

# BASIC NEEDS COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

www.basicneeds-ctx.org

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2005

**Time:** 9:00 – 10:45 a.m.  
**Location:** United Way Capital Area  
**Convener:** Dan Pruett  
**Secretary of the Meeting:** Lucia Dodson

### Attendees:

Maria Allen	COA-HHSD-St. John Center	Keith Jackson	Community Action Network
George Brown	Basic Needs Coalition	Amanda McRae	Caritas
Barbara Budde	Catholic Charities	Ellen Balthazar	Any Baby Can
Lila Carl	Any Baby Can	Christy Moffett	Travis County HHS
Rebecca Lightsey	SafePlace	Katie Navine	Goodwill Industries
Susan Eason	The ARC of the Capital Area	Meg Poag	Travis County HHS & VS
Margie Fernandez-Prew	United Way	Dan Pruett	Meals on Wheels and More
Lucia Dodson	Meals on Wheels and More	Glenda Shayne	Capital Area Food Bank
Kristen Sluder	Meals on Wheels and More	Julia Spann	Caritas
Lizabeth Kelley	Micah 6 Coalition	Kathy Stark	Austin Tenants Council
Steve Kaiven	Goodwill Industries	Adelita Winchester	Caritas
Karen Langley	Family ElderCare	Sam Woollard	Community Action Network
Lee Manford	AIDS Services of Austin	Shankha Iqbal	United Way
Mike Manor	TCHHS & VS – Post Road	Mary Teeters	Meals on Wheels and More
Marco Galvan	2-1-1 TX	Stephanie Hayden	COA South Austin Neighborhood Center
Ann Long	2-1-1 TX	Charity Gladish	Foundation Communities
Lee Manford	AIDS Services of Austin	Neva Lockett	Hays County Food Bank
Becky Morales	Any Baby Can	Beth Kelly	Micah 6 Committee
Kathy Ridings	The Salvation Army		

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Dan Pruett called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

## **II. APPROVED THE JANUARY 27, 2005 MINUTES:**

The minutes of January 27, 2005, were reviewed and a **Motion** to accept them with a *word change* on page 3 replace *lobby* with *advocate* was made by Susan Eason and **Seconded** by Julia Spann. **Motion Approved.**

## **III. CHAIR'S REPORT:**

### **Membership Committee Roster:**

Dan asked any one interested in chairing this committee to call him. George Brown and Julia Spann will be temporary Co-Chairs.

## **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **PLANNING – MEG POAG.**

- Worked on the FAQ. Made some last minute revision and it should be ready for release in March.

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

- An application submitted on behalf of the Best Single Source project to Impact Austin was declined.
- An application will be submitted on behalf of the Food Committee to DHS Food Stamp Participation Grant. Deadline to submit is April 26.

### **FOOD – MARGIE FERNANDEZ-PREW**

- The Committee will develop a tool/survey to help us gather information from agencies about their food programs.
- This tool will be distributed to the Committee members as they contact these agencies to gather the survey information.
- The Food Committee mission is to identify and describe existing community food service programs and its availability to the public; to bring together food service providers to share information, discuss gaps, challenges and other related issues; and to explore opportunities to collaborate to improve food service delivery in Travis County.

### **ADVOCACY – SUSAN EASON**

- Action agenda item that came from Julia Spann and Amanda M<sup>c</sup>Rae.
- Asked the Board if anyone had a Legislative Advocacy Staff member that we can tap into. Dan Pruett with Meals on Wheels and More and Barbara Budde with Catholic Charities of Central Texas each have Legislative Advocacy staff and will ask them if they can assist the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas Advocacy Committee.
- The Advocacy Committee will have monthly meeting during the legislative session. After that, the Committee will meet quarterly.
- The Committee will bring member agencies several recommendations that individual agencies can do on their own and one to be presented to the Board for approval before acting.
- Advocacy Committee mission is to respond to legislative requests from the Basic Needs Coalition when appropriate and to educate regarding policy matters.
- Two possible processes were discussed for how to handle a request that comes in to the Committee.
  - The committee will send an e-mail to everyone presenting the issue and submitting a sample letter for member comments, or
  - Bring it to the Executive Committee for action.

**RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR ADVOCACY.** The Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas (BNC) should choose issues that....

- Adhere to Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas core mission;
- Highlight both the BNC's and partner agency concern;
- Bridge issues or fill a gap;
- Can be philosophically supported by a majority of stakeholders; and
- Have a significant, measurable community impact.

