



CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 3/25/2021

Attendees: Al-Turk, Akram, ECHO; Tracy Ayrhart, Central Texas Food Bank; Dan Brown, Children's Optimal Health; Daniel Chupe-O'hanlon, Austin Community College; Greg Cumpton, Ray Marshall Center; Nancy Gilliam, CAN Community Council; Brooke Hammond, Integral Care; Woody Rogers, Housing Works Austin; Jeff Taylor, Austin Public Health;

Other guests: Sarita Clark-Leach, Central Health; J.P. Eichmiller, Central Health; Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar; Roger Jeffries, Travis County Justice Planning Department; Karen Maxwell, Travis County Sheriff's Office; Meg Seville, Travis County Sheriff's Office.

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 1/21/2021 meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by the Chair which was seconded by Daniel Chupe-O'hanlon. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion and possible action - We are Safe, Just, & Engaged Indicator targets: The indicator "proportionality of jail bookings across all races and ethnicities" is sometimes a challenge to explain. Is there a better way of wording it? The voting indicators will be our focus. Regarding crime, this will be the second year where we report the property crime rate and violent crime rate individually instead of combining them into a total crime rate.

Voting in Travis County: Bruce Elfant collaborated with CAN in the late 90's and early 2000's and was part of the early conversations to create the Dashboard. Election turnout has been high, it will be interesting to see if in 2022 excitement is maintained. There are several issues he wants to bring up. One issue is that the city moved its elections from May to November. Turnout was 71% for the Presidential race, but the same may not necessarily be true for local races (such as AISD, ACC, etc). Elfant thinks that partisan elections should be in November on the even years (Presidential and gubernatorial) and put the non-partisan elections on the odd years. This would place those local races on the Constitutional ballot which is not as long and allows the voter to focus better. When it comes to the health of our community, we must look at those electoral contests that end up farther down the ballot. In the May elections, between 20% and 25% decided for the rest of the 75% to 80%. Another indicator to look at is the voter registration rate. In 2013, Travis County had about 82% registered, and this election cycle we got it up to 97%, making us the highest among urban counties in Texas. Regarding the targets, Elfant supported high goals. The United States is about 100th in the world in voter turnout, and Texas is number 47 out of the 50 states. In the last two election cycles there has been a sharp upward trend in young voter turnout. In 2008 there was also record turnout, but in 2010 turnout was much lower. There are concerns that changes to voting procedures (reduction of hours at polling places, reducing access to voting by mail, shorter early voting period, etc.) will affect voter turnout. Voter registration is something we can track that is interesting to folks in the community.

Travis County Criminal Justice Roger Jeffries briefly addressed the rise in violent crime, mentioning that new 2019 data that was just released may impact the trend. In terms of disproportionality, Jeffries mentioned we are experiencing extraordinary changes in our local justice system now. Because of diversion and other efforts before the pandemic, we were already at some of the lowest levels at Travis County Jail. With COVID and new policies, current jail population is even lower at 1,493. It is still unclear what will happen once we emerge from the pandemic. The County Attorney and City Attorney will try new approaches to divert certain cases before they see a magistrate.

There was a question about why the disproportionality indicator only seems to report for blacks. The reason the disproportionality ratio for blacks is highlighted is because no other group is disproportionately booked into Travis County Jail. With a disproportionality ratio threshold of 1.5, all the other groups are under the cutoff for moderate disproportion.

Central Health Demographic Report: Sarita Clark-Leach, Director of Analysis & Reporting and J.P. Eichmiller, Senior Director of Strategy & Information Design discussed the 2020 Demographic Report highlighting chronic conditions. This is the third iteration of the report, constituting an evolving analysis of Travis County populations. This edition discusses total population and poverty counts, changes over time, patients and enrollees, and burden of disease, as well as ancillary factors to health such as transportation access and health insurance enrollment. The report is used in a cascading analysis to identify areas of high poverty, cluster these into “focus areas”, analyze the demographics, and determine how many folks are enrolled, how many have been treated, where patients have been treated, what is the burden of chronic disease within the community, and figure out the “why’s”. The data is used for facility planning, measuring service delivery, understanding trends in enrollment, creating baselines for burden of disease, and to help inform communications and outreach. The report looks at data according to census tracts. The number of tracts will increase after the 2020 census as a result of population growth.

After introducing the report, Eichmiller reviewed some of the most relevant findings. An overview of the report is available on the [CAN Equity Blog](#). In terms of poverty, in 2020 the greatest concentrations remain along I-35 when compared to 2010, but we are seeing a lot more displacement of poverty. The 5-year poverty projection shows the biggest changes located towards the northwestern and southwestern parts of Travis County. Comparing focus areas from the 2017 report and the 2020 report, new areas have popped up around Jonestown in the NW, Wells Branch, and some other areas in unincorporated north Travis County. There are also some areas where the number of folks in poverty is decreasing. In the 2020 report, 12 focus areas were identified compared to 9 in 2017. In terms of enrollees, there is a high rate of enrollment in Eastern Travis County. However, based on the level of poverty, they had expected to see higher levels of enrollment in areas such as Rundberg, Montopolis, and Dove Springs. Demographically, 55% of patients are female, and a significant majority identify as Latino. There is more data available on an [enrollment and clinic utilization dashboard](#) on the Central Health website.

The report has a focus on chronic disease burden. Chronic conditions last 1 year or more, require ongoing medical attention, and limit daily living activities. Chronic conditions are the leading cause of death and disability in the United States and are leading drivers of \$3.5 Trillion in annual national healthcare costs. The chronic conditions examined consisted of some of the most common and preventable health conditions in Travis County and account for some of the leading causes of death of the county. Burden is presented in two different ways: total number of individuals diagnosed, and prevalence rate. The analysis in the report goes into detail for each focus area to unpack possible factors contributing to the measured outcomes. The factors discussed in the report are not the only factors that may impact chronic condition prevalence. Del Valle and Colony Park were highlighted as focus areas with similar populations and different outcomes, while East Central Austin and Leander/Lago Vista were highlighted as having different populations with similar outcomes. Key takeaways: one must consider how inequities in the conditions in which people carry out their daily lives foster and perpetuate a higher disease burden in some communities compared to others; a deeper dive into the data is necessary to plan care for chronically ill populations relative their geography.

Next meeting dates: 5/28, 8/26, 10/28.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.