

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the National Association of County and City Health Officials with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation selected the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) as a demonstration site for Community Health Improvement Planning and Accreditation Preparation; and

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County HHSD, in partnership with leaders of the community made up of non-profit, for-profit, public, and private entities and with those core agencies including Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services Office, Central Health, St. David's Foundation, Seton Healthcare Family, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus, Austin/Travis County Integral Care, and Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority initiated the comprehensive community health planning effort that resulted in a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) report, the first for our community; and

WHEREAS, the CHA illustrates the power of data driven evidence and the community's voice by gathering information for Austin/Travis County in the areas of demographics, social and physical environment, community

strengths and resources, health behaviors, health outcomes, health care access and affordability, external factors (“forces of change”), and community vision and identified opportunities; and

WHEREAS, through the development of the CHA, several key themes emerged from the synthesis of data:

- There is wide variation within Travis County in population composition and socioeconomic levels;
- Lack of transportation services and living in a walkable community are two main concerns which have affected residents’ perceived quality of life, stress level, and ease of accessing services;
- Latinos/Hispanics were identified as a vulnerable population in the community whose concerns stand to be exacerbated by the population growth in the region;
- Mental health was considered a growing, pressing concern by focus group and interview participants, and current mental health services were considered inadequate to meet the current demand;
- As with the rest of the country and state, issues around physical activity, healthy eating, and obesity are issues for Travis County residents,

especially as chronic conditions are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality;

- While strong health care services exist in the region, vulnerable populations such as the socially isolated elderly, non-English speaking residents, individuals living with disabilities, and the poor encounter continued difficulties in accessing primary care services;
- Residents viewed prevention as critical, but they emphasized that the health care system focused more on clinical care and disease management than prevention; and
- Numerous services, resources, and organizations are currently working in Austin/Travis County to meet the population's health and social service needs.

WHEREAS, the CHIP focuses on how Austin/Travis County will implement strategies to improve key areas affecting our health and well-being by determining major health priorities, overarching goals, and specific strategies to be implemented in a coordinated way; and

WHEREAS, the CHIP is based on a vision that “Healthy People are the Foundation of our Thriving Community” and a mission, shared values, and four identified priority areas of Chronic Disease (focus on obesity), Built

Environment (focus on access to healthy foods), Built Environment (transportation), and Access to Primary Care and Mental/Behavioral Health Services (focus on navigating the healthcare system); and

WHEREAS, the CHIP identified a goal for each priority area, associated performance measures, short and long term indicators, objectives and strategies including policies, education, programs, and initiatives that involve commitment and efforts by the City, Travis County, partners and agencies; and

WHEREAS, CHIP implementation began July 1, 2013, and will continue for 36 months; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That City Council recognizes the leadership of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department and the work of partner agencies and stakeholders as significant in the effort to achieve greater health and opportunity across our region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That City Council acknowledges the importance of the Community Health Assessment and endorses the Community Health Improvement Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That City Council directs the City Manager to pursue strategies with its CHIP partners to implement the Community Health Improvement Plan goals.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013

ATTEST: _____

Janette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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