



## CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 4/28/2022

**Attendees:** Akram Al-Turk, ECHO; Alison Bentley, United Way Success by Six; Dan Brown, Children's Optimal Health; Greg Cumpston, Ray Marshall Center; Brooke Hammond, Integral Care; Rochelle Olivares, Travis County HHS; Woody Rogers, Housing Works Austin.

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

**Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:12 pm, and an overview of the agenda was provided.

**Approval of minutes:** The 2/24/2021 meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by the Chair which was seconded by Akram. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Executive Director Update:** CAN recently hosted the third Expanding Opportunity Forum, on the topic of women and the post-pandemic economic recovery. Plans are in place to develop an Expanding Opportunity Workgroup. We are interested in learning about what's emerging from these conversations about the economic recovery, and what issues repeatedly surface, to help identify an appropriate role for CAN in that process. The other priority issue for this year is addressing community mental health and wellness. We will be doing some work around language access relating to mental health services, that includes explaining to folks how they can navigate the available services in a linguistically and culturally accessible way. The Community Council has also selected mental health as a priority issue.

**Follow up on possible ACS 1-Year Data Replacements:** At the previous meeting, we discussed indicators in the Safety and Justice section of the Dashboard. Some indicators are based on ACS 1-Year data, which is unavailable for 2020 as previously discussed. Possible data replacements for Arrest Disproportionality include the Decennial Census and ACS 5-Year data. The alternative sources differ significantly from the ACS 1-year estimates. Are the Decennial Census numbers within the margin of error? If they fall within the margin of error, they are not statistically significantly different from each other. The current circumstances and the decision we make can serve as a precedent or the basis for a guideline in case similar situations emerge in the future.

**Discussion and possible action - Our Basic Needs Are Met:** Three indicators in this section are also based on ACS 1-Year data: poverty, housing cost burdened, and percent who drive alone to work. Several others depend on data sources that have not yet provided updated data: food insecurity, and homelessness. For poverty, possible alternatives include the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), which is available down to the county level. An important question to consider is how many people of low income are moving out of the area? Also, what is the impact of people coming in from other areas and make higher incomes? How are both of these dynamics affecting the shift we see in the poverty level? Although relief checks may have had an impact on individuals, it doesn't seem like it would be enough to cause the change we see in the statistical data. There are important questions to consider such as whether any change would be permanent or temporary, and issues that arise from mixing data sources.

The goals are an important part of this dashboard. The goals will not change this round. We are essentially considering how close we are to meeting the goals, which depends on whether the data is available. It may be helpful to also consider publishing a "special report," not to be considered a continuation, but a special edition resulting from the current circumstances. It's also important to consider the board and how they may react to such a decision. It may be helpful to get an informal sense from some of the board members. Getting a sense of what matters to them here may be helpful. Decennial census data may be adequate if available.

Regarding Food Insecurity, Feeding America has not shared updated food insecurity counts. For Housing Cost Burdened, the ACS 5-Year numbers are close to the 2019 numbers. The problem is

comparing 5-year data with 1-year data. It's better to write an asterisk for 2020 and say that data was unavailable for that year. For Drive Alone to Work, ACS 5-Year data reflects the increase of "working from home" we experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, the issue of comparing 5-year and 1-year data applies. For Homelessness, possible alternatives include data from the ECHO Homelessness Dashboard. Akram suggested consulting the 2021 Snapshot Report for information on how the alternative sources differ from PIT count data. If you add the numbers up, the result is much higher than previous PIT counts. This number may be more accurate, and PIT counts may result in undercounts. Akram does not have an issue with using this estimate, but if compared to PIT count numbers it would be much higher. The Census have their own estimates, and that number for 2020 will be higher than ours. The next in-person PIT count is scheduled for January 2023. Would it be possible to replace the PIT Count metric with the HMIS metric for the Homeless indicator? ECHO will continue to track HMIS and PIT counts for the foreseeable future. If we change the metric, we need to change the goal. How far back does HMIS data go? Some go as far back as 2004, but reliably only back to 2019. Another option may be to note that the data was not collected for 2021 and 2022, but there is another way to track it, and link to the HMIS data on ECHO's website.

Greg Cumpton made a motion to: not adjust the numbers of indicators that use ACS 1-year data (or any other data that may be unavailable); we include an asterisk and say that we intend to update this in future years but that the unavailability of the data prevents it from being updated. Allison Bentley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:** August 25, October 27