



CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 12/03/2020

Attendees: Al-Turk, Akram, ECHO; Tracy Ayrhart, Central Texas Food Bank; Alison Bentley, United Way Success by 6; Dan Brown, Children's Optimal Health; Daniel Chupe-O'hanlon, Austin Community College; Greg Cumpton, Ray Marshall Center; Jessica Garay, Workforc Solutions Capital Area; Brooke Hammond, Integral Care; Jackie Nirenberg, Capital Metro; Adele Noel, Travis County Air Quality; Rochelle Olivares, Travis County HHS; Woody Rogers, Housing Works Austin.

Other Guests: Dr. Patrick Bixler and Dr. David W. Springer, UT Austin RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the LBJ School of Public Affairs

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto, Jelina Tunstill

Welcome and Introductions: Greg Cumpton, DSC Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Approval of minutes: The 1/30/2020 and 4/23/2020 meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by the chair which was seconded by Tracy Ayrhart. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation & Discussion - 2020 Dashboard & "We Can ATX" Data: Executive Director Raul Alvarez mentioned that the publication of the Dashboard Report was delayed until September of this year. Considering present circumstances, the current Dashboard serves as a baseline to determine where we were before COVID. It will likely be a few years until it shows something relevant. Alvarez then provided an overview of the CAN website.

Next Alvarez discussed the 2020 Dashboard Report, highlighting recent updates such as the Crime indicator update (overall crime rate was split into property crime and violent crime). One of the things we are looking at is to try to find insights from COVID hotspots and try to assess community needs from those neighborhoods, especially from data sources that provide more of a real-time snapshot. CAN will look at different geographic areas of the city and see if there is a neighborhood-level assessment to help glean something about community needs.

This overview was followed by an overview of the [We CAN! ATX website](#) including its three sections: Get Engaged, Get Help, and Get Informed. The website is available in English and Spanish and will be available in other languages soon. The Get Informed section contains several different data points from a number of local and state sources. The data on 2-1-1 calls is especially useful to help understand current, pressing community needs.

Daniel Chupe-O'hanlon mentioned that, at ACC, it is becoming more popular to show data on maps. In his experience zip code analysis and reporting was more challenging because it could not be tied to anything. ACC will be transitioning most analysis to census tract block group level to get a better understanding of needs in the community and CAN might want to consider something similar. A suggestion for looking at more of a "real-time" indicator is to look at job postings data (almost 24-hour resolution). This may allow for a deep dive at the industry level, maybe the occupation level too. Job postings data is also a good indicator for social or income mobility and is also a precursor for layoffs and furloughs.

Presentation & Discussion -Peer Cities & Their Community Indicator Reports: After an overview of Austin peer cities, Carlos A Soto and Raul Alvarez discussed indicator reports from Charlotte, Houston, San Antonio, and King County. Interesting features: Charlotte - map interface with data by census tract; Houston - Average % of total income given to charity comparison with other cities; San Antonio - Diversity of elected officials, volunteerism, philanthropic giving; Oregon - similar organization/structure to CAN Dashboard; King County - section pages include links to other dashboards that contain that indicator.

Discuss Changes to the 2021 Dashboard: The Executive Committee likes to know by February if there are proposed changes to the Dashboard. Would it be worth adding something under the philanthropy section? That section currently has 4 indicators and some of the other areas have 5. It might also help to think about it in terms of what should we add so in 2 years when the information starts to reflect the current reality, what would we want to start gathering now to track the post-pandemic recovery. Another idea may be to focus more on neighborhood-level assessments or some of the ideas we have for collecting data from other sources such as hotlines.

In terms of making changes to the Dashboard in the 2021 cycle, we may opt to not make changes and instead use this time to meet virtually and think through some of the ideas previously outlined for consideration the following year. Updated targets will need to be discussed at some point as the target date for many indicators is 2020.

Folks in the Early Childhood Coalition and Family Pathways Coalition are thinking along those lines (i.e., not changing what they are collecting while being clear that there will not be 2020 school readiness data because it was not possible to collect any). Instead, 2020 will appear as a “gap year” and we can expect to see a dramatic decrease in 2021.

Maybe we may want to think about indicators that may be temporarily added or include them in a separate COVID dashboard so that we are not forever changing the dashboard. During COVID there seems to have been a shift to looking at two sets of data, long term and short term. At the Food Bank projections are changing month to month in response to surges and changes in conditions. Adding metrics while trying to get a handle on existing metrics can feel overwhelming. However, that may not be the case for every metric on this dashboard. The We CAN! ATX dashboard is one such repository for real-time data.

The report should also include context around the pandemic. Greg moved to make no indicator changes this cycle, Tracy seconded. All agreed with one abstention. While changing things at this moment is problematic and challenging, it is also an opportunity to ask where do we need to be in terms of how we present the data. We need to discuss the targets next time and prepare for that and look into the questions raised this meeting. Daniel Chupe-O’Hanlon will come back with recommendations for a metric in terms of labor market data that may be useful to include on the Dashboard.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.