



All youth ready for
college, work & life.



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

Chair: Bob Rutishauser, Workforce Solutions Board

Participants:

- Amy Price and Jerry Ronquillo, 2-1-1
 - Megan Weed, Austin Partners in Education
 - Kathryn Houlton, Austin/AISD Police Dept (APD)
 - Alice Geaccone and Tim Eubanks, Austin Voices
 - Jeni Findley, Big Brothers, Big Sisters
 - Erica Gallardo-Taft, Boys and Girls Clubs
 - Lee Webster, channelAustin
 - Elizabeth Hummer, CASA of Travis County
 - Maria Allen, City of Austin HHSD
 - Emily Steinberg, Diane Robidoux, and Jessica Garcia, College Forward
 - Emily Bessey, Communities in Schools (CIS)
 - Chantel Bottoms, Community Action Network
 - Shana Fox, Council on At Risk Youth (CARY)
 - Amanda Teske, E3 Alliance
 - Lora Alaniz, GENaustin
 - Laura Griebel, Stacey Helm, and Sandra McDowell, Goodwill
 - Peg Gavin, LifeWorks
 - Bonnie Brookby, SafePlace
 - Scout Carr, Skillpoint Alliance
 - Robin Petty, Sumpter & Gonzalez
 - Claudette Jenks, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
 - 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
 - Laura Garcia, United Way Capital Area
 - Deborah Wise, U.T. Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation
 - Jenifer DeAtley, YouthLaunch
- 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.

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

Announcements

- **United Way** announced the financial fitness essay contest for youth in grades 6-12, aimed at helping students develop knowledge of economic and personal finance concepts. Awards range from \$1000 to \$4500, plus free financial planning consultation. Deadline April 1. Application and information at www.financialfitnessaustin.org
- Raphael Travis reminded participants that the survey of youth worker staff on attitudes toward youth is now available online at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wI8lnhTMHiSsEuSbE1nNOw_3d_3d Results are expected to contribute to better understanding the network and quality of out-of-school time programs in the region. You may contact Dr. Raphael Travis at 512-245-3521 or rtravis@txstate.edu
- **College Forward** is recruiting for 40 AmeriCorps positions. If you know anyone interested, have them go to www.collegeforward.org

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- **The Quality Team of Ready by 21 and CTAN** is presenting an overview of the Quality Initiative to recognize accomplishments, recommend improvements and learn about future opportunities. March 27 from 1-4 p.m. at United Way Capital Area. RSVP by March 25 at this link: <http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?4W,P1,FD955795-5706-4F87-BA6F-AADB81B3D187>
- **The Quality Team of Ready by 21 and CTAN** plans to offer professional development on March 31st from 6-9 p.m. at United Way - fee is \$10 to cover cost of materials. Session titles will most likely be: 1) Reframing Conflict and 2) Ask, Listen, Encourage.
- **The Community Action Network** listserv is a good way to share announcements and find out what is going on in social services on a timely basis. Contact Mary Dodd at mary.dodd@austinisd.org to be added to the distribution list, or to share a community announcement.

Update on the process to develop community outcomes and indicators and a compact for children and youth (Steering Committee initiative)

Suzanne provided an update on the process for designated representatives from Community Action Network partner agencies, as well as invited foundation representatives and other consensus builders, to refine the Dashboard matrix of child and youth outcomes that had been drafted by Ready by 21 members last summer. CAN partner representatives held their second meeting on outcomes on March 11. (The most recent list of outcomes <version 20> was handed out.) The next steps are to prioritize outcomes and indicators for common work at a meeting on April 8, and to develop an investment crosswalk, based on outcomes and indicators.

Comments and discussion:

- What data can be tracked, based on the draft list of indicators at this point?
- What does it mean to say that services are being duplicated? Sometimes there are different sets of complementary services for the same population, geared toward the same goal, but offered by different providers. There is a danger in assuming that services toward the same goal for the same population are duplication - the interaction between the different services can make the difference between clients succeeding or not.
- The process has come full circle. Since the funders don't work "on the ground" and may not recognize the implications of some of their priorities for work in the field, how can there be some dialogue between funders and service providers about these implications? Could we hold a funders forum for this purpose?

Karen Finn, Senior Fellow at the Forum for Youth Investment will present and participate in the April 9th Ready by 21 meeting. Ideas and preferences for her to discuss next month are as follows:

- What's going on around the country, that we can learn from? Background that would be useful for us.
- What obstacles are other communities facing, and how can they be overcome?
- What are best practices for service providers participating in research and policy decisions, with funders and other decision-makers?
- What can the Forum do to support our efforts, in terms of national connections or policy implications?
- How do we have a bigger group dialogue on designing a change process. How do you select representatives for policy discussions (without leaving out important stakeholders)?
- Hope and motivation!

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

Quality Assessment and Professional Development Team - Laura Garcia

Laura provided an update on the assessment process. There have been 32 assessments conducted, 18 people have been trained as external assessors, and professional development is being offered. The team is considering capacity and sustainability going forward. (Please see the Quality Team's announcements on page 2 of these meeting notes.)

Go to College (GTC) Team - Emily Steinberg

Financial Aid Saturdays are now complete, with turnout, number of FAFSAs completed, and number of participating school districts up from last year.

The College Resource guide is now available for download from the GTC team's page on the Ready by 21 website at: www.readyby21austin.org/college.php The GTC team proposed blocking some time on an upcoming Ready by 21 meeting agenda - May - to present a walk-through of the guide. The team is planning a viral launch for the manual, and is assembling a distribution list and will begin working on a Spanish translation. Emily noted that the GTC team welcomes new members who are interested in moving this forward.

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

The YET is holding a meeting to strategize ways to increase youth voice, called Fostering Tomorrow's Leaders, on March 26 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Carver Library, meeting room 2. The YET encourages young people and youth-empowering organizations (like the Texas Association of Youth Councils) to participate. RSVP by March 23 to Leslie Erwin at lnerwin@gmail.com.

Youth Aging Out (YAO) of Foster Care Committee - Peg Gavin

Peg provided an update on the topics being worked on for this committee's 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.

Suzanne updated the group on the question that was raised at last month's meeting about a letter of support for the grant proposal for the mentoring project. Because the grant competition pitted different Ready by 21 members against each other, the Steering Committee (based on input at the last general meeting) decided not to submit a letter of support for this particular proposal. Peg clarified that the proposal was for a project idea that had been discussed by the committee, but actual proposal was developed by one of the members and not the whole committee. However, the subcommittee was in support of the proposal.

Youth Services Mapping (YSM) Team - Suzanne Hershey

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 test this Spring, to conduct outreach and train service providers beginning in May, and to have service provider service profiles in the system to train counselors on the system in August.

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.