Susan Eason made a **Motion** that when a request comes to the Advocacy Committee and the whole coalition cannot meet, the Executive Committee will have authority to act on behalf of the whole coalition as long as it follows the recommended Guidelines for the Advocacy. **Seconded** by Karen Langley, **Motion Approved.**

- A presentation of the Customer Assistance Program was made to CAN Committee Community Council on January 24, 2005.
- A request was made that all members call their Representative and Senators and urge them to reject the President's 2006 Budget Proposal.
- A letter to Governor Rick Perry to be hand-delivered the next day needs Board approval at this meeting. In the letter, the BNC urges the Governor to oppose the President's proposed FY 2006 Budget for health and human services because it will adversely affect millions of our state's citizens.

A **Motion** was made by Susan Eason to accept the letter to Governor Rick Perry as presented with the following changes "A grass-roots collaboration of 21 human service providers, voted unanimously (with the City of Austin and Travis County abstaining) to ask you to express your opposition to the budget that President has submitted." **Seconded** by Karen Langley. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

- The 2005-2006 Guide to the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislature was distributed to everyone on the Board.

#### **BEST SINGLE SOURCE – LEE MANFORD AND GEORGE BROWN.**

- Lee and George previewed a presentation they plan to make to update the funders and the participating agencies. The funders are the City of Austin (the majority funder), Advanced Micro Devices, and an anonymous donor through United Way
- Thank You" luncheon for Case Managers and Program Managers who have been involved in the program has been scheduled for April 25, 2005, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Waterloo Room at United Way.
- **SUCCESS STORIES:** Kristen Sluder with Meals on Wheels and More, Becky Morales with Any Baby Can, and Susan Eason with Arc of the Capital Area shared communications they received from a client who was helped by Best Single Source.

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

- Karen Langley wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that Family Eldercare is collaborating with Travis County Housing Bond Finance Department that issues county bonds to help developers build housing. A housing project that is in default on its bond payment and agreed to set aside 10 to 20 units and allow us to place folks who have limited income there, they would be able to pay off their bond obligations to the County. It has been successful. Family Eldercare just received a request to help fill five more units. She asked if those present could send folks who are in crisis to her agency so they can get housing and stabilized by calling Kendra Peters at 483-3556.
- Christy will be doing a presentation at the March 24, 2005, Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas Board meeting on the CEAP program, which provides utility assistance.

- Lee Manford reported on a meeting held with Community Action Network and Austin Energy representatives to discuss the City of Austin's CAP program. Attending from the Basic Needs Coalition were Lee, Stephanie Hayden, George Brown, Christy Moffett, Maria Allen, and Sam Woollard. The participants identified three key challenges:
  - The CAP Program is not easily understood and needs additional funding,
  - Currently only 3,000 to 4,000 of the approximately 33,000 eligible households claim the Austin Energy benefits that could lower their utility bills an average of \$15-\$20 per month, and
  - CAP funds may not currently be distributed in the most efficient and effective manner.
- A Representative from Austin Energy will be at our March Coalition meeting to present their program. The CAN marketing team will be working with Austin Energy to develop ways to increase utilization of benefits and to increase donation from customers. We anticipate an ongoing dialogue with the participants.
- Christy Moffett reported that Travis County is moving ahead in implementing the Best Single Source program. Travis County Health and Human Services will be presenting some fairly major policy change recommendations for approval at the March 8, 2005, Commissioners Court. They are in the process of interviewing for the BSS position at the County. The policies that the County adopts will be shared with the Coalition.
- Christy announced that she would be taking maternity leave in May and plans to return in September. However, Andrea Colunga-Bussey will be responsible for overseeing BSS. In addition, Sherri Fleming will also be able to update members on how projects are going.
- Susan announced that after the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas Board meeting on March 24, the Austin Area Human Services Association (AAHSA) would again this year hold a candidates' forum for the coming City Council elections. It will be on Thursday, March 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Nuevo Leon Restaurant, 1501 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Austin and everyone is invited. Please RSVP to Lee Manford if you will be attending. In addition, the AAHSA has arranged for the restaurant to have a buffet luncheon. The cost will be \$10 for the meal and gratuity.
- Marco gave the Board an update on the Foundation Community Tax Centers. To date, over 4.5 million dollars has been brought into our community from the community tax centers. More than 2,000 returns have already been prepared only a month into the program because of the wonderful work being done by 300 volunteers. He invited anyone who knows of clients, staff, friends, or family members who qualify and fit the guidelines to send them. The guidelines are a single or retired person who makes \$20,000 a year; or more than one dependent and make \$40,000 a year. All they need to do is call 2-1-1 and set-up an appointment.

## **VI. NEXT MEETING:**

April 21, 2005  
 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
 United Way Capital Area  
 2000 East MLK Blvd.

## **VII. ADJOURN:**