

Resource Council Meeting

Minutes

April 13, 2007

1:00-2:30PM

Austin City Hall Boards and Commissions Room

Attendees

David Balch, David Evans, Sheryl Cole, Steve Swanson, Mike, Manor Barbara Cilley, Mary Faria, Joene Grissom, Cathy Bonner, Lee Manford, Anne Harutunian, Ashton Cumberbatch, Sarah Eckhardt, Trish Young, Elisabeth Earle, Tommy Darwin (for Greg Vincent)

Unable to Attend: Martha Martinez, Beth Schlecter, Fred Gilliam, Lee Leffingwell, Steve Kinslow, Michelle Augustine David Escamilla, Mark Williams, Karen Dulaney Smith, Mary Ann Neely, Sam Biscoe, Miriam Nisenbaum Dianne Mendoza

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: David Balch

Note Taker: Sam Woollard

Timekeeper: Vanessa Sarria

Agenda Topics

1. Call to Order and Announcements

David Balch

Meeting called to order at 1:05pm by Chair, David Balch.

Announcements/Activities Related to CAN:

- 1) The 2-1-1 2006 Community Needs & Trends report was distributed
- 2) On Tuesday May 8 at 10:30am at City Hall, there will be a press conference to begin Mental Health Awareness month
- 3) On April 26, Catholic Charities will hold its first fundraiser. More information can be found at: <http://www.ccctx.org/>

Minutes: The March Resource Council minutes were accepted as presented.

2. Citizens Communication

Community at Large

1) Tim Mahoney distributed information about the 2007 Neighborhood Planning Conference which will be held on Saturday May 5 at the ACC Eastview campus. It features workshops for neighborhood leaders in a variety of subjects and will include neighborhoods from Austin and San Marcos. The cost has been kept low - \$25 - through grants. More information can be found at: <http://neighboraustin.com>. Mr. Mahoney requested that CAN participate in the planning of the 2008 conference.

2) Lori Renteria with the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood expressed concerns about the Push-Up Foundation. Ms Renteria provided some background on the neighborhood's relationship with the Push-Up Foundation and requested that local government agencies not restore funding to Push-Up but instead put the contract out to bid for new management.

3. Strategic Issues

CAN Council Reports: Pat Dabbert reported that the Community Council is focusing on equity in opportunity, the Austin Equity Commission Report from 2001 and would like to address return on investment. In March they received a legislative update, in April they will focus on Sustainability Indicators, and in May there will be a presentation on behavioral health related to equity in opportunity. The Community Council is refining the questions that they ask and the approach that they take. Sam Woollard reported that the Administrative Team is focused on planning a health and human services forum in the spring of 2007. The Sustainability Indicators Project presented at their May meeting.

CAN Legislative Agenda: No report this month. Members stated that the updates provided via e-mail from CAN staff are useful.

CAN Workplan Model:

CAN Partner Report - ATCMHMR Center:

David Evans outlined ATCMHMR's **roles** in the community which include:

- 1) Leadership role in Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
- 2) Lead Planning role for Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

- 3) Benefit Manager for Networks (including CAN)
- 4) Resource Development
- 5) Collaborative Partner for formulating solutions.

The **priorities** for ATCMHMR are:

- 1) Crisis services
- 2) Lowering the Mental Retardation waiting list for services
- 3) Jail diversion and Re-entry services for behavioral health
- 4) Housing availability & affordability for people in transition
- 5) School-based mental health and wrap-around services.

Opportunities to Partner:

- Increase the number of clinicians and specialty care providers in the area for behavioral health
- Be involved in ATCMHMR activities, e.g, attend community forums
- Educate the community about behavioral health and developmental disabilities issues
- Support efforts for electronic health care records
- Ensure that people with severe and persistent mental illness and addictive disorders and/or developmental disabilities are included in discussions about closing the equity gaps
- Include behavioral health, with clearly outlined benefits, as part of overall health care plans.

CAN Role in Social Equity:

David Balch led members through a conversation about the following: CAN's overall strategic vision as it relates to social equity, CAN's role in regional discussions about social equity, potentially identifying 3-5 indicators, and engaging the community to address social equity indicators. The results of the discussion with suggestions for actions are attached.

