CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 04/27/2023

Attendees: Akram Al-Turk, ECHO; **Tracy Ayrhart,** Central Texas Food Bank; **Alison Bentley,** United Way Central Texas; **Daniel Chupe-O'Hanlon,** Austin Community College; **Greg Cumpton,** Ray Marshall Center; **Rochelle Olivares,** Travis County HHS; **Woody Rogers,** Housing Works Austin; **Brittany Whittington,** Integral Care.

Other Guests: Bella Kirchner, Central Texas Food Bank

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

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm, and an overview of the agenda was provided.

Approval of minutes: The 02/23/2023 meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by the Chair, which was seconded by Tracy Ayrhart. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Executive Director Update: In March we had the CAN Celebration, where several organizations and individuals engaged in work with a positive impact on their community were commended with Butler awards. The 2023 CAN workplan priorities include continuing with ensuring an equitable economic recovery, addressing community mental health & wellness, improving language access and developing language resources, and equity in the pandemic and emergency response.

One of the indicators where we have seen the greatest increase over the past few years is the Mental Health indicator. Efforts in the Mental Health focus area include a Mental Health First Aid training initiative, language access & mental health project, and the Community Council Mental Health Report. In March, CAN also released a Community Resource Guide series. It consists of 6 guides describing what it is like living in Austin, how you can access resources, and what your language access rights are in different scenarios and places.

Central Texas Food System Dashboard Presentation: Central Texas Food Bank Vice President of Strategic Insights Tracy Ayrhart introduced the new dashboard and provided some background on the Food Bank, which not only engages in providing and distributing food, but has expanded into fields such as social services and workforce training. The Dashboard Advisory Group includes members from over a dozen stakeholders from across the Food Bank's service area who provided input into the development of the Dashboard. The purpose of the project includes driving regional food system work & informing regional food system planning and tracking resulting progress and success. The effort consists on convening partners, elevating community voice, establishing a shared measurement system, and generating food system research. This is envisioned as a collaborative cross-county effort to improve our food system through access and action.

Currently, the data in the dashboard is organized into 5 different areas based on the City of Austin's State of the Food System report, but these may be expanded at some point in the future. After a brief overview on navigating the Dashboard, next steps were discussed. These include meeting with stakeholders across the 5-county area to gather interest & feedback, enriching the dashboard with additional data, updating existing data, and establishing a regional planning advisory group and structure. The Food Bank is encouraging stakeholders to complete the feedback form and share stakeholder suggestions.

Discuss Basic Needs Indicators: The Basic Needs section has two indicators that have targets that have been met: Food Insecurity and Driving Alone to Work. Because the pandemic has impacted these, there continues to be uncertainty. Regarding Food Insecurity, food banks across the nation have questioned the latest estimates from Feeding America, since most of the data was

collected after government supports were put in place. With recent changes to those programs as well as SNAP, Food Insecurity is expected to rise. A barrier to using the Food Bank data is that it does not go back 5 years. Regarding driving alone to work, as more folks head back to the office, that might change as well. For the next meeting we will probably look at indicators for this section and the next section and come up with a rationale for updating those goals. It might also be interesting to see if access to public transit might be an indicator we can look at. The Homeless PIT count numbers for 2023 will be coming out in the next few weeks. Regarding homelessness, it measures with a raw number, instead of a proportion like most of the other indicators. Is that something we might want to change?

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.