

**CAN Community Council
Meeting**

Minutes

7/16/07

5:40 – 7:30pm

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

Attendees Al Perez, Clint Smith, Cynthia Colbert, John Michael Cortez, Laura Morrison, Marquis Williams, Nancy Neavel, Pat Dabbert, Shawn Lemieux, Terry Cowan, Willie Williams, Debbie Wise, Jessica Flores, Penny Lichenstein, Barbara Anderson, Bruce Elfant, Vanessa Sarria, Laurie Seremetis, Sandra Gonzales, **Unable to Attend:** Amanda Arlitt, Anne Harutunian, Joe Jerkins, Leslie Hernandez, Kathy Armenta, Leslie Hernandez, Michelle Augustine, Mitch Sudolsky, Ronnie Mendoza, Susan McCormick, Barbara Budde, Barbara Cilley, Kevin Coleman, Amy Wong Mok, Jenny Martin, Maureen Siu, Barbara Smith, Linda Murphy

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network
Facilitator: Pat Dabbert
Note Taker: Amy Arquilla
Timekeeper: Terry Cowan and Vanessa Sarria

Call to Order and Announcements

Pat Dabbert

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Chair, Pat Dabbert.

Announcements:

Pat Dabbert announced that the Austin Independent School District (AISD) will hold an AISD Back to School Bash, August 11, 2007 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Delco Center located at 4601 Pecan Brook Dr. AISD Coordinator is Beverly Reeves at 414-9882.

Citizens Communication:

Richard Franklin from the African American Mentoring Project provided a video and brief overview of the African American Mentoring Project (AAMP) implemented at Covington Middle School. He outlined the projects mentoring activities, objectives, and how they build self-esteem, academic performance, reinforce positive attitudes about school, strengthen social relationships, emphasize connectivity and teamwork, improve attendance, enhance youths ability to problem solve and resolve conflicts. Richard expressed the need for this project to continue in the Austin, TX community to provide an alternative for African American youth to excel in school and their communities. Currently, Richard is seeking funding to provide the African American Mentoring Project (AAMP) to over 155 students in the 2007-2008 school years at a cost of \$400.00 per student.

Review and Approve Meeting Summary

Pat Dabbert

The June minutes were approved as presented.

IAG Update: IAG Guidelines and Designation Process

Vanessa Sarria reviewed the IAG guidelines process and discussed that the Resource Council did not have an opportunity to review and approve the guidelines. The IAG guidelines will be on the Resource Council agenda for the August 10, 2007 meeting. Vanessa stated that there was a lot of feedback on both the IAG guidelines and the process. The Community Council will be asked to provide input during the CAN IAG Designation Process. Two groups, the Literacy Coalition and the Capital Area Regional Transit Coordination Committee have requested to be considered for designation. Vanessa discussed that after the Resource Council has approved the IAG guidelines and designation process she will present information on the groups to be considered at the Community Council meeting of September 17, 2007.

Equity in Opportunity Youth Forum

Suzanne Hershey, from (Ready by 21 Coalition), Deborah Wise, Annette Strauss Institute at the University of Texas at Austin,

Todd Moore (United Way), Peg Gavin (LifeWorks) and Scott O'Brien (LifeWorks), and Sue Carpenter (United Way Capital Area).

The presentation provided an extensive overview of the substantial progress with the Ready by 21 Coalition and how it relates to today's youth.

The following areas were identified as vision for youth in our community:

- Ready for higher education and learning
- Ready for work and career advancement
- Ready to lead healthy lives
- Ready for positive social and civic connections and engagement.

Deborah Wise, had the honor to present the newly appointed Youth Council to the entire CAN Community Council. Each Youth Council member received a Certificate from the Ready By 21 Coalition for their commitment to be a Youth Council member, supporting their communities through leadership and serving on an advisory body to represent the diverse needs and goals of young people in the community. Deborah outlined the mission of the Youth Council and that the Youth Council had already received an endorsement from the Austin City Council and Austin Independent School District (AISD) School Board.

The Youth Council members are:

Michelle Samaniego, ACC, Forest Tischler, AYW, Matt Whitman, Anderson High Cora Lee, Austin High, Sam Graves, Bowie High

Rachel Platis, Crockett High, Daisy Lanier, Garza High, Alberto Alvarez, At Large (LBJ High- for identification only)

La'Kesia Davis, LBJ High, Shelby Miller, Manor High, Luna Mitchell, At Large (McCallum High- for identification only)

Autumn Washington, McCallum High, Mikaylah Bowman, Out of School, Hollie Parks, West Lake High Tim Eubanks, Austin Voices for Education and Youth described the creation of the Youth Council and their list of current activities to date. He discussed the Youth Council's objectives, training for the up-coming year, and training/mentoring opportunities with elected officials, their aids, and other Council Representatives. Tim Eubanks acknowledged and thanked Angelo McHorse, intern at Austin Voices for Education and Youth, for his instrumental work the Youth Council. The next Youth Council meeting will be July 23, 2007.

