

# AAHSA Austin Area Human Services Association

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P.O. Box 300152 • Austin, TX 78703

[www.AAHSA.net](http://www.AAHSA.net)

**General Membership Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 21, 2007 ~ 11:30am

Waterloo Conference Room  
United Way Capital Area

## Meeting Minutes

### Check-in & Lunch

Welcome/Introduction of Jason

Gena VanOsselaer

Attendance:

### 11:30am ~ Guest Speaker

- **Jason Sabo, Senior Vice President of Public Policy** at United Way Capital Area.
  - What is happening at the Capitol and what collectively as AAHSA members we can do about it.
    - After 2007, there will be a semi permanent fiscal crisis. Health & Human services are over funded. Texas is a state dependent on federal dollars. Worse things get federally, worse they will get in our State.
    - “A nightmare is expected at next session based on decisions made 4 years ago”.
    - As a group, we need to protect what we have and fight against future cuts. Toward April & May AAHSA should have small list of interim committee recommendations. Jason will assist our efforts. What do we want to work on for next session? Jason recommends thinking now what we want to do in 2009 that does not cost a lot of money.
    - Education and H & H services are not priorities. Number 1 priority, flat out is paying for property tax cuts from previous years.
    - With less Federal money, there is less political motivation to cap State budget. 2007 could be ugly, with 2009 seeing an improvement.
    - Focus on money issues now policy issues later!!

### Putting People First!

Established in 1983, the Austin Area Human Services Association is comprised of more than 70 non-profit organizations representing a broad spectrum of critical and essential services in our community.

- Gena question, “What can AAHSA do to be most effective?”
  - Jason ~ Support Meals on Wheels bill ~ House bill 407, Senate 750, Keep an eye on “CHIP”.. louder we are the better. Contact Elliott Naishtat with your concerns; office 512-463-0668, or visit his website to send e-mail, [www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist49/naishtat.htm](http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist49/naishtat.htm) .
  - Want to know what is moving on our issues? Have questions? Contact Jason Sabo directly, 450-2125 or [Jason.sabo@uwtexas.org](mailto:Jason.sabo@uwtexas.org) . Jason will soon post a Bill tracking sheet on his website. Visit his Capitol Blog at [www.uwtexas.org/display.php?tid=131](http://www.uwtexas.org/display.php?tid=131)
- Areas of interest at the Capitol: Immigration “stuff” is moving and no one is talking about it. General budget is interesting ~ talking about spending limits and spending caps in two years.
- Jason has observed more non-profits, more kid advocates at the Capitol than ever before.
- Times are changing and people are paying attention, more than in previous years.
- Austin & Midland have biggest responsibility to advocate. Why? Because we are here! Midland has the Speaker. Take advantage of access to Capitol!!

#### AAHSA Business

Gena VanOsselaer

- **Member Introduction & Area of Interest**
  - Gena VanOsselaer ~ Child Welfare & Privatization
  - Janis Gernert
  - Melissa Uren ~ Austin Habitat for Humanity
  - Amy Peoples ~ CHIP, Mental Health
  - Lynda Shanblum ~
  - Lynore Brown ~ Austin Acaedmy ~ Children, CHIP, Mental Health
  - Amri Gonzalez ~ Austin Academy
  - John McNabb ~ Vaughn House ~ Reasonable reimbursements for clients
  - Larry Elsner ~ Open Door Preschool ~ Early childhood education issues
  - Kelley Brault ~ Lee Leffingwell’s office ~ Everything 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of the month open forum to getting council’s attention. Kelley coordinates agenda for those meetings.
  - Nancy Neavel ~ Heath care, mental health care.
  - Don Zappone ~ Austin Child Guidance Center
  - Tracey Whitley ~ Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid ~ All issues for low income families
  - Lila Carl ~ Children, H & H services.
  - Pam Arnold ~ Foundation for the Homeless ~ Homelessness
  - Miriam Nisenbaum ~ Easter Seals of Central TX ~ Child & Disability issues.
  - Lee Mansford ~ Aids of Austin
  - Sam Wollard ~ Community Action Network

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- **Recap CAN Executive Director candidate “Community Conversations” ~**
  - Sam Wollard of Community Action Network (CAN) shared their newly adopted State Legislative agenda for 2007 (copy attached). CAN will be a distributor of information. See handout for the six areas of interest they have chosen to focus on this Legislative season.
  - New CAN Director ~ After a six month active process to find a new Executive Director, Vanessa Sarria has accepted the position.
  - Immigrant Study to be released in April.
- **McCombs Economic Survey**
  - Marketing of Survey to Community
    - Lee Manford ~ Over the course of a couple years we have been working with students at the McComb Business School to complete an Economic Impact Study. The results were shared in Mid-Dec of 2006.
    - Regina Rogoff, Lynda Shanblum & Lee will develop a 2007 Position Statement for AAHSA looking at economic conditions in Travis County. The current thought is to also create a one page companion piece speaking to the data from the survey to go forward to elected officials. Highlighting city and county investments in our agencies helps leverage services plus payroll \$\$ going back into the community and being spent in the community.
    - Additionally, creating a press release to accompany release of survey results.
- **Executive Committee Officers & Advisory Board 2007 ~** A motion was made to adopt the 2007 AAHSA Executive Committee as it is listed below. The motion was seconded and approved.
  - Chair ~ Gena VanOssealer
  - Vice Chair ~ Open
  - VP of Membership ~ Tracy Whitely
  - Treasurer ~ Miriam Nisenbaum
  - Co-Chair Programs ~ Karen Langley
  - Co-Chair Programs ~ Open

Any agency information to be posted on the website, please send to [AAHSACoordinator@AAHSA.net](mailto:AAHSACoordinator@AAHSA.net) .

AAHSA is focusing their efforts of advocacy on Health & Human services in Central Texas. We hope to have speakers for the following monthly meetings from:

March ~ County level

April ~ City Council

May ~ CAN Director

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We are trying to coordinate City & County representation at AAHSA monthly meetings, keeping us informed to H & H service issues respectively.

We are looking for an AAHSA Intern to assist with advocacy tracking on State, County & City levels.

**2007 General membership meetings will now be held:**

- 3rd Wednesdays ~ Locations still to be confirmed.

**Treasurer's Report for 2006**

- 2006 income is down from previous years due to poor renewal efforts.
- 2006 expenses are down quite a bit.
- We finish the year with a net loss of \$700.
- Previous years have ended in surplus.
- End of December ~ assets a bit over \$11,000.

**AAHSA Member Comments**

Lynda Shanblum shared an idea to encourage new members to join AAHSA; Create a campaign "Why you cannot afford not to be a member of AAHSA"

Create monthly "one minute updates" from AAHSA to City/County officials.

Add signature line of individual AAHSA members to e-mails sent on behalf of AAHSA to City/County officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm by Gena VanOsselaer, Chair.

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