

BASIC NEEDS COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

www.basicneeds-ctx.org

Monthly Meeting**Minutes January 27, 2005**

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

Attendees:

Maria Allen	COA-HHSD-St. John Center	Jack Marrkand	Sustainable Food Center Information
George Brown	Basic Needs Coalition	Amanda McRae	Caritas
Barbara Budde	Catholic Charities	Joan Miller	Travis County HHS
Lila Carl	Any Baby Can	Christy Moffett	Travis County HHS
Bea Dela Rosa	St. Louis Catholic Church	Katie Navine	Goodwill Industries
Susan Eason	The ARC of the Capital Area	Meg Poag	Travis County HHS
Margie Fernandez-Prew	United Way	Dan Pruett	Meals on Wheels and More
Sherri Fleming	Travis County HHS	Glenda Shayne	Capital Area Food Bank
Michael Guerra	Capital Area Food Bank	Julia Spann	Caritas
Steve Kaiven	Goodwill Industries	Kathy Stark	Austin Tenants Council
Lizabeth Kelley	Micah 6 Coalition	Adelita Winchester	Caritas
Michelle Krejci-Huck	United Way	Sam Woollard	Community Action Network
Karen Langley	Family Elder Care	Shankha Iqbal	United Way
Lee Manford	AIDS Services of Austin		
Mike Manor	TCHHS & VS – Post Road		

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

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

II. APPROVED THE JANUARY 27, 2005 MINUTES:

The January 27, 2005 minutes were reviewed and approved

III. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Presentation by Jason Sabo

Dan Pruett introduced Jason Sabo who is Vice President Public Policy of the United Ways of Texas. Jason suggested that individuals use www.uwtexas.org to track legislative items; it provides real time updates and has discussion of the big issues.

He emphasized it is a critical time politically for nonprofits with the state taking money from human services, more individuals needing services, and massive cuts at the federal level. We have influential people, board of directors; friends and we need to use them. Push for legislation such as food stamps which has a positive economic impact; it is 100% federal funding, administered by the state, stores profit and money circulates within the Texas economy.

The state senate will have 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats, while the house will be comprised of 87 Republicans and 63 Democrats. Legislation to restore CHIP funding has been filed.

What we can do to influence legislation:

1. Tell people about the Web site
2. Tell your board what is going on
3. Austin has a unique opportunity because we are so close
- 4.

Julia Spann asked where integrated eligibility stood. Jason said the state is negotiating contracts and should finalize soon. He is not sure how we can influence the process, but keep asking questions of you state legislators and state commission officials.

If you would like to get on Jason's newsletter, you can contact him at 478-6601 extension 24 or jason.sabo@uwtexas.org.

Dan initiated a discussion regarding a proposed Food Committee.

The committee would look at food in its broadest sense and would include its availability and distribution process. Dan feels our organization is the most appropriate one to facilitate coordination in the community. The committee will rely heavily on the work being done by the Capital Area Food Bank. Margie Fernandez-Prew and Adelita Winchester will co-chair the committee. Members who would like to serve on the committee were asked to stay after the meeting to sign up. Areas to be addressed by the committee include:

- Pantry Coordination
- Mass food providers
- Research and Assessment
- Determine what documents are available to help get started
- Develop an agenda

There was consensus that the Food Committee should move forward as an ad hoc committee.

Dan proposed the creation of a Legislative Advisory Committee.

Dan commented that the Basic Needs Coalition needs to be involved in the legislative process. The group carries clout and needs to be proactive for our constituents. Dan recommended that this be a standing committee. Karen Langley commented that she was going to her board to determine how they should proceed on legislative activity. Michelle Huck said that there is a good bit of information to draw from. Lila Carl mentioned that some grants require the recipient organization not too lobby; we need to be careful. Comments were made that our focus would be more of educating those involved in the legislative process. Dan Pruett says it is his understanding that 501C3s can advocate regarding issues, but not for candidates. Barbara Budde said that we need to be the voice for those who cannot hire a lobbyist. There was a consensus that the Basic Needs Council should be in a position to take a stance on legislative issues. A motion was made and seconded and approved by the group to form the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Susan Eason will be the committee chair.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMITTEE – SHERRI FLEMING

- Provided a handout of the Community Action Network Facts and Questions About Basic Needs
- The document will be presented to the Community Action Network Administrative and Planning committee today
- Plan to present to CAN Resource Council in February and release to the public in March
- Sherri provided the Planning Subcommittee Timeline covering:
 - FAQ
 - Food Subcommittee
 - Utilities (CAP)
 - Tagline
 - Develop Logo
 - Develop Fact Sheets
 - Address Sustainability Issues/Coalition Evaluation
- Provided a handout of the Planning Committee Description and Responsibilities

BEST SINGLE SOURCE – LEE MANFORD AND GEORGE BROWN.

Lee Manford said that we have now completed the Pilot phase and moving into implementation.

- A decision has been made to provide financial assistance for up to six months under certain conditions. A proposed set of conditions has been sent to Best Single Source committee members and will be finalized in February.
- We are targeting March 10 as the date to make a presentation to the County Commissioners on the status of the Best Single Source program. A preliminary presentation will be made at the February Best Single Source committee
- There are plans for to have a “Thank You” function for case managers and program managers who have been involved in the program. This would include lunch and a presentation on the accomplishments achieved.

George Brown gave an overview on the results of the Pilot.

- A total of 48 clients were serviced; goal was to service 40
- Demographic data of clients was presented.
- 70% of the clients had income below Federal Poverty Guidelines
- 35.5% of clients had illness or other medical issues as their cause of crisis
- The average assistance per client was \$1,128
- A total of \$32,558 of Best Single Source funds was used for client assistance

MEMBERSHIP:

Dan reported that due to work requirements Glenda Shayne will not be able to continue as chair of the committee. Dan asked that if any one was interested in chairing this committee they should call him.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – JULIA SPANN AND MICHELLE KREJCI-HUCK.

- An application has been submitted to Impact Austin
- We plan to apply for TDHCA , ESGP Homeless Prevention grant. There is a March 1 deadline.
- There was discussion on applying to the Swett Foundation. The group voted for the committee to proceed
- A proposal will be made to the Meadows Foundation in the spring
- Karen Langley suggested that we look into Donald D. Hammel Foundation
- If you have recommendations for foundations or agencies that we should approach for funding give their names to Julia Spann, Michelle Huck, or George Brown. George is maintaining a data base for development activities.

CITY OF AUSTIN Customer Assistance Program – Sam Woollard

- Sam, Fred Butler, and George Brown met with Pat Alaniz and other individuals from City of Austin Customer Assistance Program
- The Customer Assistance Program provides numerous forms of assistance that are beneficial to our constituents
- The Customer Assistance group is interested in working with CAN and the BNC
- We plan to look at marketing activities that will provide more funds to the CAP program
- There are other agencies receiving CAP funds that would be good candidates to become members of CAN
- A presentation of the Customer Assistance Program was made to CAN Committee Community Council on January 24, 2005.
- It was agreed to have a presentation of the City of Austin Customer Assistance Program at our next Coalition meeting

V. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Christy Moffett reported that Travis County Health and Human Services was moving along to implement the Best Single Source March 1. They are in the process of hiring an individual, writing procedures, finalizing funding, and planning for their pilot.
- Christy also reported on the CEAP program, which provides utility assistance. Their staff has been trained and will start having interviews with clients next week. They already have a waiting list. Christy will make a presentation of the program to the BNC.

VI. NEXT MEETING:

February 24, 2005
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
United Way Capital Area
2000 East MLK Blvd.

VII. ADJOURN: