

CAN Community Council

Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 9, 2017

Community Council Members in Attendance: Sandra Castillo, Hunter Ellinger, Steven Fletcher, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzmán, Kirsha Haverlah, Anne H. Harutunian, Kent Herring, Aletha Huston, Ara Merjanian, Blythe Plunket, Leslie Puckett, Beverly Reeves, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami, Paulina Urbanowicz, Michael Willard, Terry Wilt

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd, Carlos Soto

Call to order and Introductions: Ara Merjanian called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and reviewed the meeting agenda. Community Council members introduced themselves and shared what made them interested in participating in Community Council.

Approval of minutes from 10/17/16 and 11/14/16: The minutes of October and November 2016 were approved, with corrections, with a motion by Hunter Ellinger seconded by Monica Guzmán.

Chair's report: Ara Merjanian shared the Community Council report that was shared with the CAN Board of Directors. Merjanian said the Nominating Committee for New Members has recommended that the Council consider adding new members at mid-year and he encouraged council members to think of at least 1 person that would be a good candidate for Community Council membership. Candidates may submit applications for membership at any time. Information can be found at http://canatx.org/CAN-Councils/Community_Council/Application/member_app.php.

Election of Vice Chair for 2017: Ara Merjanian introduced the candidate for the position, Laura Griebel, and made a motion to accept her as Vice Chair for 2017. Eileen Schrandt seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

CAN Overview and 2017 Work Plan: Raul Alvarez reviewed the structure, mission and role of CAN. He discussed the CAN partner organizations and how they contribute to the fulfillment of CAN's mission, and the CAN governance model. Alvarez invited Community Council members to attend the CAN 25th anniversary celebration and Butler Awards presentation on January 13, 2017 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at ACC Eastview Campus.

Alvarez discussed 2016 accomplishments and the 2017 CAN Work Plan adopted by the CAN Board of Directors.

State of Texas Children: Race and Equity in Austin: Mary Dodd introduced the presenter, Kristie Tingle, Research Analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities. Tingle began by saying that the information she is presenting comes from the State of Texas Children 2016 report. The theme of the report is making Texas a better place for children by ensuring that "Every child is healthy, well-educated and financially secure." Texas ranks 43rd in overall child well-being, according to the Annie E Casey foundation. 18% of Travis Co children live in poverty, with Hispanic and Black children experiencing poverty at higher rates than White or Asian children. Tingle discussed a map showing total poverty rate by census tract in Travis County, and compared it to a map showing child population by race/ethnicity in Travis County, showing how the areas where poverty is concentrated overlap areas where a majority of the population is black or Hispanic. Next, Tingle presented a graph showing child uninsured rates in Travis Co, pointing out how

the uninsured rate for Blacks decreased tremendously in recent years, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Tingle discussed a graph showing Travis Co high school completion rates. Tingle also discussed the Texas Public School finance system and the disparities among districts in property wealth per student. Tingle continued by comparing the racial makeup of the poorest 20% and the richest 20% and showed how the poorest districts tend to be majority Black or Hispanic.

Tingle then discussed 3 challenges to Texas government to make changes to improve the conditions for Texas children. Tingle concluded her presentation by providing a number of resources for more information or data on the topics she presented, and an overview of the Kids Count datacenter available online.

Q & A: Council members spoke about the importance of school finance reform. CC members also expressed an interest in learning about data for children under the age of 6, costs of childcare, and other breakdowns.

Discussion of CAN Community Council 2017 Work Plan Objectives: Ara Merjanian opened the discussion with an overview of the creation of the Work Plan, and continued with a description of upcoming Community Council meeting topics and objectives. CC members expressed a desire to include mental health in future discussions. CC members also expressed an interest in learning about child abuse and maltreatment. Another topic of interest to CC members is access to outdoor play areas for children.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.