



## CAN Dashboard Steering Committee 06/04/2024

**Attendees:** Akram Al-Turk, ECHO; Alison Bentley, United Way Success by 6; Mia Burger, Central Texas Food Bank; Greg Cumpton, UT Ray Marshall Center; Matthew Figg, Austin Community College; Nancy Gilliam, CAN Community Council; Brooke Hammond, Integral Care; Katy Merriweather, E<sup>3</sup> Alliance; Adele Noel, Travis County Air Quality Program; Rochelle Olivares, Travis County HHS;

**Other Guests:** Ara Merjanian, CAN Community Council

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

**Welcome and Introductions:** Carlos A Soto called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and provided an overview of the agenda.

**Public Communication:** Ara Merjanian, who is a member of the Community Council, spoke about the related topics of youth mental health & wellness and loneliness, social isolation, and civic alienation. He mentioned he has been raising awareness on these issues for years before the pandemic, which has brought more attention to them. There should be more at least one indicator on this topic on the Dashboard, in addition to the current mental health indicator, because data show youth mental health is faring worse than adult mental health. Youth mental health issues not only have the potential to affect the individual experiencing them, but their family, caregivers, friends, classmates, and others as well. There has also been an ongoing, decades-long trend of declining civic participation and social connection. Loneliness has also received attention from the US Surgeon General and major institutions.

**Approval of minutes:** The 04/02/2024 meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Greg, which was seconded by Akram. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Executive Director Report:** We've been busy these past few months, beginning with our Regional Summit. We are now looking at a follow-up to that summit, on the issue of upskilling using earn-&-learn programs, apprenticeships, and similar types of programs. We are seeking to create a regional workgroup to look at how we can get more involved with that issue leading up to the summit next year. Another issue we've been working on is mental health. We had a meeting to announce where we are with our Mental Health First Aid challenge, with a focus on next steps since we've achieved the goal while mental health continues to be a challenge for our community. The Language Access Project on Mental Health is also going well, with over 50 training sessions that have taken place. Tools for outreach for Arabic and Vietnamese communities is almost complete.

**Education Indicator Follow-Up:** Regarding the Kindergarten indicator, a motion to replace Kindergarten Ready with Pre-K 4 Eligible Enrollment Rate from E<sup>3</sup> Alliance was made by Greg, which was seconded by Matt. The motion passed unanimously. Members also voted to add Dropout Rate as an indicator to the CAN Dashboard after a motion submitted by Greg, which was seconded by Brooke. The motion passed unanimously. Members also voted to add a middle-school math indicator (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra), after a motion was submitted by Greg, which was seconded by Akram. The motion passed unanimously.

**August Social Planning:** Tuesday, August 6 would work well for the social meeting. We can move the time to 4:30, and will update the committee once we have determined a location

**Economic Indicator Follow-up:** Carlos provided an overview of some of the indicators that were discussed at the subcommittee meeting that took place on 4/23/2024. These included labor participation (percent employed), income inequality, and employment-to-population ratio. Members decided to meet as a subcommittee again to continue to work through these and other available indicators.

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