

Resource Council Meeting

Minutes

January 12, 2007

1:00-2:30PM

Austin City Hall Boards and Commissions Room

Attendees

David Balch, Anne Harutunian, Mike Manor, Lee Manford, David Evans, Sam Biscoe, Joene Grissom, Cathy Bonner, Beth Schlecter, David Escamilla, Elisabeth Earle, Mary Faria, Steve Swanson, Sarah Eckhardt, and Karen Dulaney Smith, Tommy Darwin (for Greg Vincent)

Unable to Attend: Mary Hensley, Jim Rigby, Mary Ann Neely, Martha Martinez, Miriam Nisenbaum, Fred Gilliam, Dianne Mendoza, Jennifer Kim, Mark Williams, Steve Kinslow, Ashton Cumberbatch, Barbara Cilley, Lee Leffingwell,

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: David Balch

Note Taker: Sam Woollard

Timekeeper: Fred Butler

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) Travis County Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt was introduced as the new Travis County representative on the Resource Council
- 2) On January 30 at 7:00pm at Huston-Tillotson College, AAIM will hold its Annual Meeting. Greg Vincent will be the keynote speaker
- 3) On Saturday January 13, United Way Capital Area, in partnership with State representative Dawnna Dukes, will hold the annual Martin Luther King day of Service. Go to <http://www.handsoncentraltexas.org> for more details
- 4) As part of the United Way Capital Area Community Agenda Project, Resource Council members were invited to participate in the community conversations about the focus areas.

Minutes: The December Resource Council minutes were accepted as presented

2. Citizens Communication

Community at Large

None

3. Strategic Issues

CAN Council Reports: Members were encouraged to review the written reports from the CAN Council meetings that are available on the CAN website.

Equity in Opportunity Model:

David Balch and Fred Butler reviewed the proposed Equity in Opportunity model for CAN in 2007. The model outlines CAN Goals for 2007, CAN Values, the Equity Commission recommendations, CAN retreat focus and CAN roles. All of these revolve around providing Equity in Opportunity.

Discussion: Members discussed the need for the CAN values to express and guide the behavior of the organization. Several members expressed a desire that this model spurs CAN to action. It was suggested that CAN re-examine its own membership structure to ensure inclusiveness. It was suggested that CAN consider its role as a leader in bridging racial and social barriers. Members recommended that advocacy, which includes making recommendations, be added as one of the CAN roles. It was noted that CAN has played a strong role in creating a climate that encourages collaboration and coordination. It was further noted that there does seem to be a current opportunity to create and support community dialogues about issues that have the opportunity to create social change.

Poverty Awareness Month: Lee Manford, Chair of the Basic Needs Coalition (BNC) and Beth Atherton, Chair of the Basic Needs Coalition's Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee, reviewed the vision and mission of the Basic Needs Coalition, the CAN planning group for basic needs. They also reviewed the Coalition's role in creating information and systems research and design. The BNC focuses its efforts on housing stability and food security. During Poverty Awareness month, the Basic Needs Coalition, in collaboration with CAN, created a Poverty Fact Sheet and will send weekly e-blasts with information. In addition, BNC will create community conversations to

discuss the cost of poverty to the business, education, health and faith communities. Each of the weekly conversations will also provide ways in which that community can impact poverty.

Request to the Resource Council: The BNC asked the resource Council members take the following action:

- Forward the weekly e-blasts to their e-mail distribution lists
- Participate in the weekly community conversations
- Engage their own organization/constituencies in discussions about the cost of poverty
- Support the infrastructure and build the capacity of the Basic Needs Coalition
- Create and support the cross-cutting dialogues among Issue Area Groups

Discussion: Members expressed appreciation for the work of the BNC and Poverty Awareness month. Anne Harutunian reported that she has forwarded the information to some of her business contacts. Elisabeth Earle stated that the court system is impacted by poverty on a daily basis by the number of requests the courts have to make for court appointed lawyers due to the poverty of the defendants

Mental Health Crisis Services: David Evans outlined the results of the collaboration that was led by the Travis County Healthcare District that will begin to address the need to improve mental health crisis response. The collaboration identified several areas to address including: the crisis hotline, mobile outreach, 24 hour psychiatric services, observation beds, and inpatient crisis services. Each of the partners pledged resources including: a commitment to creating a 12 bed step down program from the State hospital, redistributing ATCMHMR Center staff into the crisis unit, creating a mobile outreach team, and creating a mental health public defender's office. The collaboration, which includes several CAN Partners will continue to meet and monitor the implementation and results.

CAN Legislative Role: Sandy Dochen, member of the AARO Social Equity Committee, outlined AARO's commitment to early childhood. Part of this commitment is supporting Senate Bill 50 which would do the following:

- 1) Expand the TEEM Model
- 2) Raise reimbursement rates for child care providers
- 3) Provide a professional development/career pathway for child care professionals

The Texas A&M George Bush School of Government and Public Service states that for every \$1 spent on early childhood a saving of \$3.50 is created. One example of the impact of poverty is that a child that grows up in poverty knows 3,000 fewer words than other children when entering Kindergarten. The Resource Council was asked to consider supporting this legislation as well as an appropriation. The City of Austin and Travis County were asked to consider adding support of SB50 to their legislative agendas.

Discussion: Members reviewed their Partner organizations' legislative priorities:

AAIM – supporting the Re-entry Roundtable's legislative priorities

ICC – Medicaid and CHIP simplification and increased enrollment

AISD – Karen Dulaney Smith will be at the Capitol and offered to assist in sharing CAN legislative priorities

Travis County – Concern about revenue caps and the limitations they would place on local government

United Way Capital Area – SB50 and CHIP/Medicaid

WorkSource – reinstating RIO re-entry funding

Reinstating Skills Development funding

Early Education and Care

University of Texas – offered support with research and resources

ATCMHMR Center – Mental health coverage and insurance parity, avoiding a 10% reduction in state mental health spending and restoration of mental health spending

Community Justice Council – mental health legislation and efforts that support court jail diversion

AAHSA – will have their priorities for the February meeting

The CAN Executive Committee will review this list and make recommendations for CAN support and role.

4. Executive Director's Comments

Fred Butler

Due to lack of time, there was no report

2:30PM

Adjourn

David Balch

Next meeting: Friday February 9, 2007

NOTE: This will be followed by Fred's retirement party from 3:00-5:00pm at City Hall