

CAN Community Council

Meeting Minutes of Monday, November 14, 2016

Community Council Members in Attendance: Hunter Ellinger, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzmán, Ara Merjanian, Blythe Plunkett, Leslie Puckett, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami, Paulina Urbanowicz, Michael Willard

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd

Call to order and Introductions: Gloria Souhami reported that the December 8th meeting of the Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force will feature a discussion with the new Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez. Eileen Schrandt announced a summit on Housing and Health this Thursday, sponsored by Housing Works and Children's Optimal Health. She said Mission Capital is sponsoring a Data Institute that same day at the JJ Pickle Research Campus.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the October 17, 2016 meeting were not approved, as a quorum was not present.

Chair's report: Eileen Schrandt said eight Community Council members (Hunter Ellinger, Monica Guzmán, Kirsha Haverlah, Carmen Luevanos, Ara Merjanian, Blythe Plunkett, Eileen Schrandt, and Michael Willard) attended the CAN Board/Community Council retreat on November 4th. The purpose of the retreat was to identify priority areas for CAN Work Plan focus for 2017.

Executive Director's Report: Raul Alvarez shared highlights of CAN's work in 2016 and key issues that emerged from the Kettering Dialogues, the Board discussions on how CAN partner agencies are helping to bridge the economic divide and the CAN Community Council work on developing a framework for person-centered care. Based on the discussions at the CAN Board/Community Council retreat, a draft 2017 Work Plan is being developed.

Nominating Committee for New Members: The Nominating Committee, made up of Eileen Schrandt, Ara Merjanian, Gloria Souhami, Laura Griebel and Monica Guzman recommends the approval of 9 people for the CAN Community Council Class of 2019. Eileen Schrandt reviewed the nine candidates. Three are current Community Council members whose terms are expiring – Monica Guzman, Blythe Plunkett and Carmen Luevanos. Six additional candidates are also recommended for approval. They are Sandra Castillo, Aimee Finney, Steven Fletcher, Kent Herring, Aletha Huston, and Beverly Reeves. Since a quorum was not present, the Chair Eileen Schrandt said notice would be sent by email to receive votes on the Committee recommendation. Gloria Souhami said the Nominating Committee would like to consider inviting new people more frequently than once a year. The current CAN by-laws call for terms to begin in January, but there is also a provision allowing the Council to fill unexpired terms at any time during the year.

Election of a Vice Chair for 2017: There is not a candidate to recommend. Ara Merjanian said he will send an email to members asking members to let him know if they have an interest to serve as Vice Chair in 2017, Chair in 2018 and Past Chair in 2019. The Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair are all members of the CAN Executive Committee, which meets from 9 – 10:30 a.m. on the third Friday of the month. The Chair and Vice Chair are also members of the CAN Board of Directors (the Past Chair is a proxy). The board meets on the second Friday of the month from 1 – 3 p.m.

Person-Centered Framework Update and Draft Year End Report to CAN Board of Directors: Ara Merjanian shared the Interim Executive Report at the CAN Board/Community Council Retreat. The Council is scheduled to present the final report to the CAN Board of Directors at their December 9, 2016 meeting. Merjanian said he would like to add a little more substance with suggestions for what steps organizations can take to begin implementing person-centered principles in organizations' strategic planning, policies and procedures, mission and vision, and systems for client feedback. Several members noted that the PCC document is helpful to community collaborative planning efforts as well. It was suggested that each CAN partner organization could be asked to pursue these principles and to identify a few actions they can take to become more person-centered. Ara Merjanian said he would further refine the document and share a draft with members.

What will the role of the Community Council be in the 2017 Work Plan? Merjanian asked Council members to consider how we can build on what we have already done. Ara Merjanian suggested the Council continue to engage the Kettering process in civic engagement and continue to follow the emerging Community Schools Initiative. This also fits nicely with the Board's interest in focusing on workforce development and supporting the new Workforce Plan to help low-income people prepare for middle skilled jobs. Leslie Puckett said Phase I was completed in September and Phase II is now underway. Michael Willard said he would propose the Council delve deeper into inequities for children. Understand where children in poverty are living. It was noted that there would be sufficient material and perspectives to focus solely on children. There was also an interest in the two-generation work that United Way is working on.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.