



All youth ready for
college, work & life.



Ready by 21 Coalition for Austin and Travis County
February 12, 2009
Session Notes

Chair: Bob Rutishauser, Workforce Solutions Board

Participants:

- Brenda Hummel, Kemal Taskin and Susan Millea, AISD ACCESS
- Dianna Groves, AISD - Guidance & Counseling
- Shirlene Justice - AISD 21st Century Afterschool
- Megan Weed, Austin Partners in Education
- Tim Eubanks, Austin Voices
- Erica Gallardo-Taft, Boys and Girls Clubs
- Elizabeth Gonzales, Breakthrough
- Elizabeth Hummer, CASA of Travis County
- Judy Burns, Casey Family Programs
- Courtney Colter, City of Austin HHSD
- Emily Steinberg, College Forward
- Emily Bessey and Kelli Sureck, Communities in Schools (CIS)
- Chantel Bottoms, Community Action Network
- Shana Fox, Council on At Risk Youth (CARY)
- Lora Alaniz, GENAustin
- Laura Griebel, Stacey Helm, Sandra McDowell and Theresa Medrano, Goodwill
- Cyndi Contreras, Greater Austin Chamber
- Tameka Thomas, Manor ISD
- Scout Carr, Skillpoint Alliance
- Athan Schindler, Sumpter & Gonzalez
- Sue McElligott, Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)
- Raphael Travis, Texas State University
- Sarah McCafferty and Leslie Nairn Erwin, Theatre Action Project
- Donna Hagey, The Austin Project
- Laurie Seremetis, Travis County CPS Board
- Jessica Son, Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Program
- Laura Garcia, United Way Capital Area
- Deborah Wise, U.T. Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation

Facilitator: Suzanne Hershey, CommunitySync
Staff: Yael Trevino, Workforce Solutions-Capital Area

Note: People who did not sign in may have been left off of the participant list. Please be sure to sign in!

Next meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Workforce Solutions, 6505 Airport Blvd., Suite 101E, Lone Star Room. Coalition website: www.readyby21austin.org

Announcements

- **Hear Me Now** is a celebration of resiliency through the performing and fine arts, as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. The celebration will take place Thursday, May 7th. Performances should demonstrate how youth in Austin cope - and thrive - every day. Youth interested in performing should contact Kemal Taskin 441-0286 or Dianna Groves 414-0177.
- **College Forward** is recruiting for 40 AmeriCorps positions. If you know anyone interested, have them go to www.collegeforward.org
- **The UT School of Social Work Conference** is taking place February 25-27 at the Doubletree Hotel. For more information, go to: www.utexas.edu/ssw/ceu/ssw.html

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Outcomes and Indicators Update (Steering Committee initiative)

Designated representatives from Community Action Network partner agencies, as well as invited foundation representatives and other consensus builders, met on February 10th to review and refine the Dashboard matrix of child and youth outcomes that had been drafted by Ready by 21 members last summer. While Ready by 21 members had met to set outcomes by developmental area (learning, working, thriving, connecting, and leading/contributing), at the February 10th meeting, representatives worked on outcomes by age group (Elementary, Middle, High School, and Young Adult).

Next steps:

- Distribute the revised draft outcomes from the Feb. 10th meeting for review and comment. (please see file: *Community Outcomes for Children and Youth - Ready by 21 Dashboard v18 as of 2-10-09.pdf*)
- Hold a meeting of CAN partner agency delegates to finalize the list of outcomes and begin reviewing and revising the indicators. (Set for March 11.)
- Convene an outcomes session on Early Childhood outcomes and indicators, using the same guidelines as for the other age groups, since early childhood representatives did not attend the Feb. 10th meeting. (Set for March 4.)

Ready by 21 members are encouraged to review the revised outcomes and provide comments to Suzanne about any discrepancies between age groups, or concerns about the wording of the outcomes statements. (*deadline: March 6*)

Ready by 21 Coalition in Austin/Travis County- Project Work Team Updates

Youth Aging Out (YAO) of Foster Care Committee - Laurie Seremetis

Laurie reported on progress of the three subcommittees, Housing, Education & Workforce Development, and Advocacy, which have been meeting monthly. The full committee meets on the first Friday of each month at Casey Family Programs, at lunchtime. As reported in January, the Advocacy group is hoping to start a mentoring program and expand financial literacy training, specifically to start children's savings accounts.

