



## CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 11/13/2017

**Community Council Members in Attendance:** Hunter Ellinger, Nancy Gilliam, Laura Griebel, Anne H. Harutunian, Kirsha Haverlah, Kent Herring, Aletha Huston, Carmen Luevanos, Ara Merjanian, Blythe Plunkett, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami, Paulina Urbanowicz, Terry Wilt.

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

**Call to order & announcements:** Chair Ara Merjanian called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The meeting notes of 10/16/2017 were approved as submitted on a motion by Kent Herring, seconded by Aletha Huston.

**Chair's Report:** Chair Ara Merjanian thanked council members for their participation throughout the year.

**Executive Director's Report:** Raul Alvarez began with a brief overview of the retreat. Priorities for the 2018 work plan will continue to be supporting implementation of the community workforce plan and identifying strategies and resources for addressing institutional racism. The topic selected for the 2018 Deliberative Dialogues as addressing the Opioids Crisis. Alvarez discussed the calendar for the Spring, starting with an outline of the Beginning of Year Celebration scheduled for January.

**Nominations Committee Recommendations for Community Council Appointments for 2018 and Beyond:** Kirsha Haverlah, provided a brief overview of Committee members and discussed evaluation criteria. She read aloud the list of candidates and discussed the length of terms being offered. Motion for a vote to approve the suggested list was made by Kirsha, second by Carmen. Full slate as recommended was approved unanimously. Attached is the list of appointees.

**Nomination of Community Council Vice-Chair for 2018:** Laura Griebel, announced that Hunter Ellinger has agreed to accept the nomination to be the Vice-Chair for next year. Laura Griebel moved for the selection of Hunter Ellinger as Vice Chair for 2018, seconded by Kent Herring. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Child Poverty Report and Presentation to CAN Board:** Community Council Members discussed themes relating to the Child Poverty Report in small groups, then shared their findings in large group. The following are the notes from that conversation. These notes were used as a basis for creating a summary of findings to include in the Child Poverty Report and to share with the CAN Board in December.

### General

- Not all poor people suffer from all of the problems noted. Many poor people are resilient and working hard to take care of their families.

### Criminal Justice

- Intervention/ Mentoring for vulnerable kids by businesses and other people
- Need intervention when kids first encounter the criminal justice system so they don't start down a path that is hard to leave
- Family friendly also means mentoring for vulnerable kids

### Engagement/ Civic

- Teach civic education, including idea that all politics is local. Better educate kids through the years – "It's all local"

- Youth hands-on involvement, including service learning
  - Multiple paths (schools, organizations, faith-based)

### Housing

- Holistic Approaches
  - Integrated housing menu for moving people through a process of different types of housing.
  - Connect with education, teaching job skills, and employment
- Maintain expectation that policy-makers maintain affordable housing
- It takes Private & Public entities

### Youth Homelessness

- Awareness campaign on this issue → word needs to be out there
- Use housing first approach
- Need to maintain focus on support services for stabilization and housing maintenance

### Access to Healthcare Services

- Access → Easy way to help families access service/ matrix/ ease to digest
- Use mapping to understand physical environment
- Point out policy issues → CHIP funding not renewed, no Medicaid, expansion in Texas; these issues still need focus and discussion

### Escaping the Cycle of Poverty

- Childcare → What level gets results?
- ROI – cost effective
- Multi-Gen VS 2-Gen
- “Pathway” – More positive reword
- The cycle of poverty is not just about funding
- Awareness

Other: CAN legislative handbook as it relates to our issues/ areas of interest

### Emotional Wellbeing

- ACEs training – Different levels based on interaction levels
  - PTA
  - Everyday language
- Help augment AISD funding – especially where it is needed most
- Expand beyond

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.