



CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 10/16/2017

Community Council Members in Attendance: Hunter Ellinger, Aimee Finney, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzmán, Kirsha Haverlah, Kent Herring, Aletha Huston, Ara Merjanian, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami, Paulina Urbanowicz, Terry Wilt.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Linda Cox, Gretchen Nagey, Caroline Page

CAN Staff: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto

Call to order & announcements: Chair Ara Merjanian called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The meeting notes of 9/18/2017 were approved with a correction.

Chair's Report: Kirsha Haverlah began, with a report on the first planned Nominations Committee meeting this Thursday. A secondary meeting is scheduled after that. In November the committee will address the Council. Twenty-one applications have been received this year. Ara Merjanian continued with a brief update on the Person Centered Committee's work and mentioned conversations about approach that need to be finalized. A survey of CAN Board members was carried out, with excellent response that included a strong endorsement to proceed with additional work around Person Centered Care, as well as suggestions on what are some good priority areas and the units within their individual organizations that are working on this topic or would be more interested in it. Merjanian requested for one or two more members join that committee. Please let Laura Griebel or Ara Merjanian know if you'd like to serve. It's also the time of year to seek a vice-chair. Anybody who is interested or has questions about the position please contact Griebel or Merjanian. Griebel mentioned that most of the responsibility is shared between the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair Elect. Email Laura at Lgriebel1316@gmail.com. In terms of end of year planning, our last scheduled meeting is November where we will talk about wrapping up this year's work and developing a work plan for 2018.

Executive Director's Report: Carlos A Soto, CAN Research Analyst, presented the report in absence of Raul Alvarez, who was at the Deliberative Dialogue Moderator training. This year we will be facilitating a series of Deliberative Dialogues on Safety & Justice. For dates and locations, check our website. The CAN Retreat is scheduled for November 3, 2017, from 11:30 to 3:30, at the cafeteria in the Allan Center at 4900 Gonzalez street. The vacancy left by Mary Dodd will be split into two positions: a part-time Communications Specialist and a full-time Program Coordinator position. Both postings have received great response and interviews will begin shortly. We will be considering the possibility of establishing CAN as an "unincorporated association". CAN currently operates under the fiscal umbrella of Integral Care. The idea to form an "unincorporated association" would allow CAN to be stand-alone entity and not change, substantively, how the organization currently operates.

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

Gretchen Nagey, Voter Registration Director, Travis County Tax Office: Thanks to Gretchen and to Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector (whose office is responsible for registering voters), Travis County is a bright spot in Texas with really great registration numbers. A relatively new strategy that has been utilized to register young people is to offer voter registration at the locations where graduation ceremonies are taking place in order to help new high school graduates register to vote. The First Vote Program is a collaborative effort with the League of Women Voters in Austin and the Travis County Clerk's Elections Division, with plans to visit all high schools in Travis County to introduce voter registration and the elections process & register eligible students to vote. The Youth Can Student PSA Contest is geared to middle and high school students of Travis County, to promote civic engagement within the school age

population. All schools were contacted to participate in the 2016 Presidential Mock Election, with over 80 school participating. Another mock election is planned for the General Election of 2018. Voter Registration Campus Drives are also carried out at AISD schools during Back to School nights, at ACC campuses during Voter Registration month and back to school in January 2018, and at residence hall move-ins at UT and Concordia in the Fall.

Caroline Page, Executive Director, A Legacy of Giving: A Legacy of Giving provides youth philanthropy education and helps students advocate for positive change in their community. Legacy provides a framework and curriculum for educators to incorporate service-based learning into their classrooms. Students work with their teachers to learn about various social concerns, engage in advocacy campaigns, and execute service projects on their campuses. Legacy currently has a portfolio of 43 schools in the Austin area, 70% of which are Title I schools. Campus climates improve when students and teacher prioritize Service based learning and compassion. In 2017, Legacy launched a summer camp, and a student ambassador program with the goal of providing further opportunities for students to meaningfully engage with service and leadership outside of the school day.

Dr. Linda Cox, Professor of Philosophy, Austin Community College: About 500 to 600 ACC students participate in Service Learning each year. This is a structured program in which students select a community initiative or volunteer effort that is directly tied to their coursework. Dr. Linda Cox, a professor of Philosophy at ACC, explained how this program enriches her students' education and gives them a better understanding of what it means to be civically engaged in the community. Programs and classes that incorporate Service Learning Projects have partnered with the Central Texas Food Bank, Women's Storybook Project of Texas, the ACC Office of Energy and Sustainability, Water Usage at Pinnacle Campus, Hays County Food Bank, and many others.

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