The following were identified as conditions for Youth in Our Community:

- Learning, working, thriving, connecting, leading for all children and youth
- Populations facing special challenges, with particular support/intervention needs, *for example*:
 - Children and youth in foster care, and aging out of foster care
 - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender youth
 - Children and youth in disadvantaged neighborhoods
 - Many other populations facing special challenges

State of Youth and the Indicators in Our Community:

Indicators of Youth Development:

- High school graduation rate
- Drop out rate
- Attrition rate (12th – 9th)
- Teen violence rates, crime rates
- Body mass index/obesity rates, Rates of child diabetes
- Teen pregnancy rates, Low Birth Weight births to teens

Foster Care:

Youth and Foster Care Indicators:

- Ability to thrive

- Life skill training
- Youth ageing out of care
- Homelessness and transient youth (moving between friends homes)
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Unemployment
- Mental Health and Behavioral Health

Success By 6 Goal: Happy, Healthy, Smart

Success By 6 Indicators:

- Immunization Rates
- Low Birth Weight
- WIC Enrollment
- CHIP/Medicaid Enrollment
- Kindergarten Retention
- Child Abuse/Neglect Rates
- Mental Health Support
- Families in Poverty
- Kindergarten Readiness Test Scores
- Quality Child Care, Worker Wages, Education Levels
- Child Care Subsidies
- Children in Public Child Development Programs
- Local Funding for Quality Early Care/Education

For additional information on any of the above Issues Areas or to obtain copies of the reports, please access:

CAN link to all Youth Issues Area Groups: www.caction.org

Ready By 21: <http://www.readyby21austin.org/>

Austin Voices for Education and Youth: <http://www.austinvoices.org/>

Success By 6: <http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/>

Lifeworks and Youth in Foster Care or Aging Out: <http://www.lifeworksweb.org>

Discussion: Members identified the need to connect more with the community to create in-depth dialogue on the Foster Care issues. There is an understanding about issues and many people in the community involved however, the member encouraged creating a platform to continue the discussion. Community Council members identified some additional community responses: Cynthia Colbert, Catholic Charities of Central Texas, provided additional information on the faith-based community getting more involved with the issues presented on transitional youth and homeless youth. Clint Smith, Gray Panthers provided insight to the Youth Partners on ways to engage the business community with transitional youth.

The Community Council members asked the Youth Council what supports they need at this time:

- Providing Funding to support the Youth Council members with stipends.
- Funding for marketing the Youth Council in the community.
- Supportive and open format that empowers youth members to establish the framework and priorities of the Youth Council.
- Leadership and team-building training to prepare Youth Council members for effective service; seminars and shadowing opportunities where adults/elected officials share their leadership experience with Youth Council members.
- An adult mentor for each youth Council member.
- Engage Austin Representatives Officials to schedule time to meet with the Youth Council and provide training to the Youth Council on civic engagement.
- Incentives and support services such as child care, transportation, etc.
- Meeting space for the Youth Council monthly meeting, admin support, voice mail, etc.

Next Steps:

What can the Community Council do to support current efforts?

Suzanne Hershey recommended the following current efforts:

What is next? Begin a community conversation by:

- Identifying ways to better connect the various initiatives underway to provide quality services to youth.
- Coordinating a dialogue on Foster Care issues in our community.
- Endorse and support the Youth Council.
- Inviting the community to provide affordable housing for transitional youth (Foster Care Youth)
- Invite the National program “Kids Count” back to speak with our community.
- Measure our progress with CAN, Issues Area Groups (IAG) and Youth issues.
- Adopt the continuum framework to assess the “big picture” for children and youth, reduce fragmented efforts. Ask: “Where does this fit?”
- Encourage other planning groups to utilize the continuum from birth to 21 to track initiatives/indicators and to use the Youth Services Mapping (YSM) system pilot to track services available to high school stage youth in Travis County at <http://www.readyby21austin.org/youth-data.php>. Advocate for inclusion of the youth voice in program and resource decisions affecting youth.

Suzanne Hershey suggested that we set shared goals to change the odds for youth by preparing youth for College, Work, and Life. Ready by 21 Coalition invited the Community Council members to attend a Ready by 21 meeting held the **second Thursday of each month, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. WorkSource, 6505 Airport Boulevard, Suite 101E**. CAN staff will send out details.

Update from the Programs and Response Committees.

The Program and Response Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 24, at the Seton Kozmetsky Center on South 1st to plan the August meeting and review the results of the July meeting. All are welcome to attend.

CAN Executive Directors Report.

Vanessa Sarria

Vanessa reported that the CAN newsletter is online at our web site and provided a few copies for the member to review at the meeting. She explained that the Fred Butler nomination application would be online by July 23rd for the community to submit their nominees. Please see the link for the complete report:

http://www.caction.org/Councils/ResourceCouncil/presentations/ED_Presentation_July2007.pdf

7:40PM

Adjourn

Pat Dabbert

Next Community Council meeting: Monday August 20, 2007, 5:30pm, City Hall