



CAN Community Council

Monday, September 17, 2007

Attendees: Al Perez, Clint Smith, Cynthia Colbert, Marquis Williams, Nancy Neavel, Pat Dabbert, Terry Cowan, Willie Williams, Debbie Wise, Barbara Anderson, Vanessa Sarria, Michelle Augustine, Amy Wong Mok, Anne Harutunian, Bruce Elfant, Kevin Coleman, Laura Morrison.

Unable to Attend: John Michael Cortez, Shawn Lemieux, Penny Lichenstein, Sandra Gonzales, Jessica Flores, Laurie Seremetis, Mitch Sudolsky, Amanda Arlitt, Leslie Hernandez, Kathy Armenta, Leslie Hernandez, Ronnie Mendoza, Susan McCormick, Barbara Smith, Barbara Cilley, Jenny Martin, Maureen Siu, Barbara Smith, Linda Murphy.

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Pat Dabbert, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:40PM.

2. **Introductions and Announcements** –

Laura Morrison - Provided updates on the Austin Neighborhoods Council.

Clint Smith – Announced that the Gray Panthers has signed on to support implementation of recommendations by the Austin Equity Commission in '01. Also that the Austin City Council is going to be discussing at their meeting September 28, 2007, the “Panhandling Ordinance”.

Debbie Wise – Announced the American Trustees Launch Party will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 at Harry Ransom Center. This project is an initiative of the Annette Strauss Institute in partnership with the LBJ Foundation and additional funding provided by Humanities Texas.

Sam Woollard - Was acknowledged for her dedication to the CAN and all her commitment to working with the CAN partners to further the mission of the CAN. Sam will be greatly missed.

3. **Citizen Communication** -

Victoria Rogers – of Catholic Charities of Central Texas presented on the three new awards (grants) they received from HHSC to provide clients in sixteen counties with direct client application assistance for State benefits. For more information on the above program please visit www.ccctx.org or CAN web site for the complete power point presentation.

Judge John Vasquez - Presented on Reforming the Juvenile Justice System. Problem-solving courts have proven to be more effective in reducing juvenile crime and school attendance. Problem-solving courts have the following elements:

- Direct interaction between defendants and the judge,
- A problem-solving focus,
- Team approach to decision making,
- Integration of social services into the problem-solving process,

- judicial supervision of the treatment process,
- Community outreach, and
- A proactive role for the judge inside and outside the courtroom.

Judge Vasquez asked the Community Council to review the next steps toward the creation of a County-wide youth court? In 2005, the Austin City Council passed a resolution supporting the creation of a joint committee of the Travis County Commissioners Court, AISD School Board and Austin City Council to analyze the options for creating an integrated youth court. The presentation related to this proposed court will be available on the CAN web site (www.caction.org).

4. **Approval of August Minutes** - Minutes were approved as presented.
5. **IAG Update** - No presentation.
6. **Equity in Opportunity Forum on Education**: The presenters for the Education Forum are: Susan Dawson (E3 Alliance), Ervin Knezek (RegionXIII), and Dr. Linelle Clark-Brown (AISD Dropout Prevention/ Reduction Coordinator). *(All Presentation will be posted on the CAN web site under Community Council Presentations.)*
 - 6.1 **Susan Dawson** gave an overview of the community education gaps and disparities. She presented on the E3 Alliance and the vision for education. Susan discussed the questions that parents ask: Parent View
 - My child needs better than what I got (This may not be enough! Local/Global Paradox)
 - My child needs what my child needs (*Important, But Not for Me* Study)
 - Social Justice View: Leave no child behind
 - Accountability View: Leave those behind that don't make the cut
 - Middle Class View: My student needs the best
 - Leaders View: All kids college ready

Susan presented on E3 suggestions on what we need concerning the

- Common Vision
- Quantified Metrics that Support that Vision
- Across the continuum of education (Rx21)
- Few enough that we can get our arms around them
- Cascading down to actionable numbers

The E3 messages to the Community Council Education are the key to economic prosperity.

Three consistent messages:

1. Graduate high school = +\$1M in your lifetime
2. Graduate college = +\$2M in your lifetime
3. Speak two languages = more opportunity, better job, higher pay

This messaging should be conducted in every place people live, work and play including:

- English and Spanish Media, Social Service Agencies, Churches, Grocery Stores, etc.
(Presentation will be posted on the CAN web site, Community Council Presentations)

6.2 Ervin Kenezek Region XIII presented on Region XIII English Language Learners program and significant issues in Central Texas are:
Growth in population, Districts changing program models, Inconsistent delivery of instruction, Access to qualified personnel, Maintenance of primary language skills.

6.3 Dr. Linelle Clark Brown, presented on AISD Drop Out Prevention program presented on the AISD 3 Tiered Initiative:

Dropout Rate 2005-06

Grades 7 & 8 annual dropout rate was 0.5 %, compared to 2004-05 rate of 0.2%

Dropout statistics reflects that youth are more likely to be:

- Male than Female
- African American or Hispanic than White
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Classified as an Immigrant
- Enrolled in 9th or 12th grade
- On average older than the rest of the student population in their grade level
- Classified as at-risk per TEA criteria

AISD has incorporated a 3 Tiered Initiative:

- Tier 1, District-wide initiatives
- Tier 2, All Campus
- Tier 3, Targeted School

The goal of the 3 Tiered Initiative is: a) Distribution of dropout prevention & attendance information (brochures, etc.), b) including a children's activity book and various brochures for parents of elementary-age students, c) radio & TV public service advertising (English & Spanish), and d) billboards, bus ads, taxi ads, movie trailers, magnets for distribution and banners at City.

Achieving this vision will be possible with the support and collaborative effort of the Dropout Prevention staff, AISD central administration, school personnel, parents, students, and Austin community.

7. Next Steps: What can the Community Council do to support current efforts? Help get the information presented tonight out to the community in order to ensure that the Austin community sees the opportunity to support the efforts of our presentors. The Community Council members suggested that they obtain additional information on the money and resources that it takes to address these efforts in our community.

8. Update from the Programs and Response Committees - The Program and Response Committee will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the Seton Kozmetsky Center on South 1st to plan the October meeting and review the results of the September meeting. All are welcome to attend.

9. CAN Executive Director Report – In line with the CAN's mission statement, the CAN Executive Committee proposed the development of a framework for addressing equity in opportunity that could help identify which outcomes the community seeks to achieve, provide a context for engaging the community around a planning process to collectively achieve those outcomes and serve as a tool for CAN partners to make resource allocation decisions. The CAN Comm. Council will be asked to provide input into the framework in the coming month.

10. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Next Community Council meeting: Monday, October 15, 2007, 5:40PM, City Hall