



## CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 1/14/19

**Community Council Members in Attendance:** Nancy Gilliam, Leslie Puckett, Kirsha Haverlah, Aletha Huston, Hunter Ellinger, Thomas Martinez, Carmen Luevanos, Caroline Reynolds

**Guests in attendance:** None

**CAN Staff:** Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto, Jelina Tunstill

**Call to order & announcements:** Hunter called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present.

**Citizens Communication:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** The 11/26/2018 minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

**Community Council Chair's Report:** As follow up to the discussion at the November meeting about creating a directory of Community Council members that includes their interests and background. He also suggested using the website he developed for follow-up discussions in between meetings. It was discussed that email reminders to participate in website discussions and of CAN Board meeting dates would be helpful. CAN membership was discussed and a topic to incorporate during strategic planning.

**Executive Director's Report:** Raul added that engagement will be a focus this year including one-on-one partner engagement on priority issues and regarding strategic plan. The Community Council members can provide input during the strategic planning process. Raul commented that, last year, the Community Council hosted events that added value to CAN, specifically the legislative forum and the deliberative dialogues. This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CAN Dashboard. CAN will host a series of State of the Safety Net forums in which Community Council may play a role. Also, this year Community Council will help in creating a valuable resource for CAN and the community, a Community Council Alumni Network.

The following ideas relating to the role of the Community Council were discussed:

- finding way to engage groups through the Community Council without having to go through the partnership process, like possibly having multiple Community Councils (Pflugerville, Del Valle, Manor etc.);
- finding ways to more effectively share information learned by Community Council;
- developing additional avenues for CAN staff to share the work it is doing to facilitate and encourage Community Council members to support events and presentations; and
- adding value to the work of CAN by assessing progress toward implementation of recommendation from task forces and advisory committees.

Aletha asked for clarification on the role of the Community Council in relation to the CAN Board. Raul answered that the CAN Community Council has historically created its own work plan and identified its own priorities, but it could choose to support other issues in the overall CAN work plan. It was discussed that in order to make a work plan or for any messaging the Community Council needs to figure out who they are trying to inform (CAN Board Members or community members).

**The following is a summary of the discussion that took place regarding potential 2019 Community Council work plan topics:**

**Possible 2019 Work Plan Themes**

- Focus on children
- Focus on aging
- Focus on workforce development

**Child Poverty Report Handout Ideas**

- Include tools to connect families to services
- Customize materials on website using a dropdown menu
- “Services for families” and “ways to get involved” messaging on the same handout

**Research Ideas**

- Messaging about cost of impact of not addressing Child Poverty (Trauma Informed Care)
- Messaging about systemic reasons why people are poor in the first place
- Messaging about how much each strategy would cost to implement
- Require organizations to measure their effectiveness (Use of current funds)

**Communication & Messaging Ideas**

- Get resource information to 211
- Consider political environment
- Synergize efforts

**Selection of 2019 Vice-Chair and New Members:** Hunter announced Nora Comstock as Vice-Chair. There are 6 applications for membership and the Nominations Committee will look at the applications during the time before the next meeting. Hunter stated one thing the Community Council may need to do is think about goals for composition of the Community Council.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.