



CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 5/4/2017

Attendees: Awais Azhar (Housing Works), Allison Bentley (United Way for Greater Austin), Korey Darling (Travis County Health and Human Services), Hunter Ellinger (CAN Community Council), Marianna Gomez (Central Health), Louise Lynch (Integral Care), Stephanie Hawley (ACC), Pilar Westbrook (Del Valle ISD)

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd, Carlos Soto

Welcome and Introductions: Louise Lynch, Chair of the Dashboard Steering Committee, called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the 3/10/17 meeting were approved as presented.

2017 CAN Dashboard Report & CAN Dashboard: Raul Alvarez noted that all recommendations put forward to the CAN Board of Directors, as noted in the minutes, were approved by the CAN Board of Directors with one change to the second vision statement for We are safe, just & engaged. The words “and inclusion” were added to the statement. Louise Lynch noted that one board member requested that we consider adding an indicator about water quality.

The CAN Dashboard Report and the dashboard.canatx.org website have been given a graphic overhaul, and the new website is now mobile-friendly. CAN staff shared the new report and the new website, highlighting the features of both.

Data Reliability Standards in Use by Travis County: Korey Darling shared the reliability standards that Travis County Health and Human Services Research and Planning uses in reporting American Community Survey data, which is based on recommendations from the US Census Bureau. View her presentation [here](#).

Darling noted that the American Community Survey (ACS) is a sample that surveys about 6,426 households in Travis County in 2016. People who live in institutional settings, such as dorms, jails, hospitals, etc. are included in the survey. The larger the sample, the smaller the error, so when data is broken down by smaller geographic areas or by sub-groups of the population, sample errors increase.

In 2013, the HHS Department surveyed other data users to find out what data standards their offices use. They discovered great variation in whether standards were used at all and what reliability thresholds were used. Travis County adopted the ACS recommendation that Coefficient of Variation below 15% is reliable; 15-30% is “use with caution”; and over 30% is “unreliable.” If data over 15% is used, it should be used with caveats or notes. Also, if the text mentions an increase from one year to the next or compares rates between groups or geographies, they also test the statistical reliability of the difference. If it is not reliable, they will not make the comparison in the text analysis.

Draft Can Reliability Standards: Hunter Ellinger said the term Coefficient of Variation is the standard deviation divided by the mean.

It was mentioned that the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is another source for data that is based on a sample survey. CAN has relied on Austin Public Health to provide aggregates of five years of data to provide comparisons by sub-group to ensure greater data reliability. It was suggested that we could ask them to present to a future meeting.

How we phrase the caveats and notes is important. The committee also discussed possibly moving to using zip code geographies instead of census tracts because the larger geographical area will have more accurate data.

Committee members agreed that it is important for the CAN Dashboard to have data reliability standards to determine whether changes or differences are statistically significant. Carlos Soto will reach out to Austin

Public Health, E3 Alliance, City Demographer Ryan Robinson, and other partners about the reliability standards they use. Soto will bring draft reliability standards to the Committee at the next meeting.

Proposed Meeting Schedule: The Committee reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the next several months.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.