

# BASIC NEEDS COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

www.basicneeds-ctx.org

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2005

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** United Way Capital Area  
**Convener:** Dan Pruett  
**Secretary of the Meeting:** Lucia Dodson

### Attendees:

Katie Navine	Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	Elizabeth Gfell	ATCMHMR
Dan Pruett	Meals on Wheels and More	George Brown	Basic Needs Coalition
Susan Eason	Arc of the Capital Area	Ellen Balthazar	Any Baby Can
Kathryn Hightower	City of Austin HHSD	Glenda Shayne	Capital Area Food Bank of Texas
Amanda M <sup>c</sup> Rae	Communities In Schools	Stephanie Hayden	C.O.A. HHSD/SANC
Fred Butler	Community Action Network	Adelita Winchester	Caritas of Austin
Margie Fernandez-Prew	United Way	Meg Poag	Travis County HHS & VS
Lucia Dodson	Meals on Wheels and More	Joy Stollings	Meals on Wheels and More
Steve Kaiven	Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	Julia Spann	SafePlace
Barbara Budde	Catholic Charities	Sherri Fleming	Travis County HHS & VS
Andrea Colunga Bussey	Travis County HHS & VS	Beth Atherton	Caritas of Austin
Susan Gehring	City of Austin – HHSD	Tracey Whitley	Legal Aid
Marco Galvan	2-1-1 Texas	Bea Dela Rosa	St. Louis Catholic Church
Angela Atwood	Consultant – Travis County	Karen Langley	Family Eldercare
Rev. Rhoda Montgomery	Good Shepherd Episcopal	Kathy Stark	Austin Tenants Council
Elliott Brown	Foundation For The Homeless	Mark Williams	CAN RC/AISD
Amy Campbell	2-1-1 Texas	Samantha Rodriguez	2-1-1 Texas

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dan Pruett called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

## II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 28, 2005 MINUTES:

The minutes of July 28, 2005, were reviewed and a **Motion** to accept them as presented was made by Julia Spann and **Seconded** by Barbara Budde. **Motion Approved.**

## III. PRESENTATION:

Dan Pruett gave the Board an update on the City Sub-Committee for Health and Human Services Meeting. Those attending were Julia Spann, Susan Eason, George Brown, Joy Stollings, Ellen Balthazar, and Dan Pruett. They were able to give an update to Council Members Dunkerley and Leffingwell regarding the Best Single Source project. The meeting was informational and went well.

He introduced Angela Atwood, a consultant with Travis County, who gave a presentation regarding the overall goal of the Food Stamp Enrollment Initiative to increase the number of successful applications to the Food Stamp Program. This goal will be accomplished through the following strategies:

- Develop materials and conduct trainings for professional training to case managers, advocates, and volunteers on FSP rules, application process, and how to support applicants;
- Build relationships with colleagues and HHSC staff to improve information sharing, define mutual benefits, and prepare for changes to FSP scheduled for January 2006; and
- Increase community outreach to potential FSP applicants.

## IV. Committee Reports:

### PLANNING – SHERRI FLEMING AND JOY STOLLINGS.

- Sherri Fleming said that they are now moving to develop a rent and mortgage fact sheet.
- They introduced a proposal from Fosforus to redesign and re-message a simple, effective website for the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas. Fosforus proposes to “house” the site within TheGoodCity.org, as well as enabling the site to have a stand-alone URL or website location. Visitors to TheGoodCity.org will quickly see an invitation to the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas website and/or elements of the new Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas Home Page. A **Motion** to develop a partnership with Fosforus to redesign and re-message a simple, effective website for the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas was made by Sherri Fleming and **Seconded** by Barbara Budde. **Motion Approved.**
- Fosforus requested an Official Statement of Support from the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas that would provide our support to the efforts of Fosforus in establishing TheGoodCity.Org. A **Motion** to direct the Planning Committee to pursue and negotiate a statement of support with Fosforus and bring a draft document back to the Coalition for approval was made by Sherri Fleming and **Seconded** by Susan Eason. **Motion Approved.**

### ADVOCACY – SUSAN EASON.

- Susan Eason said that Fred and Sam met with Rich Oppel, editor of the Austin American-Statesman and Arnold Garcia, editorial page editor, to talk about our proposal to conduct a six week series called “*Feeling the Heat in Austin*,” highlighting the issues of those who struggle to share the “good life” in Austin, as well as the opportunities available that make a difference. While they asked many great questions, they will not do a six-week series. However, they will do some follow up in the Statesman about basic needs and assistance issues.

