



Working Together to Make Austin/Travis County Healthier.

June 6, 2014

Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Coalition Update and August 13, 2014 Meeting Save the Date

Dear Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Coalition Members,

There have been notable and exciting activities since our last correspondence. There has also been one disappointing piece of news. First, many of you have heard our very bad news that ATCHHSD has received official notice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that funding for years 4 and 5 of the Community Transformation Grant is being cancelled. The grant commitment made by CDC is subject to the availability of funds and due to the fiscal year 2014 elimination of funding for Community Transformation Grants appropriated under the Prevention Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act (ACA), Public Health Prevention Fund, the CDC is not able to support our project past September 29, 2014.

The unanticipated end to CTG is extremely unfortunate, however, CDC has just announced a new funding opportunity. The Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) is a new 3 year initiative to improve health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases. Grant required efforts include implementing evidence-based policy, systems and environmental changes that address tobacco use and exposure, poor nutrition, physical inactivity and lack of access to chronic disease prevention, risk reduction, and management opportunities. These requirements align with our existing activities and we are well positioned as a community to compete for these funds. The grant application is due July 22, 2014. As we work on our application, we may be contacting many of you, and possibly asking for

letters of support.

The good news is that our coalition efforts continue to accomplish great things throughout the community. Some of the latest successes include:

Complete Streets Policy recommendation should go to City Council this Summer. Developed the first draft of the Land Development Code Diagnosis, an analysis of the top 10 issues in our current code that need to be addressed. The City of Austin hosted the Making Austin Walkable: with Jeff Speck events on May 6th & 7th 2014; and the Urban Trails Master Plan and the Bike Plan are scheduled for Council presentation on June 12.

Parks and Recreation is working with the Austin Independent School District to provide improvements to the Houston soccer field, located in-between the Dove Springs Recreation Center and Houston Elementary.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is working to install bicycle fix-stations in all 18 recreation centers. Adding bicycle fix-station will increase the use of alternative transportation and will increase physical activity

We are continuing to work with Go Austin Vamos Austin and community partners to develop an outreach plan to small grocery and convenience stores to incorporate healthy food offerings modeled after the Food Trust's Healthy Corner Store initiative. Food Trust, a national CDC technical assistance consultant housed in Philadelphia, provided onsite technical assistance in April.

We are working with City of Austin Purchasing to incorporate healthy vending guidelines in recent vending procurement solicitation. A new vending contract should be awarded this Summer that will serve all employee vending machines.

We continue to work with the University of Texas and Austin Community College to incorporate healthy options and menu labeling in vending, cafeterias and campus fast food eateries and restaurants.

Through a partnership with the Sustainable Food Center there is ongoing effort to support 7 community gardens; and 2 new home gardeners. Additionally, 11 new school and community gardens received training, workshops, and garden resources. 30 new home gardeners are scheduled to receive support through training workshops and resources and 17 more have registered.

We are working with numerous multiunit housing properties that are now smokefree including: Foundation Communities (six affordable housing properties); Austin Geriatric Center - Affordable housing property for elderly and disabled tenants; Bent Tree - Housing Authority of Austin contracted property; Eleven - Large new high rise luxury apartments.

We assisted the City of San Marcos, Texas in adopting a comprehensive indoor smoking law which includes a provision for e-cigarettes. The City of San Marcos has a population of 50,000 and includes Texas State University, one of the largest 4 year colleges in the state with a student population of 35,000.

We continue to provide support to worksites to implement tobacco-free workplaces and, consequently, to provide protection from secondhand smoke exposure for all employees, clients, students, and visitors, and providing access to cessation services for those who want to quit. Locations that staff have recently successfully worked with include Communities in Schools, Meals on Wheels, Frost Insurance, Capital Area food Bank, City of Austin Departments: Austin Resource Recovery and Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs.

Austin Independent School District expanded their existing tobacco-free campus policy to include electronic cigarettes.

Lastly, please save the date for our next Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Coalition meeting on August 13, 2014.

Thank you so much for your participation in the coalition and your continued commitment to reducing the burden of chronic disease in our community.

Phil