eric Metcalf noted that the local CIS chapter is one of two selected by the national CIS office to participate in a study to assess the success of various drop out prevention strategies. Eric said in addition to school governance and pedagogy (instructional design), the community at large and non-academic factors can play a large role in helping students stay in school. Dr. Lupita Garcia said reaching parents is critical and she advocated helping parents beginning in the early years of their child's life. She said many parents must be taught and encouraged to read to their children and to set high expectations for academic achievement. She noted that AISD has an IMPACT Team on each campus that identifies students who show signs of emotional or academic stress. The team works with the student and the family to address problems. She said these efforts and efforts promoted through the ACCESS grant help identify students who need services, but there are still not enough services for every child and family who needs them.
- VI. **Other Business:** Rebecca Giello with the City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development said CAN will host a public forum on the new Five Year Consolidated Plan on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. This is one of several public forums. In addition to the general public forums, the City of Austin HHS is scheduling about 20 stakeholder meetings with specific interest groups to gain input as well. The Consolidated Plan outlines the City's priorities for spending an estimated \$69 million in funds.
- VII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting of the CAN Administrative Team will be Monday, February 2, 2009 at 3:00 at the United Way Capital Area.