

CAN Community Council

Meeting

Minutes

5/21/07

5:30 – 7:30pm

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

Attendees Al Perez, Amanda Arlitt, Amy Wong Mok, Anne Harutunian, Barbara Budde, Barbara Cilley, Bruce Elfant, John Michael Cortez, Kathy Armenta, Laura Morrison, Laurie Seremetis, Marquis Williams, Michelle Augustine, Mitch Sudolsky, Nancy Neavel, Pat Dabbert, Terry Cowan, Willie Williams

Unable to Attend: Barbara Anderson, Barbara Smith, Clint Smith, Cynthia Colbert, Debbie Wise, Jessica Flores, Joe Jerkins, Kevin Coleman, Leslie Hernandez, Linda Murphy, Maureen Siu, Penny Lichenstein, Ronnie Mendoza, Sandra Gonzales, Shawn Lemieux, Susan McCormick

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: Pat Dabbert

Note Taker: Angel Del Rio

Timekeeper: Terry Cowan

Call to Order

Pat Dabbert

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair, Pat Dabbert.

Citizens Communication:

Frances Ferguson, from Housing Works, visited the Community Council to raise awareness about the importance of permanent housing. She stressed that shelters and care for the homeless are as important as ultimately having a reliable place to live. Permanent housing is important for all people, including those who are mentally ill.

Housing Works will do its annual affordable home tour on Wednesday June 6, from 2pm – 4pm. This event has limited occupancy. Frances invited CAN to select one person for this tour. This event will start at City Hall. A reception will follow after the tour, which is open to the public.

Review and Approve Meeting Summary

Pat Dabbert

The April minutes were approved as presented.

Community Forum: Equity in Opportunity, Issue Area Forum for this Month: Behavioral Health.

Jim Walker, from the Central Texas Sustainability Project, demonstrated how Opportunity Mapping and Sustainability Indicators help bring a clear picture of the current conditions of residents throughout Central Texas. The following areas were highlighted:

- An indicator helps people understand where the community is in terms of an issue, where the community is heading, and how far the community is from reaching its goal. A good indicator alerts the community when a problem arises or when improvement is not being done as expected. It helps to identify the needs as they arise, thus giving the opportunity to the community to find ways to solve them.
- Indicators need to be clear, measurable, achievable, relevant to the community goal or gap, owned by the members of the community.
- Indicators have to be multi-dimensional and the process of determining them must be transparent and iterative, the starting point cannot be the staying point.
- The process of selecting indicators is more important than actual indicators. Once indicators are defined and adopted, CAN may request reports to its partners to measure their efforts on these indicators.

Jim expressed an interest in working with the Behavioral Health community to further define the community indicators for behavioral health

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PANELISTS: David Evans, Executive Director ATCMHMR Center; Arturo Hernandez and Dianna Groves, Children and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership; Susan Stone, Mayor's Mental Health Task Force Monitoring Committee; and Debbie Webb and Emmitt Hayes, Behavioral Health Planning Partnership

VISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Panelists shared a common vision for behavioral health. Panelists presented the vision statements of the various behavioral health groups and agreed that they shared a common vision.

INDICATORS TO GUAGE PROGRESS: Panelists agreed that it would be beneficial for the *Sustainability Indicators Project (SIP)* to continue tracking indicators related to behavioral health. Panelists also recommended that indicators address substance abuse, mental health, and vulnerable populations such as youth and the elderly. Panelists recommended that the **SIP** consider including additional indicators identified by The Mayor's Mental Health Task Force.

DISPARITIES: GAPS THAT NEED TO BE CLOSED:

Panelists identified some **key vulnerable populations**:

- a. Youth who are transitioning out of foster care or youth-care facilities
- b. Older adults
- c. Uninsured populations including:
 - People who do not have health or behavioral health insurance
 - People who do not have sufficient behavioral health insurance coverage

Panelists identified some **key service gaps**:

- a. Affordable housing for people with behavioral health issues
- b. Access to transportation for clients of mental health facilities
- c. Behavioral health services provided in languages spoken by customers, especially Spanish
- d. Access to behavioral health services insurance coverage

ASSETS / SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES THAT ADDRESS DISPARITIES

- Positive Behavioral Support Program that is being implemented in AISD
 - Creation of Mayor's Mental Health Task Force
 - May is Mental Health Month activities sponsored by Children and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership
 - Merger of Adult Mental Health Planning Partnership and Substance Abuse Planning Partnership into the Behavioral Health Planning Partnership
- Integrated services such as the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (a collaboration of ATCMHMR, Travis County Sheriff's Office and Austin Police Department)

NEXT STEPS:

- *Update Behavioral Health section of the 2001 AEC Report:* Panelists indicated in written form that the *2001 Austin Equity Commission Report* did not sufficiently address behavioral health issues. Panelists indicated a willingness to serve in an advisory capacity to update the report.
- *Agree upon Key Indicators to be monitored by Sustainability Indicators Project.* Work with SIP and the behavioral health groups to finalize a list of key indicators to be monitored.

POTENTIAL ROLES AND NEXT STEPS FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

- Share the information with other groups with whom they are connected
- Volunteer for behavioral health organizations
- Support legislation that will provide parity for behavioral health coverage in insurance policies and increase reimbursement rates for providers
- Support efforts to fill the service gaps
- Support community education efforts to lower stigma and refute stereotypes related to behavioral health
- Incorporate information about gaps in youth transitional services into July youth forum, incorporate information about housing for people with behavioral health issues into future housing forums, and incorporate information about elderly and behavioral health services into future forum
- In future health presentations ensure that physical health providers are "treating the brain as part of overall health" and are connected to behavioral health providers
- Request that the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force identify ways in which they are reaching out to employers to encourage increased access to behavioral health coverage

Update from the Programs and Response Committees. Al Perez, chair of the Programs Committee, reported that both committees are having joint planning sessions. The Programs and Response committee will meet at the Seton Clinic on South First on Tuesday, May 29 at 3:00pm. The June CC Meeting will focus on Immigrant Issues.

7:30PM

Adjourn

Pat Dabbert

Next Community Council meeting: Monday June 18, 2007, 5:30pm, City Hall