



## CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 08/15/2018

**Attendees:** Ayrhart, Tracy (Central Health); Awais Azhar (Housing Works Austin); Bentley, Alison (United Way Success By 6); Britton, Maureen (Children's Optimal Health); Cermak, Megan (Central Health); Darling, Korey (Travis County Health and Human Services); Ellinger, Hunter (CAN Community Council); Groves, Garrett (Austin Community College); Huang, Phil (Austin Public Health); Long, Timothy (ECHO); Martin, Brooke W (Integral Care); Rudow, Josh (COA Neighborhood Housing and Community Development); Wallace, Tiffany (Workforce Solutions);

**Staff in Attendance:** Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto

**Welcome and Introductions:** Greg Cumpton, DSC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:09 and members introduced themselves.

**Approval of minutes:** The 04/05/18 meeting minutes were approved. Awaiz moved to approve the minutes with a correction, Timothy Long seconded the motion. Motion to accept the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

**Executive Director Update:** Raul Alvarez thanked members for attending and briefly outlined the goals of today's meeting and the group's work over the next few months. Part of what we want to talk about today is how to structure our conversations to accomplish our goals while respecting our time. That includes fostering more meaningful interaction between partners, which may result in us producing something that's also useful to the board, staff, and anyone else who may be interested in the topic. An example is the Child Poverty report produced by the Community Council last year, which summarizes the conversations had over the previous eighteen months on the topic of child poverty and includes information on current needs and strategies. It might be useful for this body to take a similar approach with its work, especially considering that we will be entering the 10<sup>th</sup> year of publishing the dashboard. In terms of CAN priorities, the Dashboard is a tool that helps in determining priorities at our end-of-year retreat. About six years ago CAN began looking at the suburbanization of poverty as an issue, and now it's talked about in a multitude of contexts. These kinds of insights result from having access to the information, and bringing knowledgeable people to the table. Having these types of conversations lead to the convening of our 5-county Regional Summit, of which we have hosted 2 on a semiannual basis, and have another planned for this year. This year we are having the event at Hays County. Two issues Hays community would like to see discussed: workforce housing and workforce development. About 3 years ago we began a Community Dialogues series, based on the Kettering Foundation's Deliberative Dialogue format and National Issues Forum issue guides. The first year we discussed bridging the economic divide, last year we talked about police community relations, and the topic this year will be addressing the opioid crisis.

In terms of the Dashboard, the Traffic Fatalities indicator was not added or approved by the Board. Issue: city level indicator adopted by the City of Austin (COA), while the dashboard indicators are at a county level. Part of our process is that it goes through review and then to the executive committee who then approves to the board, and then at the board level it was determined that it was a CoA indicator not a Travis County indicator. Something we hadn't talked about, but going forward, look at how different partners are going to react to different data in terms of geographical/jurisdictional level. It's part of the nature of the process that's important to be aware of and understand. In the drill down we reported by county, but since the main county was Travis and City of Austin and no indicator was just City of Austin, the Board thought it was inconsistent. We need to respect how partners will react and during these checks and balances, and we need to note the level of scrutiny is so high, and sometimes adding indicators is a challenge. We want to keep indicators meaningful and useful. Next year hopefully the Board would be open to a broader conversation about this with possible changes.

Greg Cumpton: to clarify, the Dashboard Steering Committee is charged with providing recommendations to the committee by February. There was an issue with there not being enough time to send EC and Board feedback back to Dashboard Steering Committee in time for printing. Recommendations are required before

April in order to make changes through the executive committee by March to be able to have 6 weeks or so to review the parts needing changes and approve. Hopefully next year, we can work more accurately with the timeframe.

### **Discuss Community Dashboard Survey Results:**

CAN Research Analyst Carlos A. Soto developed a survey to obtain a holistic view of the dashboard and gather feedback. The survey was organized by issue area and gathered feedback regarding any goals statements needing revisions along with indicators changed/eliminated/replaced. There were 3 questions on each section. Survey shows no language change on the header statements recommended.

We are Safe, Just, and Engaged: indicators do not need to be changed or replaced. Jail bookings indicator needs to be made clear. Define what disproportionality ratio means. Clarify and explain some of these ideas for any indicators. There was a response that there should be an indicator focused on Diversity and Inclusion. Another recommended victims of child abuse or reported issues of family violence. Disproportionality drill downs contain data on Disciplinary Alternative Education Program removals in AISD, and confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect in Travis County, but there isn't always space on the dashboard, so it's included as a drill down. Look at things in a methodical way. Build a review on what stands out in a targeted way. Issues with diversity and inclusion, but no ideas on how to address in the dashboard. It's not just in that one section.

Disproportionality is an issue in more areas than criminal justice. What if we had a metaindicator that has the disparities for all the indicators? Reduce percentage of items that have disproportionality by a certain amount. Perhaps a line chart with levels of disproportionality to show that disproportionality is systemic. This idea connects well with drill downs, because one of the weaknesses of the report is that it doesn't inspire people to go to the drilldowns as much as would be desired. Some way of communicating at least one more minor breakdown of things than the current one does should be a major goal. High level meta piece could be in the space that currently contains the Equity Analysis.

