



CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 2/24/2021

Attendees: Akram Al-Turk, ECHO; Alison Bentley, United Way Success by Six; Dan Brown, Children's Optimal Health; Daniel Chupe-O'Hanlon, Austin Community College; Sarita Clark-Leach, Central Health; Greg Cumpton, Ray Marshall Center; Alexa Etheridge, Travis County District Attorney's Office; Nancy Gilliam, CAN Community Council; Brooke Hammond, Integral Care; Andrea Jacks, E³ Alliance; Adele Noel, Travis County Air Quality Program; Rochelle Olivares, Travis County HHS

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto

Welcome and Introductions: Greg Cumpton, DSC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm, provided an overview of the agenda, and members introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes: The 8/26/2021 meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Daniel Chupe-O'Hanlon which was seconded by Greg Cumpton. The minutes were approved unanimously, with one abstention.

Executive Director Update: One of the challenges we are all facing is that key sources of data are unavailable for 2020, mainly the American Community Survey (ACS). Last year CAN started pivoting into two new arenas after about a year and a half of mostly pandemic focused work and collaborating on legislative priorities. One of the areas CAN has focused on is the economic recovery from the pandemic. The topic of the Regional Summit in November was "How can we ensure an equitable economic recovery?" The other area CAN has also been working on is one that was already a challenge before the pandemic and worsened after the pandemic began: mental health and wellbeing. Together with our partners, we are interested in looking at mental health through different lenses so that we can find more effective ways of addressing it at a community level. Some of the ways we will look at mental health are how it relates to specific populations within the community. Because of the variety of CAN partners, much of the work is focused on determining what is not being addressed or discussed that we might want to then facilitate. One of the things we have worked on for several years is language access so one area of focus is to improve language resources available to address mental health.

Regarding our focus on the economic recovery, we do have a video of the CAN Summit, featuring presentations by LBJ School of Public Affairs Professor Steven Pedigo, Workforce Solutions (Capital Area and Rural Area), and a panel that included representatives from the City of Pflugerville and Austin Community College. These are available on the [CAN Youtube channel](#). To learn about and register for the upcoming Expanding Opportunity Forums, visit our [Eventbrite](#) page.

ACS Data Availability and Impact on Dashboard Indicators: Carlos Soto mentioned that the US Census Bureau's (USCB) American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates are the source of 6 of the 18 indicators on the CAN Dashboard, and that the [USCB announced last summer](#) that it would not be releasing its standard ACS 1-Year estimates for 2020 due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection. Specifically, non-response bias and issues in reaching hard-to-count populations are mentioned as primary reasons for this decision. Later in the year, the USCB announced that the 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year estimates would be published as planned. Carlos then briefly discussed major differences between and limitations of the ACS 1-Year and 5-Year data. Two of the indicators (voting, arrest disproportionality) in the section we will discuss today use ACS 1-Year data as their source. The other indicators that use ACS 1-Year data are: poverty, housing cost-burdened, drive alone to work, and uninsured.

Akram mentioned it might be a good idea to develop a Google Doc where we list all the measures that rely on the ACS. Carlos worked on a spreadsheet with the indicators and drilldowns on the CAN dashboard that can be made available on the Google drive. Next, Carlos provided an overview of the Arrest Disproportionality indicator and drilldown section, and how ACS data is the source of the "population by race" data we use to calculate disproportionality rates. Since we won't have the Travis

County “population by race” data, we won’t be able to calculate disproportionality rates. Something similar is the issue with the Voting indicator, in that ACS data is the source of the “citizen of voting age population” number we use to calculate the voter turnout rate.

If other sources of data exist and we decide to use them, we need to stipulate that and clearly communicate the limitations in the dashboard report itself. Alternatively, we can say that we will wait until updated data is available before updating certain indicators. Rochelle mentioned that the Population and Housing Units Survey is the foundational data set for the ACS, and that is available for 2020 and 2021. That could be used as the denominator. It comes out every July, and is available by age, race, sex, and county. There is also another Census survey for health insurance that is updated annually and available by county. Alison mentioned that if we decide to do that, we may want to go back and recalculate all the past indicator estimates using that same measure, to make valid comparisons. Rochelle added that the data for previous years are also updated annually, so estimates for previous years may change. Andrea mentioned that since 2020 is a census year, we might be able to use data from the decennial census. Carlos will prepare a shared document where the committee can identify and work through possible alternative data sources. Developing a list of alternate sources might be useful as a long-term strategy, too. Carlos will consult the different available sources and compare their estimates with ACS estimates to see how much or how little they differ.

Discussion and possible action - We Are Safe, Just and Engaged: Greg Cumpton introduced this section and the indicators within it, noting the two indicators that make use of ACS data. Carlos continued with an overview of the actions taken last year, which involved updating the target and target year for the Presidential election indicator, and the target year for the disproportionality indicator. While updating the crime data, Carlos found that the usual national-level crime data source, the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program’s Crime in the United States Report, is no longer published. Now data is shared on a platform called the Crime Data Explorer (CDE). When Carlos accessed the data on the CDE, the estimates for 2019 were very different from the estimates for 2019 on the Crime in the US report from the UCR. This issue was only found with the national-level data. Akram mentioned it might be a good idea to get input from organizations such as the Austin Justice Coalition about what it means to stay safe from crime, but also what it means to feel safe from getting arrested.

For the Voting indicator, we have historically included data disaggregated by race and by age. Those data were provided by a private organization called Opinion Analysts, which has ceased operations making the data unavailable. Since they used a proprietary process that included data files from private vendors, it is not possible for us to recreate the calculation. Therefore, we may not be able to offer these data moving forward. If partners are aware of an organization or source where we could access these kinds of data, please let us know. A possible source of data may be “wemeasure.org,” a local source of data for public safety information.

This section is broad in that it tries to assess community well-being for safety, justice and engagement, but yet it has only 3 indicators. We’ve searched for other indicators for this section but have not been able to find an indicator that fits all the requirements for our dashboard. If there are any suggestions for indicators that might fall into this category and qualify with [our data requirements](#), please share. Akram mentioned that it is important to be aware that this is about political engagement and not necessarily civic engagement. The CPS may have something on civic engagement which might be at the county level. Maybe “number of nonprofits” might be a useful measure. We could also think about similar kinds of measures that quantify civic engagement rather than political engagement. Regarding the ACS data issue, Andrea mentioned it might be a good idea to reach out to national level organizations to ask them what they will do regarding the lack of data.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: April 28, August 25, October 27