

BASIC NEEDS COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

www.basicneeds-ctx.org

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2006

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

ATTENDEES:

Susan Rowe	COA – HHSD – St.John	Suzanne Santos	Sustainable Food Center
Dan Pruett	Meals on Wheels & More	George Brown	Basic Needs Coalition
Susan Eason	Arc of the Capital Area	Ellen Balthazar	Any Baby Can
Martha Zavala	Arc of the Capital Area	Maria Allen	COA – HHSD-St.John
Mike Manor	Travis County HHS&VS	Rebecca Dreke	SafePlace
A.J. Sweat	TC Re-Entry Roundtable – Support Services Committee	Katie Navine	Goodwill
Elizabeth Gfell	ATC MHMR	Sam Woollard	CAN
Andrea Colunga-Bussey	Travis County HHS&VS	Joy Stollings	Meals on Wheels & More
Beverly Seffel	LCRA	Matt Koschmann	University of Texas
Bea De La Rosa	St. Louis Catholic Church	Shawn Lemieux	United Way
Megan Bayes	Foundation for the Homeless	Beth Atherton	Caritas of Austin
Elliot Brown	Foundation for the Homeless	Rick Rivera	Family Connection
Coni Huntsman Stogner	SafePlace	Kelli Sureck	Communities in School
Nova McGiffert	BNC	Tresha Silva	Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry
Lee Manford	AIDS Services of Austin	Jana Thomas	Marywood
Todd Moore	United Way of the Capital Area	Tamra Zehner	El Buen Samaritano
Rhonda Montgomery	Church of the Good Shepherd	Sherri Fleming	Travis County HHS & VS
Julia Spann	SafePlace	Josefina Westwood	Lifeline / Marywood
Karen Langley	Family Eldercare	Stephanie Svoboda	Guest of Meals on Wheels
Glenda Shayne	CAFB	Stephanie Hayden	COA - SANC

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Susan Eason called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Susan welcomed Beverly Seffel from LCRA and Doug MacGregor and Mary Mulvaney - United Way Basic Needs Impact Council Co-Chairs. Susan asked new and current members of the BNC to introduce themselves.

- **The minutes of February 23, 2006, were reviewed. Two corrections were made:**
1) under Resource Development: Sandra Valenzuela is from Travis County and
2) under Utility Task Force: spelling correction - Beth Atherton.
- **Ellen Balthazar moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Andrea Colunga-Bussey seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.**

II. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Susan Eason congratulated and thanked Meg Poag and Christy Moffett for their promotion to Senior Planners for the new Travis County CDBG grant.

Presentations:

- **Doug MacGregor - United Way Co-chair to Impact Council on Basic Needs/Safety and Security:** United Way needed to formulate a plan to address root causes as well as the symptoms. Prevent the problem and let's not duplicate the work of CIC's or the Basic Needs Coalition. Resources need to be allocated to change mindsets of mental health. Research is on-going and he would like to bring in the expertise of agencies in the Basic Needs Coalition.
- **Mary Mulvaney - United Way Co-chair to Impact Council on Basic Needs/Safety and Security:** Specifically, United Way would like to create a community agenda for the eleven surrounding counties. Contracted with Ray Marshall Group at U.T., maybe BNC members participate in surveys, to develop a "real" community needs agenda.
- **Todd Moore – United Way:** added following information to presentation:
 - ♦ **Phase 1: see handout**
 - ♦ **Phase 2: forums in 10 county regions**
 - ♦ **Phase 3: develop final manuscript**
- The membership expressed their views to Doug and Mary and asked for more communication and coordination between the two groups. Susan thanked Doug, Mary and Todd for their participation.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING/ADVOCACY- ELLEN BALTHAZAR

- Ellen informed the Basic Needs Coalition that the committee is finished with the Rent/Mortgage Assistance Fact Sheet. Ellen thanked Korey Darling for coordinating this fact sheet.
- A request was made to hold a poverty seminar for several churches.
- A Poverty Awareness workshop this summer for high schools and college students at Concordia is being discussed.
- Karen Langley suggested including our endorsement for the housing bond, under "How to make a difference"
- Susan entertained the motion to approve the Rent/Mortgage Assistance Fact Sheet. Karen Langley moved to approve and Beth Atherton seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
- Planning/Advocacy Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Palm Square.

MEMERSHIP – SHERRI FLEMING

- Proposed to monitor membership and compliance with the by-laws instead of recruiting.
- To track attendance at coalition meetings and at committee meetings. However, the staff of an agency can attend committee meetings and their agency will still get credit.
- Proposed a name change for the Membership committee i.e. Membership Development Committee
- Membership committee is to take on Food Stamp Curriculum project: food stamp outreach. To educate case managers and out-reach to faith community to train to be experts to navigate food stamp system and in turn to train others. Funding is coming from Travis County Health and Human Services. First project to be more of a regional model.
- Karen Langley suggested that each member pay dues (i.e. \$200.00) in order to raise money for our own coalition budget.
- Membership Committee meets on the first Monday of every other month at Palm Square.

BEST SINGLE SOURCE – LEE MANFORD

- Lee passed out fliers on hurricane relief and the BSS & LTR budget for 2006.
- 600 clients for BSS and funding appears to be adequate for this year
- Susan gave thanks to George Brown for representing the Basic Needs Coalition so well at various LTR meetings.
- Budgets have been approved by the Best Single Source Committee and the Executive Committee. Dan Pruett moved to accept the budgets, with additions. Ellen Balthazar seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Best Single Source Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Palm Square from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – JOY STOLLINGS

- Joy and the committee have created an acknowledgement checklist for every gift received. Caritas currently sends out “thank you” letters and performance reports so agencies can see how the money is being used. The committee would like to incorporate other ways to acknowledge our donors. (i.e. posting sponsorship on the web site, presenting awards/certificate, and press releases.)
- The Resource Committee has sent requests to the different committees for their priorities and what fundraising support is needed.
- Resource Development Committee meets on 4/13/06 at United Way

FOOD COMMITTEE – BEA DE LA ROSA

- Bea and the Food Committee are now doing a countywide food survey and hope to have the information for the Basic Needs Coalition by April. Lucia from Meals on Wheels will be assisting with this project.
- Food Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at Palm Square

UTILITY TASK FORCE – BETH ATHERTON

- Beth Atherton: met 3/2/06 with Kerry Overton from Austin Energy to lay out strategies/focus on where to go with the three sub-committees.
- Looking forward to various changes/innovations Basic Needs Coalition can work out with Austin Energy for our client's access. Safeplace has a template set with Austin Energy on immediate issues.

- Austin Energy has asked for our help in the advocacy arena, to mutually achieve the goals of our clients as partners.
- Utility Task Force meets at Palm Square

AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Contact chair of the committee that you would like to serve on for more information.
- Agency for the Homeless has open spots for any families in need. These are shelter spaces.
- Call Mary from Meals on Wheels if you need a PR person, she can recommend a great candidate.
- Family Connections is having their annual Celebration of Families from 10 am - 4 pm on April 1, 2006
- March 25th, the Lion's Club will have a free health screening at the parking lot of St. John's Community Center
- County Budget process is underway, please look at the Travis County website.
- County is in the process of preparing the consolidated plan to receive community development block grant funds. Public hearings will be held in various locations through May
- Marywood has residential spaces for pregnant women in the seven-space program.
- 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.
- SafePlace will have their annual walk for safe families and streets on April 22nd.

NEXT MEETING:

April 27, 2006
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
United Way Capital Area
2000 East MLK Blvd.

ADJOURN