

CAN Community Council

Meeting Notes for Monday, June 19, 2017
Multipurpose Room B, Travis County Offices, 700 Lavaca

Community Council Members in Attendance: Sandra Castillo, Aimee Finney, Laura Griebel, Kent Herring, Carmen Luevanos, Blythe Plunkett, Leslie Puckett, Beverly Reeves, Caroline Reynolds, Eileen Schrandt, Paulina Urbanowicz (A Quorum of the Community Council's 26 members was not present, so these are meeting "notes" and not minutes.)

Unable to attend: Hunter Ellinger, Steven Fletcher, Nancy Gilliam, Monica Guzmán, Anne Harutunian, Kirsha Haverlah, Ara Merjanian, Elizabeth Moore, Laura Poskochil, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami, Terry Wilt, Courtney Horm, Aletha Huston, Michael Willard

Guests in attendance: Ann Howard, ECHO; Susan McDowell, Lifeworks; Christopher Powers, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas; Chantel Valentine, Integral Care

CAN Staff: Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd, Carlos Soto

Call to order: Vice Chair Laura Griebel called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and reminded members that the Community Council will not meet in July. Those present introduced themselves.

Citizens Communication: Chantel Valentine announced that Integral Care is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for "Families with Voices/Familias con Voces" to provide wrap around care for families in the Manor ISD area. People interested in learning more should visit integralcare.org or contact brody.ballard@integralcare.org for more information.

Approval of Minutes: due to lack of quorum, action on the previous month's minutes could not be taken.

Chair's Report: Griebel noted that it is time to begin recruiting Community Council members for the Class of 2018. Each year, the Community Council invites a new class of members to serve a three-year term. She asked members to encourage people they know to apply on-line at canatx.org. Applications will be reviewed by a New Member Nominating Committee to be made up of the Vice Chair, the Past Chair and three additional people appointed by the Chair. People who are interested in learning more about the Community Council are always welcome to attend Council meetings.

Griebel asked Raul Alvarez to share information about the Person-Centered Care sub-committee. He said the first meeting has occurred by conference call and invited others to join the effort. The goal is to carry the work of the Community Council on person-centered care forward. Beverly Reeves, who serves on the sub-committee, said the first meeting was a brain-storming session.

Executive Director's Report: Raul Alvarez said the Language Access Work Group is working on its final report to the CAN Board of Directors. He showed members how to find information about the effort on the new CAN website. He also shared the new Equity Blog, which will highlight information about equity in our community. The current blog is regarding a summer book study on Richard Florida's "[The New Urban Crisis](#)." The second session will be held next week. He encouraged people to subscribe to the Equity Blog. Alvarez also shared a summary of Texas Legislative actions that impact children from Texans Care for Children as well as highlights of the 2018-19 Texas Budget by the Center for Public Policy Priorities.

2017 CAN Dashboard Presentation: Mary Dodd shared highlights from the 2017 CAN Dashboard report and asked that Council members invite CAN staff to share the report with their boards, staff, or community and neighborhood groups.

We are healthy: How can we end youth homelessness in our community?

Ann Howard, Executive Director of Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), said her organization works as a conduit between local service providers and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She said the Obama Administration set goals of “opening doors” by ending veteran homelessness by 2016, ending chronic homelessness by 2017 and youth and family homelessness by 2020. Austin’s success in ending Veteran Homelessness left the community well-positioned to receive a \$5.2 million grant from HUD to end youth homelessness.

Susan McDowell, Executive Director of Lifeworks, said one challenge for ending youth homelessness is that the services and work that happens in the community involves many organizations that do not necessarily share the same definitions or funding streams.

The effort focuses on youth age 24 and younger, who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are homeless. The effort will focus on youth who are LGBTQ, former foster youth, pregnant or parenting youth, victims of human trafficking, and youth who are doubled up and living with others.

McDowell said they have identified 891 literally homeless youth – those who shelter or live in a place not meant for human habitation. In order to “end” youth homelessness, systems must work together with systemic coordination and collaboration.

Austin has struggled to adequately count youth who are homeless. A year and a half ago, the Voices of Youth Count was led by youth who had previously experienced homelessness. Then, Austin participated in a federal challenge to do a 100 Day Challenge to house 50 homeless youth. The effort helped Austin agencies work together better as a system and gain the confidence and experience to apply for the federal grant to end youth homelessness. Austin was one of 10 communities selected to receive the grant.

The \$5.2 million grant will be issued over three years and includes many federal partners and local partners. Lifeworks and ECHO are co-leads in the planning, but many other organizations are participating, including the Texas Department of Family Protective Services.

Phase 1 is developing a Community Plan, which is due by July 13; Phase 2 is implementing the plan with competitive innovative projects. Some of the outcomes are to identify youth who are homeless, providing safe and appropriate shelter to any youth experiencing homelessness who want it; helping youth return to their homes and families, if they choose; moving into permanent housing; connecting to supportive services to achieve stability; and capacity to prevent homelessness for at-risk youth.

What experiences lead youth to be homeless? McDowell said about 50% have had some kind of foster care involvement. One-fourth of all youth who age out of the foster care system will be homeless. Also, youth who have served time in the juvenile justice system, and human trafficking are often in the history. Also, children who are LBBTQ or who have lifestyles their families do not accept may be homeless. Another sub-population is young people with a serious mental illness that their parents just cannot deal with

How does the systems integration work, especially with such a broad age span? The US Interagency Council to End Homelessness is modeling, at the federal level, the collaborative efforts that are needed in integrating data and information. When the federal agencies came to Texas, we called together the State entities and they also share a willingness to work together in ways that have not happened before. Austin has a lot of “eyes” on us to see whether we will succeed.

What efforts are some of Austin's unique strengths and challenges? Ann Howard said one challenge is finding the housing. ECHO has a staff member with a real estate license who is combing the Multiple Listing Service to find units to lease. Landlords also appreciate the fact that we have case managers who are working with the youth to help them overcome obstacles and remain stable. Also, we are being creative in

creating co-living situations for youth to live together. Youth who have been in multiple failed placements feel abused by the system and have reservations about trusting us, but, as the word gets out, more youth are willing to take a chance with us.

What can CAN do to support your efforts? Help us share our plan, once it is complete. Continue to stress the importance of multi-system level integration. Encourage leaders to always consider how their actions may impact homelessness.

Adjournment: Griebel thanked the presenters and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.