

Restore Rundberg Community Meeting
Jaime Padron Elementary School
2011 W Rundberg Ln, Austin, TX 78758
May 28, 2015
7:00pm-8:30pm

In Attendance:

Team Members & Designees

Monica Guzmán, Erica Saenz, Roberto Perez, Rick Randall, Cary Roberts, Ann Teich,

APD: Kianes, Soliz, Bazzle

UT (Kyle Pitzer, Jennifer Hernandez, Allison Marshall)

Call to order 7:10pm

Presentation: ECHO

Ann Howard, Executive Director of ECHO, discussed results of a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of homeless in Austin on January 23, 2015. At that time, 1,877 individuals were counted in shelters/streets. HUD estimates 6,703 individuals to have been homeless between October 2013 and September 2014. The results of an additional count found that 12,999 people received services or were waiting to receive services related to housing during 2014. ECHO plans to complete a count looking for veterans at locations identified in the PIT count (estimate 288 veterans identified). Caritas has opened a new location at 9027 Northgate where they assess clients for case management services, including life-skills education, employment resources, and rental and utility assistance. A. Howard asks that people be vocal about asking landlords if they would be willing to house homeless veterans paid for by voucher. There is funding through VASH to support homeless veterans but there is a need for available affordable housing.

Presentation: Latino HealthCare Forum

Jill Ramirez, CEO of Latino HealthCare Forum and Chelsea Brass presented results of a health assessment of the Rundberg area. Funders and supporters include the City of Austin, St. David's Foundation, Restore Rundberg, and the Restore Rundberg Health Committee. Qualitative data collection took place through interviews of 24 stakeholders, focus groups in Spanish, Arabic, Burmese, and English, and a Community Forum. Core issues identified by the assessment include stress, communication barriers, and social determinants of health. Quantitative data revealed that 30 different languages are being spoken in the area. Quantitative data also found that the top medical issues being addressed in the Rundberg area include prenatal services, children's services, hypertension, diabetes, mood disorders, and drug abuse. The summary report is scheduled to be posted in the next few weeks.

Based on this assessment, LHCF has policy recommendations to implement a place-based initiative unique to Rundberg called a Community Innovation Zone. Needs identified include more availability of the following types of services: specialist care, mental health, in-person translation services, ESL classes, workforce development, and cultural competency across services. LHCF proposes the use of community healthcare workers (local community members providing basic case management services) to assist individuals in the Rundberg area with access to the aforementioned needs. There are also recommendations for increased bus service East-West across Rundberg: based on these recommendations, route 325 will double in frequency, to every 15 minutes, as of June 7. There are also recommendations to increase frequency on Braker Lane. Technology recommendations include use of social media platforms, mobile and web applications for language translations, text-to-speech/speak to text services, video conferencing, and telemedicine. All interested community members are encouraged to go to the City Health Committee meeting on June 1 at Austin City Hall at 4pm to demonstrate support.

Public Comment

Mary Jo Hernandez asked about the funding situation going forward for LHCF recommendations. LHCF is pursuing city funding but is also working on other collaborations for funding and in-kind donation with hopes of securing a multi-year initiative.

It was suggested that Texas Medical Translators be contacted. Community outreach was discussed, barriers to participation were identified including communication. LHCF hopes to help develop more civic engagement.

M. Guzman discussed outreach through community connections and identified barriers to participation in the Restore Rundberg Initiative, including transportation and childcare.

Chair will share letter of support for proposal recommendations to team.

Meeting adjourned by chair at 8:31pm.

anm