Overall Highlights:

- CAN's role can be as the "Keeper of the Dialogue" on Equity in Opportunity.
- Use community input from folks with varying perspectives (including business, young people) to identify a set of indicators to focus the CAN's strategic efforts. (i.e. use the Sustainability Indicators Project as a basis)
- Agree upon a common definition of equity. Develop and use a language that appeals to the broader spectrum of the community. For example, use the term "equity in opportunity" versus "social equity".
- Agree upon a strategic vision for the community around equity. If equity in opportunity were achieved, what would that look like?
- In articulating the vision, obtain input from a broad spectrum of folks:
 - Identify where these conversations in the community are already occurring.
 - Identify which conversations are not occurring and utilize the CAN to help stimulate the dialogue.
 - Create a blog about Equity in Opportunity issues.
- Identify the Cost of Inaction and the Return on Investment.

Q. CAN's Overall Strategic Vision related to Social Equity

Discussion:

- Focus on Return on Investment in public communications since the general public does not appear to understand the value of social services investments. Include the cost of inaction in these communications.
- Address the community sense of responsibility for social equity. CAN take leadership role in engaging the business community in social equity discussions..
- In the public sector, there does not seem to be a large concern among taxpayers about the amount spent on social services, perhaps because it is a small part of the overall City and County budgets. Last year, the City received very little public opposition to raising the tax rate.
- Don't make assumptions about what groups or individuals think. Instead, go and ask them: What does equity look like? People will use different terms to describe how they want the community to look, and they may not use "Social Equity" as a term to describe it.

Potential Actions:

- Identify the inequities and biggest gaps. CAN be a visionary with metrics that shows how the gaps are closing.
- Identify Return on Investment using models such as those used by the E3 Alliance and the Early childhood communities.
- Identify young adult groups to engage in social equity discussions and actions.
- Monitor the legislature's attempts to cap local government revenue and expenditures.

- Hold a focus group with AARO members and quantify their responses.
- Identify “allied partners” who understand social equity so that CAN is not doing this work alone.
- Create a communication tool, similar to the reach of Mike Levy, that updates community members on social equity issues.
- Identify what the community would look like if we achieved equity in opportunity.
- Identify what we mean by the word community.

Q. Should CAN play a Role in Regional Social Equity Discussions?

Discussion:

- Yes, in order to increase efficiencies and delivery of social services. However, understand that many CAN Partners and providers do not have a regional scope so CAN’s role will need some definition.
- For transportation, consider including the Austin-San –Antonio corridor as the region to address

Q. What is CAN’s Strategic Framework?

Discussion:

- Need to create common communication tools so that people don’t get confused by the message, e.g., the early education and care community has data from the Sustainability Indicators Project, the Success by 6 report card and the Status of Childcare report – all of which say something slightly different.
- Use the Austin Equity Commission report recommendations as a way to unify organizations toward a target.
- Need strong leadership around social equity issues from both community leadership and the grassroots levels. Need to identify what leadership means in this context.
- There is an opportunity to build the regional institutional capacity around social equity.

Potential Actions:

- Define social equity so that everyone understands the definition.
- Consider including additional regional partners in CAN such as other school districts and officials from Hays and Williamson counties.

Q. Would it be beneficial to Identify 3-5 Overall Community Indicators to Gauge Community Progress?

Discussion:

- Suggest using the Sustainability Indicators as the basis.
- Suggest focusing on the three CAN Focus Areas: Behavioral Health, Transportation, and Affordable, Safe Housing.

Actions:

- CAN staff E-mail links to the Sustainability Indicators Project to all the CAN Councils and ask members to choose the most relevant indicators.

Q. How Should the Community be Engaged in Addressing Equity in Opportunity?

Actions:

- Identify where these conversations are already occurring, such as on the UT campus, and ask to be allowed to participate in them.
- Identify organizations that have no idea about how to engage in equity issues and provide ways for them to do so.
- Identify institutions, schools, churches, libraries, etc and create a master e-mail list and blog about Equity in Opportunity issues – CAN could assist in generating this information.
- Before approaching the groups, be clear about what we asking for and identify how we will hold ourselves accountable.

Members seemed to resonate with the idea that:
“CAN become the Keeper of the Dialogue”

4. Executive Director's Comments Vanessa Sarria

Vanessa deferred her report due to lack of time.

2:30PM **Adjourn** David Balch

Next meeting: Friday May 11, 2007