



All youth ready for
college, work & life.



Ready by 21 Coalition for Austin and Travis County
May 14, 2009
Session Notes

Chair: Bob Rutishauser, Workforce Solutions Board

Participants:

- Alice Geaccone and Tim Eubanks, Austin Voices
- Kemal Taskin, AISD ACCESS
- Megan Weed and Sandy Bootz, Austin Partners in Education
- Kathryn Houlton, Austin Police Dept.
- Erica Gallardo-Taft, Boys and Girls Clubs
- Judy Burns, Casey Family Programs
- Elizabeth Hummer, CASA
- Stephanie Hayden, Maria Allen, Maria Gorham and Kristen Turpin, City of Austin HHSD
- Emily Bessey, Communities in Schools
- Chantel Bottoms, Community Action Network
- Shana Fox, Council on At Risk Youth
- Amanda Teske, E3 Alliance
- Sandra McDowell, Goodwill Industries
- Barbara Jackson, Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA)
- Peg Gavin, Lifeworks
- Barbara Ball and Bonnie Brookby, SafePlace
- Joe Parker, SEDL
- Scout Carr, Skillpoint Alliance
- Raphael Travis, Texas State University
- Leslie Nairn-Erwin, Theatre Action Project
- Donna Hagey, The Austin Project
- Laurie Seremetis, Travis County CPS Board
- Gloria Souhami, Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Program
- Laura Garcia, United Way Capital Area
- Deb Wise and Jeannette Bellemeur, UT Austin - Annette Strauss Institute

Facilitator: Suzanne Hershey, CommunitySync

Staff: Yael Trevino (absent)

Note: *People who did not sign in may have been left off of the participant list.*

Next meeting: Thursday, June 11, 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

The Ready by 21/CTAN Youth Program Quality team and trainers have set the schedule for professional development modules for the remainder of the year. All trainings will be held at United Way Capital Area, and will cost \$10 to offset the cost of materials. The Center for Youth Program Quality will be back in Austin to train the next cadre of self-assessors on August 11-12. If you want to participate, please block your calendar! Registration information will be forthcoming. For you to have a slot in the training, you and your organization must commit to conduct YPOA assessments within your organization and report back results.

Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force will hold its next meeting on June 19th. From 10:30-noon at Howson Library. On the agenda will be a recently-completed needs assessment in Travis County and a new prevention program called Trashed Lives.

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Austin Voices for Education & Youth is now taking ad submissions and pre-orders for the new school planner - designed by youth for youth. The planners include a calendar, youth art, and information about community resources. Call 450-1880 for information. Planners will be on sale later this summer.

Goodwill announced the *Viva Verde* Summer Youth Employment program for youth 14 - 24 yrs of age, funded by federal stimulus dollars. Contact Goodwill for more information: 512.637.7139 or vivaverdeintake@austingoodwill.org

Housing Authority of the City of Austin is preparing to contract out services for children and youth in school case management, tutoring, youth sports, afterschool clubs, and other services. Check this link for RFP announcements - http://www.hacanet.org/about_haca/do_business.php (some proposals are online now, and some will be added later).

Annette Strauss Institute will hold a Civics Fair showcase event on May 21st at the Sanchez Bldg at UT from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Raphael Travis, Texas State University, introduced Dr. Tamara Leech, a guest from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. The two are collaborating on a study of Ready by 21's community engagement process related to our quality initiative.

Start Strong Austin initiative - Barbara Ball and Bonnie Brookby, SafePlace

SafePlace is launching this initiative as a way to build healthy teen relationships and prevent abusive behaviors and relationships among middle school students. The 4-year project is funded through a Robert Woods Johnson grant, with several partners in the project, including Seton, Skippy Express, Boys & Girls Clubs, Austin Voices, Theatre Action Project, and others. The focus is getting youth involved to take action.

The project includes:

- Professional development for youth services staff on how to address and promote a healthy environment. To learn about how your staff can participate in this training, contact Barbara Ball (512)356-1623, bball@SafePlace.org or Bonnie Brookby (512)356-1695, bbrookby@SafePlace.org
- Leadership development for youth to mobilize others using creative arts. One example is the Changing Lives Youth Theatre Company where high school age students create, produce, and perform theatre pieces on healthy relationships. Performances are offered for youth in various settings across the community, followed by discussion of themes from the piece. The current work covers various areas of relationships, including family, dating, etc.
- Parent engagement, including bilingual sessions.

Suggestion: Might align this project with wellness classes offered through Travis County HR.

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

Quality Assessment & Professional Development Team - Laura Garcia

The team's Technical Assistance proposal to the Forum for Youth Investment was approved, resulting in Austin Ready by 21 receiving TA, trainings, materials, and other support worth an additional \$30,000. The biggest question is how to sustain the Quality work when the grant ends in December. The team is reviewing what resources (in-kind, cash, etc.) will be needed to continue to support organizations in the Ready by 21 and CTAN partnership to assess and improve program quality.

Go To College Team - Scout Carr

The Go to College Guide Book was completed and an email blast with a link was sent out to more than 1,000 recipients. Several hundred people clicked through the link and downloaded the Guide Book. There has been significant interest among several organizations using it including the Hispanic Chamber

and the Boys & Girls club. The Guide Book can be downloaded from the Ready by 21 website. It is currently being translated into Spanish. Scout read excerpts from laudatory comments from counselors and regional education service center staff that had been emailed to the team lead Emily Steinberg. At the June meeting, Emily will give Ready by 21 members a tour of the Guide Book.

