



CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 09/18/2017

Community Council Members in Attendance: Sandra Castillo, Hunter Ellinger, Aimee Finney, Nancy Gilliam, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzmán, Kirsha Haverlah, Aletha Huston, Carmen Luevanos, Ara Merjanian, Blythe Plunkett, Caroline Reynolds, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami, Paulina Urbanowicz, Michael Willard, Terry Wilt.

Guests in attendance: Britney Zoch, Goodwill; Kay Moore, Goodwill; Deputy Chief Darryl Beatty, Travis County Juvenile Probation Department; Gene Wills, Travis County Juvenile Probation Department; Ricardo Garay, Dell Medical Center; Annette Price, Dan Leal, Courtney Seals.

CAN Staff: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto

Call to order & announcements: Chair Ara Merjanian called the meeting to order at 6:07p.m. and those present introduced themselves. Gloria Souhami announced the Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force meeting on October 6, where the focus will be behavioral health and Carlos from CAN will provide a Dashboard presentation. Monica Guzman, announced a Restore Rundberg meeting on 9/28 at the North Austin YMCA that will include a presentation from the City of Austin Equity Office. Kirsha Haverlah announced that next month is Domestic Violence awareness month, and encouraged Council members to participate in the free Paddle Parade scheduled for October 10 at 5:30 PM beginning at the Texas Rowing Center on Lady Bird Lake.

Approval of Minutes: The meeting notes of 6/19/17 & 8/21/17 were approved on a motion by Aletha Huston, seconded by Aimee Finney.

Chair's Report: Ara Merjanian discussed the ongoing applications process, beginning with the nominations committee, made up of chair Kirsha Haverlah together with Aletha Huston and Blythe Plunkett, followed by a brief overview of the applications received up to this point. Merjanian reminded members whose terms are expiring to reapply and encouraged members to invite individuals to apply. Next, Merjanian discussed the CAN Retreat, describing it as a "look forward" and a chance for Community Council members to sit at the table with the CAN Board and set the CAN Agenda for 2018. These sessions are an important opportunity for the council to have a voice in planning.

At the previous CAN Board meeting, Merjanian submitted a survey to the CAN Board members regarding Building a Person Centered Community. This committee is being chaired by Nancy, with Beverly and Paulina also on the committee. Results of that survey are on the last page of the Meeting Notes.

There are 2 remaining meetings this year. November is a planning meeting where we will summarize work completed in 2017. Please think about what you want to share with the CAN Board to include in the report. Next month we will take up the issue of Youth Engagement. Bruce Elfant from the Travis County Tax Office to discuss voter registration. We will also have presentation from a profession at ACC regarding service learning. The Executive Director of A Legacy of Giving will also participate.

Executive Director's Report: Raul Alvarez thanked the speakers, members, and guests, for being here and reviewed the new meeting format, based on insights from Liberating Structures, designed to encourage more intimate interactions between presenter and Council members.

Planning for the Deliberative Dialogues on Safety and Justice continues, with new dates and location in the works. Alvarez mentioned that the Summer Book Study was a success, and the participants were interested in having another one in the fall. This fall we will study *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond, which was awarded the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction and is about the struggle faced by eight Milwaukee

families to keep a roof over their heads. The book study will likely begin in November, more information will be made available once details are finalized.

The CAN Retreat will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Allen Cafeteria. Last week we sent out the CAN Stakeholder Survey to the Board and Community Council, where participants can give feedback on how we are doing and our focus for the coming year. Results will be shared at the retreat to help guide planning for 2018. Alvarez then asked Council members to refer to the “A Closer Look at Child Poverty” summary guides, specifically the “we are safe, just and engaged” section, where a space has been prepared for participants to take notes during today’s presentations.

We are Safe, Just, and Engaged: How are children impacted by the criminal justice system and disproportionality in this system?

Falba Turner, Director of Mentor Programs for Seedling Foundation, began by sharing that 1/28 minor children in the US today have a parent who is incarcerated, and that over 8,000 children in the Travis, Hays, Williamson, and Bastrop area have a biological parent who is incarcerated. The US government separates citizens from their children due to 3 main reasons: military deployment, child welfare intervention, and incarceration. These challenges affect Black children disproportionately. The impact of arrest and deportation on the numbers as they apply to Latinx children is unknown. Children affected by parental incarceration show a prevalence of 3.7 ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), compared to a general population average of 0.7. Parental incarceration is also connected to an increased likelihood of numerous specific physical health, mental wellbeing, and educational outcomes. Turner also discussed some of the myths that contribute to some of the diminished outcomes she discussed, including “monolithic group” stereotypes, assumption of the broken child without supports, the intergenerational cycle myth, and what the school-to-prison pipeline really means. Turner also discussed some of the pathways, both internal and external, that converge and also contribute to diminished outcomes. Turner concluded with a discussion about what it means to respect children and their caregivers in their ability to identify and articulate their own needs, and how the Children of Prisoner’s Bill of Rights, developed by the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership in partnership with youth with incarcerated parents in 2005, was designed to be a roadmap of reform to safeguard our children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system.

Annette Price, Reentry Roundtable Advocacy Fellow, shared her firsthand experience with the criminal justice system. At the age of 20 she went to prison for protecting her and her unborn child, and was sentenced to 75 years. Her son was 5 years old and she was pregnant with her daughter at the time of her sentencing. Her son knew her and they bonded before she was incarcerated in Illinois. Price participated in a program called The Mother and Child program where children could come in on Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. Permission to participate depended on each person’s case. For example persons convicted of crime(s) against a child were excluded from participation. Price described it as a great program until funds ran out. Price participated in the program with each of her children, one at a time to give undivided attention. After serving 20 years, she returned to her family. When her son was growing up, he faced his own set of challenges and also ended up incarcerated. This began a pattern that continues to this day. He can hold a job, but he is still challenged to stay away from his previous lifestyle. Her daughter, on the other hand, is very successful. Annette believes there should be more programs to support children with incarcerated parents and incarcerated parents who have children. When she says that statistics are accurate, her children reflect the difference in outcomes that the statistics predict.

Deputy Chief Darryl Beatty, Travis County Juvenile Probation Department, discussed the TCJPD’s mission statement, which is providing for public safety by effectively addressing the needs of juveniles, families and victims of crime. This mission is what guides the department’s work. The TCJPD offers court services, legal services, probation services, detention services, residential services, health services, and domestic

relations. The department's continuum of services is designed to take between 45 and 90 days from Juvenile Court Intake to Disposition hearing. At intake, juveniles receive assessment services that include a number of evaluations and screenings to help guide and implement interventions. Detention services include education, community service, medical services, religious services, and other activities. Residential services include individualized program and treatment plans that include treatment for a variety of behavioral & health challenges.

Observations or Recommendations to share with policy makers on the CAN Board of Directors:

- Person centered strategies are/need to be system-based, therefore problems or challenges need to be evaluated within the context of, as well as across, systems
- The business sector needs to be more involved in encouraging family-friendly employment policies
- Supports are needed for caregivers as well as children with incarcerated parents.
- We must make space for people with lived experiences of the juvenile probation system at the decision making table to ensure that those affected by the system have their voices heard.
- Policy should be designed to minimize the damaging practice of incarcerating parents or juveniles.
- Understanding the interaction between the different social inequities is critical (poverty, family dysfunction, education, behavioral wellbeing, etc.)
- There needs to be better communication and mutual understanding between those who have been affected by incarceration and those who have not
- Transportation options for in-person family visits to see incarcerated parent(s).
- Social media could also be an option to facilitate virtual visitations.

Adjournment: Ara Merjanian thanked the presenters. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.