Laurie announced that one of the YAO committee member organizations had put together a grant proposal to submit to Impact Austin for this mentoring project designed by the Advocacy subcommittee, and requested a letter of support for the Coalition. RB21 participants discussed the request, but there was not a consensus either for or against supporting the proposal. The chief concern raised was that other RB21 members were also competing for the same grants. Suzanne noted that, in the past, the Coalition had provided letters of support for projects of the coalition, but not for individual organizations, and had not previously been asked for a letter of support for a local grant competition with multiple RB21 organizations competing. She explained that Coalition members, in the early stages, had recognized that there would be competition for funding among members and called for transparency and trust. Suzanne thanked Laurie for bringing the request forward to the Coalition in that vein. The Steering Committee will review a draft letter of support for the project and make a decision about whether or not to submit it, or if the YAO committee should submit a letter for the project.

Quality Assessment and Professional Development Team - Laura Garcia

Laura presented photos and data from the Planning with Data training that was held February 6th. The session was conducted by a Center for Youth Program Quality consultant for staff from organizations that

participated in the quality assessment process. Almost 30 people participated, and the session feedback was very positive. Bob noted that industry representatives hire consultants to bring in “fresh eyes” on the business, and that the YPQA external assessment process serves the same function. At the training, participants reviewed data from the assessments of their own programs, and looked for program improvement opportunities. The Quality Team will be listing professional development opportunities based on needs identified through the assessments.

Go to College (GTC) Team - Cyndi Contreras and Emily Steinberg

Cyndi presented an end-of-year report for the GTC team’s workplan and officially handed off the team chair role to Emily Steinberg. RB21 participants recognized Cyndi for her work and leadership. Emily announced that the team still working on launching the Go To College guide designed for adults who work with youth (*update*: it is now available for download from www.readyby21austin.org) and will launch the guide at three major events this year, as well as having a copy or two on hand at Financial Aid Saturdays. The team is looking for opportunities to share it with networks beyond Austin, and is considering Spanish translation.

The team has also assisted with the Chamber’s Financial Aid Saturdays initiative; they have held 9 of 24 events, helping 350 families complete FAFSA thus far, up 54% from the number last year at this time. The Chamber has also recruited 350 volunteers to assist families, including RB21 partners. Volunteers are still needed for phone bank calls to student homes mid-week (March 3 and 5) to encourage families to attend the Saturday events and complete FAFSA. More information is at www.collegereadyaustin.org

Youth Engagement Team (YET) - Debbie Wise and Sarah McCafferty

The YET is still strategizing to develop a sustainable model for Youth Engagement, to include youth summits, and will convene a meeting to refocus efforts. (*update*: Meeting is now scheduled for March 26, 5:30 p.m., at Carver Library) The YET is open to new members interested in joining the effort.

Youth Services Mapping (YSM) Team - Suzanne Hershey

The YSM team update will be covered in the YSM system preview, next on the agenda. The YSM team is preparing for Beta testing the system once it is completed, and planning outreach and training for service providers to learn to use the system. The timeline is to complete software development and Beta test this Spring, to conduct outreach and train service providers beginning in May, and to have service provider service profiles in the system in time to train counselors on the system in August.

Preview of the Youth Services Mapping (YSM) System

Girish Altekhar of DeepCoolClear demonstrated features of the new YSM system that are now in place, including how service providers will enter their information in the program profiles. RB21 member questions and comments included the following:

- Q: The word is starting to get out about YSM. How will providers know when the system is ready?
A: The YSM team, including AISD, is planning to conduct outreach and announcements, including a public launch/training.
- Q: The 21st Century afterschool programs are conducted through a school district, but by many different providers. Who should enter the program information (21st Century coordinators or the individual service organizations), and how can that information be linked? A: The idea was for individual service providers to include their services/programs themselves. However, we can get a list of all of these umbrella programs (like 21st Century) and provide a drop down list, so that

providers can enter their information, and then identify that program as a 21st Century program, so that all the 21st Century programs can be similarly identified.

- Q: My organization already keeps program information up to date on our website. It looks like a lot of work to duplicate the information in YSM. Will the system have a link to our website? And what about all that updating? A: You can link to your organization's website. There will still need to be some information entered in YSM, and it will take some time to enter the program information the first time. However, after that, it is just a matter of updating information that changes. It will take time to enter the program profiles initially, but it should be quick and easy to keep them up to date.

General Session Closing

The general session closed at 10:20 for a quick networking break, followed by Work Team breakout sessions beginning at 10:30.