#### **MEMBERSHIP – BARBARA BUDDE.**

- Barbara Budde distributed a proposed copy of the recommended changes to the Bylaws. A **Motion** to accept the Proposed Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas Bylaws changes as presented was made by Barbara Budde and **Seconded** by Julia Spann. **Motion Approved.**
- Barbara distributed a proposed copy of the Application for Organization Membership. A **Motion** to accept the Proposed Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas Application for Organization Membership changes as presented was made by Barbara Budde and **Seconded** by Julia Spann. **Motion Approved.**
- The “*Memorandum of Understanding*” will once again be distributed to everyone to renew his or her signature at the September Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas Board meeting.
- The Membership Committee submits for consideration for the following slate of officers for the upcoming year FY’ 2005 – 2006. Chair, Susan Eason; Vice-Chair, Lee Manford. A **Motion** to accept the new slate of officers for the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas for FY 2005 – 2006 was made by Barbara Budde and **Seconded** by Ellen Balthazar. **Motion Approved.**

#### **BEST SINGLE SOURCE – GEORGE BROWN.**

- George Brown said that the Best Single Source Committee proposes to the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas that we add Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Inc., as a funded partner. He said they have been regular attendees at the Best Single Source and are committed to the program. A **Motion** to add Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Inc., as a funded partner was made by Ellen Balthazar and **Seconded** by Karen Langley. **Motion Approved.**
- Austin Energy will be providing a Customer Assistance Program (CAP) Seminar on August 30 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Goodwill Industries located at 1015 Norwood Park Dr., Austin. This seminar will cover the latest information on special programs available for low to moderate-income customers. Approximately 130 Case Managers have signed up to attend the seminar.

#### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – JULIA SPANN.**

- Julia Spann reported that we submitted a grant to the “*Swett Foundation.*”
- She reported that she met with Paul Hilgers and they were unable to develop opportunities to swap the funds. Julia will contact Senator Hutchison’s office and determine if an exception could be made so the funds can be utilized for technology, client services, and case management support.
- We must continue to fund-raise for George’s position. Therefore, if anyone has any ideas about that, please send them to Michelle and Julia.

#### **FOOD – MARGIE FERNANDEZ-PREW & ADELITA WINCHESTER.**

- Adelita Winchester said that the Food Committee has formed a downtown sub-committee to prepare a list of downtown food providers. Meg Poag is heading up that sub-committee and they will be going to the Planning Committee to help them develop a flyer.
- We have agreed to go back and contact all of the providers for just the hot meals to make sure the data on two of the food survey questions are accurate. Item # 2 – “*What area do you serve?*” and Item # 7 – relates to “*hot meal.*” They also will ask: “*Who are you serving? Are they internal clients or the public?*” and “*How many meals do you provide?*” Meg Poag will be going over that with the Board.
- Meg Poag said that they are trying to nail down the quantity of food, what meal, and what day of the week.

#### **V. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Sunday, August 28, 2005 is The Grand Opening of the Farm to Market Grocery located at 1718 South Congress Ave.

- Dan Pruett announced that Jack Marrkand is no longer with the Sustainable Food Center and that John Kloninger will be the new Executive Director beginning August 24.
- Andrea Colunga Bussey announced that on September 1, 2005, the new State Inspection will change and will require a stricter vehicle emissions testing in order to improve air quality in affected areas in Texas.
- Tracey Whitley announced a website named PRBC ([www.prbc.com](http://www.prbc.com)), which means, Pay Rent, Build Credit, Inc. (PRBC) is a Maryland Corporation that, as an FCRA regulated Credit Bureau, provides a secure and reliable Data Network designed to incorporate rent and other recurring bill payments in automated underwriting and credit pricing decisions.

## **VI. NEXT MEETING:**

September 22, 2005  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
United Way Capital Area  
2000 East MLK Blvd.

## **VII. ADJOURN:**