



HousingWorks
AUSTIN

Housing Works for Schools Summit

A PLACE TO DO HOMEWORK:
(Housing + Schools) x Planning = Community Success
Progress Report

June 23, 2009

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Carver Library Meeting Room
1161 Angelina Street

Panelists:

Sheri Fleming, Director Health and Human Services, Travis County

Bert Lumbreras, City of Austin

Laura Morrison, Austin City Council, Place 4

Bergeron Harris, Assistant Superintendent, AISD

Cathy Requejo, AISD, Homeless Student Liason

Moderator: Frank Fernandez

Background Reports:

AISD Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools (CCNS) Final Report.
4.28.08

http://www.austinisd.org/inside/docs/ccns_Public_Review.pdf

City of Austin Families and Children Task Force Report Recommendations. 6.24.08

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/housing/downloads/factf_report_08.pdf

HousingWorks Austin “A Place to Do Homework” Summit Report & Executive Summary. 11.14.08

http://www.housingworksAustin.org/docs/HousingWorks_for_Schools_2008_Summit_Report.pdf

http://www.housingworksAustin.org/docs/HousingWorks_for_Schools_2008_Summit_Executive_Summary.pdf

Status Updates from Panelists:

Sherri Fleming—Explanation of Truancy Plus program. Travis County is developing a master strategy and including deliberate action. The program targets high school dropouts and potential dropouts. Travis County is seeking more community engagement, including faith based programs to enhance faith based initiatives.

Council Member Laura Morrison—Update on housing and student mobility. Austin City Council passed Resolution Number 20090423-053 on April 23, 2009. The resolution amended the city's Citywide Strategic Priorities to emphasize the importance of family-friendly policies and encourages current and future planning initiatives such as the Comprehensive Plan.

The Educational Impact Analysis is beginning to get attention. The City is taking the lead to make sure that, when housing developments are being considered, impact of the housing developments on schools is considered in the development decisions.

The City is also examining the possible use of stimulus money to fund reducing student mobility by providing rental and utility assistance. The financial assistance would come from the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funding. The funding opportunities may be broadened to fund similar centers, like the Family Resource Center in the St. John's neighborhood, that are forming in other neighborhoods.

Bert Lumbreras—Update on Families and Children's Task Force and Joint Subcommittee actions. Have established a goal to get community stakeholders involved in the three major Joint Subcommittee priority areas. The City will be announcing plans for use of stimulus money next Tuesday, June 30.

Bergeron Harris:

Truancy Plus Committee—AISD has drop out intervention teams on every campus. Focusing on schools where demographics reflect higher dropout rates. Each campus has an impact team comprised of an administrator, counselor, nurse, parent support specialist, dropout prevention specialist, and teachers to focus on academic and behavior problems of the students.

AISD is advertising for We Care Drop Out Recovery initiative volunteers to help students who are potentially leaving the school system. Volunteers will call families and/or students with the purpose of getting the students back into the school system. The Recovery initiative begins August 1, and phone calling will occur between August 1 - 14.

Coordinating with the City on a dropout prevention collaboration summit scheduled for Fall 2009. AISD is working with CAN to help coordinate the City, County, and AISD projects such as How do we get data on the students, how do we keep students in school—academic engagement, behavioral engagement, and social-emotional engagement.

Cathy Requejo— AISD had identified 5,000 to 7,000 students per year who are in temporary home situations. The AISD services reach 2,000 students each year; AISD has set a goal for 2009 to increase the identification and engagement of possible homeless families. Reports on student mobility by campus are approximately one year behind. The AISD homeless liaison

group will be expanding their training for social workers, counselors, parent support specialists at all campuses to help them recognize students who face potential homelessness. The goal for 2009-10 is to better engage campuses and better use of services. Requejo has compiled data that illustrates student mobility rates and rates of homelessness by AISD campus. This data is based on figures from 2006–2007; 2007–2008 figures will be available in August.

Question and Answer Session:

1. *In relation to surrounding counties, what is the best use of stimulus funds?*

CM Morrison: Family Resource Centers like St. John’s will be a good way to help get funds to people who need funds.

Bergeron Harris—Six campuses will have a Family Resource Center funded by Title I stimulus funds. Pearce Middle School and Reagan High School will be the initial two campuses to receive the funds. The emphasis of Family Resource Center will be on literacy and wrap around services for students and families. AISD looked at Webb Middle School as a model for programs.

2. *In regards to strategic planning, how do we use criminal justice dollars and involve judges?*

Sheri Fleming—Staff and judges at Travis County Juvenile Justice Center are involved in the Truancy Plus committee. There is also emphasis on family programs at Juvenile Justice Center.

3. *How are teenage parents engaged so as to prevent dropping out?*

Bergeron Harris—AISD has looked at model in Orlando on family services and assistance on health, nutrition, drug intervention, etc. AISD also examining a virtual school model called Delta Labs, a self-paced, online school credit recovery program and will establish a dropout recovery campus next fall.