Youth Engagement Team - Debbie Wise

At the Vision & Voice session held in March, youth and adults came together to identify strategies for greater youth engagement. One of the possibilities was to hold a large event or summit, and wanted to leverage or capitalize on other efforts, rather than duplicate. The team is currently exploring options.

Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Team -Peg Gavin

Laurie is stepping out of the Team Lead role as she is taking on a different professional role that will conflict with that work. Elaine Carter (Casey Family Programs) and Leslie Gaines (LifeWorks) will jointly take over that leadership role with the committee. The YAO team is currently tracking legislation for youth in and aging out of foster care. The team is investigating whether stimulus funds coming into the city could to be used for housing for youth aging out of foster care. They may seek grants jointly.

Youth Services Mapping (YSM) Team - Suzanne Hershey

The website will have a community calendar where members can post events. Suzanne thanked AISD, CASA, CIS, the City of Austin and Theatre Action Project for participating in the Beta test. The system is set up for each service organization to have an organizational profile that contains profiles of the individual programs offered. YSM will have the capacity to generate reports. Once the system is complete, service agencies will be asked to enter information about all of their programs this summer, so the information is up to date by the time counselors are trained beginning in August. The YSM team will offer some in-person training opportunities, as well as a Quick Reference Guide that will give step by step instructions for sharing and accessing information in YSM.

Dropout Prevention Summit proposal - Stephanie Hayden, City of Austin

The America's Promise Alliance invited the City of Austin to apply for a grant to hold a Dropout Prevention Summit. The purpose of this summit is to bring leaders together for a *Call to Service*. The idea is to recruit more caring adults to existing programs and services provided through agencies in Austin (mentors, tutors, etc). AISD and TEA have already hosted summits that are similar, but with different approaches. The City's proposal deadline is May 22, with notification in early June. The City would propose a summit in January 2010 to allow sufficient planning time. Stephanie had done some advance partnership exploration and met with representatives from Ready by 21, United Way, E3 Alliance, CIS, AISD, APIE, and others. She was also interested to reach out to the Youth Engagement Team to learn if there were opportunities for the City summit and the YET summit idea to address common goals, and provide avenues for partnership.

Comments and suggestions for the proposed summit:

- Address root causes of dropping out - where kids are vulnerable
 - Substance abuse (alcohol)
 - GLBT kids drop out if they are isolated or disconnected
 - Foster care kids perspectives
 - Teen parents
 - Have young people tell their stories to "sell" the value of getting involved so adults understand the needs and value of helping
 - Experiences from dropouts about why they dropped out
 - Stories of those who had mentors and were successful - to help others understand that a mentor may provide the only stability (Note: mentoring has been proven to be effective only with a sufficient commitment of time/duration - and it has actually had a negative effect when mentors do not stick with their mentees)
 - Business community involvement - work with Chambers of Commerce. Develop incentives for companies to provide mentors or other support. Hispanic Education Foundation Board, Workforce Board representation could be helpful to getting more exposure with employers.
- (continued ...)

- Tie in initiatives and research information to reduce silos
 - Search Institute development assets - context for mentoring
 - AISD Character education initiative could easily dovetail
 - Investigate resources available through OneStar Foundation Governor's Mentoring Initiative.
 - What is a good model for ongoing partnership through RB21?

Contact Stephanie Hayden at 972-5017 with other suggestions or partnership ideas.

Outcomes and Indicators update - Suzanne Hershey

(Handout: Priority Indicators by Outcome)

Following Karen Finn's session in April with CAN partner agency representatives, Suzanne and CAN staff compiled the prioritized outcomes and indicators to a 2-page document. The longer list of outcomes and indicators on the Dashboard has also been updated.

Indicators were selected from outcomes selected under each "life area" - learning, working, thriving, connecting, and leading/contributing - according to following criteria:

- Communication power - will people easily understand reason for measuring the indicator
- Proxy power - will this indicator help bring along other indicators
- Data power - is data available and manageable.

Suzanne commented that the priority list that emerged from the meeting has some pluses and minuses. The positives are that many people provided input at various points in the process, and the list includes outcomes across the youth development continuum from early childhood to young adulthood, with at least one outcome in each of the five life areas. The remaining challenge is that some of the proposed indicators had not been written in terms of results for the outcomes, that some priority outcomes had long lists of indicators to prioritize while some had only a few indicators that were not clearly written, but because there were so few, they were selected through the prioritization process. In addition, some work groups in the session did not have enough information to rate the indicators by data power. As a result, data is not available for some indicators. The group also started a "Data Development Agenda." The CAN will convene a Data Team to examine what data is available to begin collecting benchmark data for Austin-Travis County. Once the benchmark data is collected and YSM is up and running, we should be able to begin comparing some of the results with services available, and with local investments.

Comments on the priority outcomes and indicators:

- Under #13, Avoiding risky behaviors, include additional indicators that affect males and females, such as STD rates, in addition to pregnancy rates that only measure females.

Suzanne offered to take other suggestions via email by Monday to have time to include on the list prior to the meeting with the Data Team on May 19 in preparation for the June 1st CAN A-team meeting.

General Session Closing

The general session closed at 10:15 for a quick networking break, followed by Work Team breakout sessions beginning at 10:30.