THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT: WHO WILL CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE IN AUSTIN?

The welfare state represents one of the major social and political achievements of the Twentieth Century. Even in the United States, in which welfare state programs are far more limited than in Europe, individuals look to government for protection against major social risks, including poverty in old age and illness. Yet despite its success at reducing poverty and increasing health levels, programs for the poor, the disabled, and the elderly are the targets of attempts to control growing governmental debt at all levels. Publicly funded programs face growing resistance from overburdened taxpayers. In the past Austin voters have regularly supported educational and transportation bond initiatives. As the cost of living in Austin has increased, such bond initiatives have been voted down. As property values in the city increase, citizens rebel at growing property taxes and older residents find that they are simply overwhelmed. As dependent as we all have become on the welfare state, its growing cost, which is driven in large part by the aging of the population present federal, state, county, and municipal governments with major challenges.

This policy research project examines political processes at the state, county and municipal levels that determine how seniors and people with disabilities are cared for in the community. The main objective of the research is to identify how experiments in community-based long-term care federal waivers could be employed to improve support services to both the old and young people in need in the City of Austin.

Sponsor and Client: St. David's Foundation
Client: Texas Health and Human Services Commission

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**2015-16
TUESDAY, 2-5 PM
POLICY RESEARCH PROJECT
COMMUNITY CARE IN MULTI-ETHNIC AUSTIN**

EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF PROVIDING COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES: ORGANIZATIONAL FEATURES, CLIENT IDENTIFICATION, VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION, & FUNDING

LEARN ABOUT TEXAS LAWS, E.G., SB 7 (83R) AND INNOVATIVE PROPOSALS

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