CM Laura Morrison—This issue will be part of the foundation in crafting the Truancy Plus program, to consider what keeps the student out of school—sibling care, parent care, child care, work schedule, etc. After-school recommendations from HousingWorks Summit and Families and Children’s Task Force will also be considered in developing Truancy Plus program.

Sheri Fleming—A structure for afterschool and extracurricular programs in place at Gus Garcia Elementary and Ann Richards School.

Bert Lumbreras—The City is looking at how to engage community leaders and local employers to offer employment opportunities for students. The Parks Department is thinking creatively on how to engage after school programs and jobs.

4. *How can we get necessary data pieces for neighborhood planning? Can AISD and/or the City provide a matrix of indicators, i.e., poverty, homelessness, etc. for schools in neighborhoods that could be attached to zoning requests?*

Bergeron Harris—Deferred to Paul Turner, AISD, Director of Facilities.

Paul Turner—The matrix could be a possibility as much of the data may already be available. Paul will look into this.

Dave Sullivan will submit a request in writing to AISD.

Susan Millea—This would be a good mapping effort and can include opportunity maps.

Frank Fernandez—Green Doors will be updating opportunity maps in the Fall. Frank further expounded that the type of data to include in the matrix is data that the Educational Impact Analysis could provide for decision makers.

Vanessa Sarria—CAN partners, in particular Ready by 21, is working on measures for student success.

5. *How can the community get involved in these actions?*

CM Laura Morrison—There are community groups for each project—school mobility, etc. Interested citizens can contact any of the subcommittee members.

Cathy Requejo—Meeting participants are encouraged to stay connected and proactive with special interest groups like LifeWorks, etc.

Bergeron Harris—There is an immediate need for volunteers in the Call Center for August. Call Linelle Clark Brown to get involved—414-0201.

Sheri Fleming—County is aware of network of programs that are funded. And, the County would like to know about successful grass-root efforts so County can piggyback on them.

6. *What is the status of building a comprehensive youth plan*

Vanessa Sarria—Ready by 21 is working on goals for children including marshaling resources to inventory and catalog programs and plans. CAN and Ready by 21 has included the goal of connecting all parties involved.

Comprehensive City Plan—

Dave Sullivan, Planning Commission:

How have the issues of housing and education been incorporated into boards and commissions?

Planning Commission, Zoning and Platting Commission, Design Commission, Community Development Commission, Downtown Commission met and heard presentations on housing, education, and demographics in Austin. Brian Kelsey talked about education. Jennifer Holme presented child poverty rate. Ryan Robinson presented demographic trends. Margaret Shaw presented Housing Market study. John-Michel Cortez described the future plans of Capital Metro. The goal was for boards and commissions to be aware of this body of knowledge and incorporate this knowledge on housing, education and demographics into their planning.

As a result of these presentations, the Planning Commission is more sensitive to the need for affordable housing in Austin. The Commissioners grasped the links between housing and education. As an example for planning purposes, the Planning Commission is asking developers to have relocation plans for displaced families be in summer rather than during the school year so that school mobility is reduced.

The Comprehensive Plan was described as a broad range of areas that should include school and housing resources.

Dave Sullivan explained ten elements required in Austin's comprehensive plans:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Water and wastewater, drainage and solid waste
- Environment
- Housing
- Public facilities—libraries, etc.
- Economic development
- Health and human services
- Recreation and open space
- Public services—police, fire fighters

Dave emphasized the need to include children and education in the Comprehensive Plan. This will bring more people into the planning process.

Development of the Comprehensive Plan is a three phase process:

- Public participation plan—Put together a citizen advisory committee to guide the planning, plan for charrettes, focus groups, phone and online surveys, print media advertisements, etc.
- Visioning—Establish goals and objectives
- Plan—Including a geographic plan for green space, decreasing drop out rates, diverse housing, economic development, etc.

Draft Scope of Work to guide creation of the new Comp Plan is scheduled to be released to City Council on July 23. CM Morrison commented that the Design Commission has included emphasis on open space and that City Council passed a resolution on open space.

The Planning Commission hopes to create a speaker's bureau of 20-30 people to present information on the Comprehensive Plan to various citizens groups. There will also be one or two Citizen Advisory Committees to oversee the creation of the plan. The Comp Plan development process over the next two years is an opportunity to educate citizenry on how Austin is becoming a major American city.

NEXT STEPS:

HousingWorks will send notes from meeting to the participants and post on the HousingWorks website.

HousingWorks Fall Summit will have a goal to connect Comprehensive Plan with housing and education.

Bert Lumbreras will take lead on determining where the Subcommittee will reside and will develop some strategy on engaging more citizens.

Suggestions:

Volunteer opportunities for AISD's Care Center on August 1.

Become engaged in the Comprehensive Plan.