

CAN Community Council Meeting

Minutes

8/21/06 5:30 – 7:30pm

City Hall, Board and Commissions Room, 301 West 2nd St.

Attendees Al Perez, Amanda Arlitt, Debbie Wise, Myrna Meza, Dale Simons, Michelle Augustine, Laurie Seremetis, Nancy Neavel, Clint Smith, Glenn Gadbois, Terry Cowan, Pat Dabbert, Sandra Gonzales, Barbara Anderson, Leslie Hernandez, Mitch Sudolsky, Linda Murphy, Jessica Flores, Mary Wambach

Unable to Attend: Penny Lichenstein, Clarence Bibby, Kathy Armenta, Susan McCormick, Anne Harutunian, Barbara Smith, Willie Williams, Bruce Elfant, Jenny Martin, Amy Wong Mok, Barbara Cilley, Joe Jenkins

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: Al Perez

Note Taker: Fred Butler

Timekeeper: Fred Butler

Call to Order and Announcements

Al Perez

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair, Al Perez. **Announcements:**

- On Sunday September 10 at the Carver Museum, the League of Women Voters will host a forum to meet new City Council Members Sheryl Cole and Mike Martinez
- The League of Women Voters will continue its focus on education and will monitor AISD
- The Ready by 21 Coalition is creating a Youth Council and are seeking high school age youth to serve on it. Recommendations can be forwarded to Community Council member Debbie Wise
- The Third Annual East Austin Economic Summit will be held on October 26
- The Texas Benefit Event to sign qualified people up for Medicaid, Food Stamps, CHIP and TANF and/or to answer questions about challenges will be held on August 26 at the Convention Center
- Mary Wambach has written an article for Austin Woman magazine that will soon be published
- September 12 is the 125th Anniversary for AISD. Festivities include a Scholarship Hall of Fame Gala on August 26 and a Community Parade on September 16

Citizens Communication:

None this month

Review and Approve Meeting Summary

Al Perez

The June Minutes were approved as presented

Community Forum: Travis County Healthcare District Draft Strategic Plan

Trish Young &
Clarke Heidrick

In a special meeting, the Community Council hosted a forum for the Travis County Health Care District Board to outline and receive public input on its Draft Strategic Plan. Clarke Heidrick outlined the history of the Travis County Healthcare District which was created in 2004 and currently has a budget of approximately \$75 million. The current tax rate of 7.79 cents is less than a third of the other metro districts in Texas. Initially the District made grants to Seton, the Indigent Care Collaboration, Project Access and Peoples Community Clinic. A mental health stakeholder group was also established. The 2007 plan includes an assessment of the current state of healthcare and some of the challenges facing Travis County. The proposed plan was created with the following principles in mind:

- Health status improvement
- Transparency for the community/tax payer
- Rationalize how care is delivered
- Pay for performance
- Advance health care system integration and recognize interdependence
- Partner in regional solutions

The Goals of the Plan include:

- Operate clinics at full capacity
- Develop consensus definitions, targets for appropriate level of specialty care access
- Act as an honest broker for efficiency and integration
- Participate in a collaborative cross-agency approach to developing a mental health crisis system
- MAP redesign and expansion
- Redesign locally and plan regionally

Considerations for the plan include the need to take a multi-year, regional approach and the need to create, strengthen and modify partnerships. Financial considerations will include the tax rate/budget that is set (Travis County Commissioners Court is the final authority on the District's tax rate), and the need to assess on-going vs one-time expenses and staff resources. Information about the Healthcare District can be found at: <http://www.traviscountyhd.org/index.html> Travis County Healthcare District Board members asked for community support and involvement.

DISCUSSION: Community Council Members and members of the public had many questions and statements including the following and answers from the presenters (*italicized*):

1. Is it possible to access MAP at the Emergency Room? – *The District is exploring a pilot program where Medicaid can be used to identify the types of insurance coverage for which someone is eligible when they come to the emergency room. One challenge with MAP is that if coverage is increased then capacity will also have to be increased*
2. Can the clinic hours be extended so that more working people have access? – *This is one of the key recommendations of the Plan. The staffing and funding of the existing clinics will need to be addressed*
3. What is the status of creating an Urgent Care Clinic? – *The District has bought capacity at Brackenridge to try and make this a reality*
4. What is the role of private physicians in this process? – *Travis County is more integrated and has more partnerships with private physicians than many other communities. The goal of the Plan is to continue and increase these partnerships, especially with specialty care physicians*
5. What consideration has been given to increasing the use of mobile health vans and pharmacy resources? – *All of these are being explored. It was suggested that there needs to be an evolution of health insurance products into the community which would allow for the building of a healthcare system.*
6. The Plan budget is well delineated and there is support for the strategic plan. Offered support for a medical school since Seton projects the need for 600 new physicians in the next 5 years
7. There is evidence that co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse treatment works. A request was made for an increase in the resources to support the mental health system, especially systems that use peer to peer approaches and include consumers as part of the solution
8. The Alliance for African American health in Central Texas focuses on eliminating health disparities and is encouraged that the plan acknowledges that there are disparities. Suggested that a diversity of players be included as strategies to address the disparities are implemented and that specific goals for specific geographic and ethnic groups are set. Specifically, would like to see the Alliance listed as a Partner to provide insight and input on community conditions and discuss strategies. Would like to see specific strategies in the Plan to reduce health disparities for African Americans
9. Agreed with the need to continue to collaborate to address mental health and suggested that mental health should be higher on the list for future funding. Recommended that mental health be considered part of the public health system and avoid the bifurcation between physical and mental health since both are physiological
10. One participant shared the personal story of her daughter who struggles with physical and mental health issues and is unable to maintain a job and pay for her own health insurance. People's Community Clinic is not accepting new patients and ATCMHMR has a 2 month waiting list and can't see patients who have panic attacks or depression but do not fit into the categories of care that ATCMHMR has been told it can serve.
11. It was suggested that legislation to address the caps on non-criminal liability insurance for physicians who want to volunteer be proposed
12. It was recommended that dental care be explicitly addressed as a health issue that needs attention - *dental care is included in the clinic but is an area that needs to be addressed*
13. It was suggested the Health District focus on breaking down the turf barriers, identify strategies that complement others and engage the private sector to create community wide discussions, e.g., for specialty care

Hurricane Impact

Sam Woollard

Hurricane Impact and Coordination – This was deferred due to lack of time

Program Committee and March Response

Dale Simons

Dale announced that the September Program will focus on diversity and the October program will focus on Mental Health.

Executive Director Report:

Fred Butler

Fred announced that Greenlights has agreed to sponsor the **Good Community is Good Business Initiative** and that a pilot project with 5 companies will begin at their Annual Conference on **September 13**. On **October 6** from 7:30am-11:30am Envision Central Texas is sponsoring a "**Ride the Wave**" forum that will focus on community growth and population. Steve Murdoch the state demographer will be the keynote speaker. There will be four break-out session, one of which will focus on social equity. United Way Capital Area has completed the 10 County region **Community Agenda** report. More information can be found at:

<http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/communityimpact/agenda.cfm> . CAN is now sponsoring websites for 10 different Issue Area Groups through the work of CAN webmaster Karen Cook

5:30PM

Adjourn

Al Perez

Next Community Council meeting: Monday September 18, 2006^h, 5:30pm, City Hall