

BASIC NEEDS COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

www.basicneeds-ctx.org

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2006

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Location: United Way Capital Area
Convener: Lee Manford
Secretary of the Meeting: Martha Zavala

ATTENDEES:

Adelita Winchester	Caritas		Molly Jensen	Sustainable Food Center
Dan Pruett	Meals on Wheels & More		George Brown	Basic Needs Coalition
Steve Kaiven	Goodwill		Ellen Balthazar	Any Baby Can
Martha Zavala	Arc of the Capital Area		Helen Varty	Frontsteps
Mike Manor	Travis County HHS&VS		Rebecca Dreke	SafePlace
A.J. Sweat	TC Re-Entry Roundtable		Katie Navine	Goodwill
Maggie Rincon	Our Lady of Guadalupe Church		Sam Woollard	CAN
Andrea Colunga-Bussey	Travis County HHS&VS		Joy Stollings	Meals on Wheels & More
Beverly Seffel	LCRA		Michael Guerra	Capital Area Food Bank
Bea De La Rosa	St. Louis Catholic Church		Kendra Peters	Family Eldercare
Barbara Budde	Catholic Charities		Beth Atherton	Caritas of Austin
Katie Herbek	University of Texas (research)		Jay Filderman	Salvation Army
Coni Huntsman Stogner	SafePlace		Tamra Zehner	El Buen Samaritano
Nova McGiffert	Basic Needs Coalition		Sherri Fleming	Travis County HHS & VS
Lee Manford	AIDS Services of Austin		Glenda Shayne	Capital Area Food Bank
Todd Moore	United Way of the Capital Area		Kathy Stark	Austin Tenants Council

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Lee Manford called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Susan Eason could not make this meeting due to a Family Emergency. Lee asked for all to review the minutes prior to introductions.

- **The minutes of March 23, 2006, were reviewed. Three corrections were made:**
 - 1) under Utility Task Force: The Task Force, Austin Energy and BNC individuals met on 3/2/06 to lay out strategies, etc.**
 - 2) under Attendees: A.J. Sweat was NOT at the March meeting.**
 - 3) under Utility Task Force: the Utility Task Force committee meets at Caritas.**

With corrections the minutes stand, per Lee Manford. Introduction of attendees.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING/ADVOCACY- ELLEN BALTHAZAR

- Ellen announced they are working on revamping the Basic Needs Coalition web site so that it is both externally focused as well as for internal use by the coalition. The Advocacy committee is working with Karen Cook, Community Action Network, on this project. Ellen thanked her for her time and talents. Ellen asked for pictures for the different sections of the web site. You may send the pictures to Sam Wollard at CAN, to Karen or Ellen.
- Ellen announced that the Fact Sheets are done and she apologized for not having paper copies to pass out. Everyone in the Basic Needs Coalition will receive electronic versions of the various Fact Sheets. The committee has decided to set up a six-month review process for the Fact Sheets, so they can be kept current.
- Elliot Brown has made contact and will make contact with several members in order to put together a Food Fact Sheet.
- Although some members of the Basic Needs Coalition are in favor of the immigration situation, they do not support the boycott that was to take place on May 1st.
- Ellen introduced a resolution for the upcoming Propositions 1 and 2. Estimates are that it would take \$36 million to execute these propositions if passed. They would greatly impact health and human services.
- Ellen Balthazar motioned to approve the resolution. Beth Atherton seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Resolution to be released on 5/1/2006 at a press conference. Ellen will attend the press conference. Open Discussion.
- Action Item by Michael Guerra: process of voting by proxy on such issues as future resolutions and in case some items are sensitive to those listed as supporters.

MEMERSHIP – SHERRI FLEMING

- Nothing to report on at this time.

BEST SINGLE SOURCE – LEE MANFORD

- Lee Manford: Best Single Source presented results from 2005 to Travis County Commissioners Court. Best Single Source was invited back to a work session on 5/25/06.
- Long Term Recovery Program of Best Single Source was awarded \$71,000 dollars by the city for direct assistance under the Long Term Recovery effort. Still \$12,000 dollars shy of being fully funded.
- George Brown: per the American Statesman, 209 people will stop receiving Fema assistance. The city is sharing the list of 209 evacuees with various service providers as well as Best Single Source and other members of the Basic Needs Coalition. 105 people are currently on the service point system. However, there are still 200 people who Fema has not yet determined whether they are eligible for continuous support. First time Fema has shared information, which is truly helpful to us.
- Long Term Recovery's grant target was to serve 550 families and currently we are serving 150.

- Huge concern for the community- currently for the 209 families, the city is paying \$300,000 a month to support them in their rent and utilities.
Open Discussion.

UTILITY TASK FORCE – BETH ATHERTON

- Utility Task Force Committee continues to work with Austin Energy on the recommendations for keeping families from losing their housing based on unpaid utilities and for those who transition from homelessness to moving into some sort of housing and not being held back by prior utility bills. Also discussed using case management to negotiate a repayment schedule and maintain housing stability.
- Action item: discuss waiving a deposit fee with Austin Energy for the hurricane evacuees who will be living on their own means without assistance from Fema.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – JOY STOLLINGS

- The Resource Development Committee had worked on a grant with CARITAS for food stamp outreach, but did not submit the grant.
- The Resource Committee has developed a new list of what the various sub-committees need fundraising for. However, the committee does not have the capacity for the different grants to be written. Suggestion was to find funding for a position so someone can help write the grants and fundraise.
- Retreat in late June to discuss needs of the Coalition and gather ideas on the direction the Coalition needs to take, until then the committee will take a break from duties.
- Joy Stollings will not be able to chair the Resource Development Committee due to work obligations. A decision about this committee will be made after the retreat.

Lee Manford added that the retreat will be held on June 23, 2006 (Friday) from 9AM TO 4PM,

FOOD COMMITTEE – BEA DE LA ROSA

- In the process of completing a countywide survey of pantries and hot meals; the information will then be provided to Public Relations/Advocacy Committee for the food fact sheet.
- One goal of the survey is to find out what areas are underserved due to hours of operations of pantries.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Lee Manford announced that the Basic Needs Coalition has been invited to present to the United Way Impact Council on Basic Needs/Safety and Security on June 7th from 3pm to 5pm. The executive committee will discuss what the presentation will contain.

AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Barbara Budde from Catholic Charities announced that at their annual meeting a volunteer award was presented to an Austinite from Holy Cross Catholic Parish.
- CAN and Travis County Research and Planning to create an immigrant assessment and over the course of the summer various focus groups will be held. CAN is 10 years old and the celebration will be on May 12th at City Hall.
- Sherri Flemming reminded the Coalition that Travis County is in the public comment period. Public hearings will continue to be held.
- Bea De La Rosa announced that the North Austin Cluster will soon no longer assist individuals without a social security number. If that is the final decision then Bea will resign her position with the Cluster. St. Louis Church will still be a Basic Needs Coalition member and will still serve all people in need.
- National Awareness day on June 6th at Auditorium shores.

- Farmer's Market at Plaza Saltillo opens April 27th and will be every Thursday. Also, Farmer's Market nutrition program starts first week of May.
- City/County Hospital District will engage in a comprehensive HIV/Aids community planning process that will kick off May 15th.
- Lee Manford will ride in the Hill Country Ride for AIDS for the 7th year. That will be held on April 30th.

NEXT MEETING:

May 25, 2006

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

United Way Capital Area

2000 East MLK Blvd.

ADJOURN