



CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 11/21/2019

Attendees: **Brittany Alderman**, Integral Care; **Tracy Ayrhart, Ph.D.**, Central Texas Food Bank; **F. C. Caranikas**, Austin Community College; **Dan Brown**, Children's Optimal Health; **Greg Cumpton**, UT Ray Marshall Center; **Korey Darling**, Travis County HHS; **Nancy Gilliam**, CAN Community Council; **Ashley Levulett**, Children's Optimal Health; **Shavone Otero**, Housing Works Austin; **Angela Sommers**, City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development;

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto,

Welcome and Introductions: Greg Cumpton DSC Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes: The 9/26/2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. Korey Darling moved to approve the minutes. Tracy Ayrhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Update: Raul Alvarez updated members on recent CAN events and activities. Besides the Safety Net Forums, CAN recently hosted a Regional Summit in San Marcos, and a retreat in Austin to help guide the strategic planning process. Some of the conversations were focused on assessing what CAN does in general along with assessing the role and function of the Dashboard. At the December Board Meeting a draft strategic plan will be presented. At today's meeting, our focus will be changes to the Dashboard to get the document ready for the 2020 printing cycle, and also looking farther into the future. Thinking in terms of a "Dashboard 2.0", do we need to continue to print this? It involves issues of time, resources, and capacity: there is a 3 month period where most of staff focuses a majority of their efforts on the Dashboard. Also, in contrast to when the Dashboard was first proposed and published, today many other reports published that overlap in terms of data and scope. Part of the effort is around the idea to not just convene to inform but instead convene to collaborate. This could be a way to show how the Dashboard helps us to open the door to do all the other things we are involved in that engage and activate. We do this to accomplish other goals, it's a tool to accomplish something else.

Follow up discussion – Forums #2 and #3: Carlos Soto began with a brief background about the Safety Net Forums. Responding to a need for dialogue and feedback regarding the CAN Dashboard and the CAN Dashboard report, staff developed and hosted a series of four forums to engage the community around each of the Dashboard issue areas and discuss the indicators, local efforts, and current needs. At the 9/26 meeting the question about whether housing and transportation could be measured together and the [H+T Fact Sheet](#) highlighted in the Drive Alone to Work indicator section was mentioned. The H+T Fact Sheet is a snapshot in time, and previous year data is not readily available, Research Analyst will reach out to H+T publisher to inquire about previous year data. Regarding the issue of a possible engagement indicator, in September it was suggested to look into the RGK Center at UT which might have some data. In 2018 the RGK Center published the [Greater Austin Civic Health Index](#), a first-of-its-kind study of the greater Austin area where researchers evaluated civic engagement in electoral and political processes, civic involvement, social connectedness, philanthropy, and volunteering. At the moment it can be included in the local efforts or drilldown sections, and if it continues to be updated and published, it might serve as a source for an indicator.

An item that came up in conversation at a previous Board of Directors meeting, which was also discussed at the September DSC meeting, was around the issue of the Crime indicator. In response, the Research Analyst prepared a mock-up of the Dashboard Report page featuring indicators for the Travis County Violent Crime Rate and Property Crime Rate, together with their 5-year baseline, most recent rate, target, trend, and whether we are on track to meeting the target.

Members who have recently begun terms on the Dashboard Steering Committee need to be introduced to the processes involved in setting targets and evaluating possible indicators. Regarding crime indicator, DSC voted to accept recommendation to report Crime Rate separately as Property Crime Rate per 100,000 Population and Violent Crime per 100,000 Population.

2019 State of the Safety Net Forum #4 Highlights, Education and Workforce: Carlos Soto began with an overview of salient themes from the feedback, including issues about disaggregation in terms of disability status, as well as orientation; data about student debt, local investments, middle school success, and accessibility; data about social capital; and having geographic data available by zip code or neighborhood level. Other suggestions included drawing deeper connections between metrics. An important aspect of the work is that the process must be responsive to Board input. In terms of cross-linking, it might be helpful to include links to most updated reports in each area. That came up at the retreat a lot, being that clearinghouse of indicators. Link to ECHO page, for example, instead of building on our own site.

Moving from convening, to informing, to collaboration, what does that look like? The last few years the organization has been trying to move towards becoming a resource to inform, engage, and connect across issues and focus areas. The question becomes how to activate, to see movement of the indicators across issue areas. What is it the CAN Dashboard CAN influence/change? CAN's capacity and scope is determined by the work plan, and currently is oriented towards informing, engaging, and activating efforts across issue areas. CAN collaborates closely with a number of partners across issue areas, who incorporate what they learn through CAN into their own policies, procedures, and work plans. An effective collaboration could involve, for example, pulling indicators from school readiness, unemployment, and something else, bringing together folks who are working on initiatives related to the issues, such as somebody working on two gen strategies. The CAN Dashboard serves an important role that is enhanced by putting out info that policy people can work on. To support the goal of making the Dashboard a tool with broad appeal and utility, it doesn't have to be prescriptive, it can be higher level.

Interactivity online, and interactive maps, could make the Dashboard a very useful tool with broad appeal. Highlighting the intersectionality across different indicators is particularly important, especially since work to improve issues has unfolded in a very silo-ed manner. More recently, however, research into education and academic success has shown how closely other factors are tied to academic success, such as food access, housing, and health, for example. One of the goals for the strategic plan is to help support the partners collaboratively align their efforts. Speaking about the impact and utility of the Dashboard as a data source, Brittany mentioned how at Integral Care she has seen the CAN report cited in a number of grant submissions. Having a clear vision and mission for the Dashboard will help us focus the Committee's conversations.

Feedback from Strat Plan Process regarding the CAN Dashboard: Raul Alvarez shared feedback from previous conversations as well as the strategic planning retreat. The goal for the Dashboard as discussed in the strategic plan is about raising awareness about local issues and the collaborative efforts to improve them. How do we get the board more engaged? Are there other ways to engage the partners? Facilitating community collaboration is more time intensive. CAN staff will take a closer look at these ideas for indicators, and follow up with the relevant committee member(s) for feedback. We also welcome any other ideas you may have. Tracy Ayrhart mentioned a new Urban Institute dashboard around Food Insecurity, broken down by county, which also has information about strategies to address the issue.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.