Driving alone to work is a new addition to the dashboard, which replaced vehicle miles traveled. Idea in changing the indicator was to learn more about how many people are walking/biking to work, carpooling, telecommuting, or using public transport, and using the data to spark meaningful conversations about that. County health rankings includes driving alone to work in their indicator list because transportation choices have important impacts on health, air quality, and crashes. If you reduce the number of people driving alone to work, this should increase the number of people taking other transportation choices or working from home. Hunter observed that the transportation structure may change dramatically over next decade. Technological changes may impact effect on air quality. Assumption about pollution could change with self-driving or electric cars. Not a bad measure but it is an indirect measure and is worthy of some attention. Secondly, if you ask people driving to work alone if their transportation needs are being met, they would probably say yes.

Need to address targets for 2020. Raul asked what are people thinking about when looking at the targets and where we are according to our most recent data? Is it moral to have a target that is not a target you want to hit? Ex. Traffic hits. Will you ever get to zero when other factors are increasing? There can be aspirational goals. These are challenges and some factors are difficult to achieve but is it wrong to shoot for that? What do you want to show as a goal? Might also get confusing if the goal for the indicator on the CAN dashboard is one number, and the goal for the same indicator might be different for the entity publishing the data. Perhaps have more targets be like the crime rate target, which involves a percent reduction.

Percentage reduction idea? CAN needs to remain consistent and have incremental improvements over time. Balance goals in certain time frames for 2020. What are the next set of goals after 2020? Perhaps we could make conversations about targets a priority for next year. It would also be helpful for everyone to know who else has used the indicator in the past, who is the person/entity that's an expert on this issue, so we are better able to articulate the choices our committee makes.

Housing cost indicator, disconnect because it indicates improvement but reality is that cost is increasing at a phenomenal rate locally. Dramatic shift has impact on the living wage. Indicator makes it seem like housing costs have improved, but need to address affordability and most jobs don't provide wage to support this increase. Target probably needs to be rethought, seems like we are fine with 1/3 of the city being cost burdened. Might have made sense coming out of a recession, but not currently.

Going through indicators and report, there are many indicators that refer to the drill downs, need to remember some people may not look at the drill downs. If we want the report to be as impactful as possible, we might need to limit how much context is needed to make sense of each of the indicators. Numbers should be readily interpretable, need to be able to pull exactly what people want from the indicators. Percentages need more context without drill downs. Idea is to live in a community where no one is living in poverty, but refer to something else as to why it matters. Need to refer to drill downs to find the disproportionality. Perhaps a column around whether there is disproportionality for each one of the measures could be helpful. A visual is great to see what is there and what isn't there. Regarding indicators, there is a page containing criteria and the process for selecting and changing indicators available on the back side of the agenda sheet.

Part of the purpose of the dashboard is to provide a snapshot of community conditions in a variety of arenas, and it can be hard to find the balance of what indicators are needed for CAN and the need to have things in context. How do we get people to want to take the next step to find information in the drill down? Can mobilize people with efforts that are already on going.

The Number of Days with Good Air Quality indicator replaced the original air quality indicator that only measured whether we were in attainment of the EPA air quality standards. Several issues were found with the "old" indicator, including the fact that it wasn't quantified and that the standards could change with administration change. Carlos Soto added that, in terms of health aspect, first responders know if it's a day with bad air quality due to the number of cases that come in. More granular view of air quality might be helpful, example from Josh Rudow: Opportunity360 data shows poor air quality in areas near 35, might be helpful to show what the readings are near apartment complexes, schools, etc. Find what data is available regarding environmental causes and whether it is things we have control over.

Smoking: does it or can it include data on vaping? Health insurance indicator might need to be updated to include other coverages that aren't considered insurance. Programs such as Central Health's Medical Access Program increase access to medical care, however, that wouldn't be reflected in the uninsured indicator.

Recently, Austin Public Health announced that the City of Austin signed the Paris [Declaration to End the Aids Epidemic](#), joining 96 other cities globally. The initiative provides opportunities to address prevention, testing, quality treatment, and ending stigma.

Unemployment stands out because it has exceeded its target. Committee opted to leave the goal the way it was, due to a number of reasons. When unemployment is broken down into race the picture changes, because the unemployment rate is much higher among African Americans than among whites. Compared to when we started tracking around the time of the Great Recession, the numbers have gone down for Hispanics and AA. Is there a way to measure underemployment? Tiffany Wallace, from Workforce Solutions explained that the challenge with underemployment was due to the unavailability of a consistent dataset. WS estimates based on COA and TC data compared to the state but there is not a regular measure that goes beyond the state. WS estimate would not be appropriate for dashboard.

High school graduation: 8<sup>th</sup> grade cohort data can be retrieved from the higher education board website. Missing a piece if they dropped out before 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Useful data point because it creates the ability to follow students all the way through and get a sense of whether they have the skills they need.

General discussion: When talking about VMT, thinking about it as greenhouse gas, climate change, doesn't fit in very well with the other things. There are things that are social goals for our community that are not providing immediate individual benefit in the way that most of the measures here are. That may be

something that we can absorb into the other categories, it seemed that percentage of people driving home to work didn't fit to well into the categories. This might be more of like an exemplary city or pioneer initiatives, might not be good for dashboard, but it is something important. Physical infrastructure don't fluctuate as quickly as other indicators, maybe there could be a set of maps produced every 3-5 years for things that are more static. Missing descriptive element on Travis County when we are going through lots of demographic changes. Map of the city and its demographics might be useful. Make the statements about goals bigger and bolder, the indicators are better when they drive toward something.

**Discuss Committee roles, work plan, meetings:**

Next meeting will be on 10/4, please check for conflicts. Committee Chair will work with Research Analyst on highlighted items and develop a work plan, develop and establish subcommittees, and check other community dashboards to see what they are reporting on.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.