



CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 1/8/2018

Community Council Members in Attendance:

Rebecca Birch, Sandra Castillo, Nora Comstock, Hunter Ellinger, Aimee Finney, Ricardo Garay, Nancy Gilliam, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzman, Kirsha Haverlah, Kent Herring, Myneeka Holloway, Aletha Huston, Thomas Martinez, Ara Merjanian, Leslie Puckett, Caroline Reynolds, Alba Sereno, Gloria Souhami.

Guests in attendance: None

CAN Staff: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto, Jelina Tunstill

Call to order & announcements: Chair, Laura Griebel, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Laura started introductions and opened the floor for announcements related to CAN. She explained that CAN Community Council is a conduit to the community and welcomed each member to share what's going on in their communities to help inform and conduct the work of the council. Monica Guzman made an announcement about voter registration deadlines. Gloria provided a handout about the TC Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force. Kent made an announcement about a grant that provided houses for 6,000 people that were dealing with homelessness.

Citizens Communication: None

Approval of Minutes: The meeting notes of 11/13/2017 were approved unanimously as submitted on a motion by Aletha, second by Kent.

Icebreaker: Everyone participated in an icebreaker using photographs as a way to relate to the work of the Community Council. Each table reported out how the photos resonated with them personally and with the work to be undertaken via involvement in the CAN Community Council.

CAN Overview: Raul provided an overview of CAN. Raul used the Dashboard website to present. Raul explained that CAN's purpose is to Inform, Engage and, Activate and gave examples of activities in each of these categories. After describing CAN's purpose, Raul gave a brief run through of how to navigate the site and what can be found under each tab. The two focus areas for this year are Addressing Institutional Racism and Supporting Implementation of the Community Workforce Plan. He mentioned that it will be CAN's 3rd year doing deliberative dialogues. Deliberative dialogues are a way to engage the community on difficult topics with no easy solution. Deliberative Dialogues have focused on bridging the economic divide, police relations and this year will be focused on addressing the opioid crisis. This year, CAN will host a Regional Summit that will take place in November in San Marcos. The overall theme of the Summit is bridging the economic divide. Raul concluded and Laura encouraged everyone to spend time getting familiar with the website. Laura also invited council members to the Butler Awards taking place January 12th at the New Central Library.

Summary of 2017 Community Council Activities: Ara began describing the work of Community Council over the last few years and how it relates to what we are doing now. The Community Council came out with a report on Building a Person-Centered Community. The framework draws from the attributes for Person-Centered Care. Last year, the Community Council looked at child poverty and other issues that affect children and their families. The benefit of building on past work is because it build momentum. Our work on child poverty has received great feedback/ support from Commissioner Travillion, Judge Eckhardt and United Way. Ara spoke about seeking action to move the needle using a collective impact approach. Ara suggested that the way to be effective is to show up and be engaged. Get to know your staff. Be mindful of the workload we put on them and look to them for questions on how to deepen involvement.

Discussion of 2018 CAN Community Council Work Plan: Laura started off the discussion by explaining that this year's work plan will continue our work in child poverty. She encouraged everyone to read the Child Poverty Report and Person-Centered Care documents. Laura explained that the work plan is a work in progress. After reviewing the work plan, the council's feedback was that there needed to be a clearly defined audience because that would affect the approach. The next question that was raised about the work plan was what happens with the council's observations and recommendations? Is the council an advocate for these suggestions? And does anyone take action on these suggestions? Raul explained that the council creates ideas that may be actionable but these ideas/suggestions do not compel any CAN partner to act in a specific way. Generally, anything produced by CAN is offered as a tool that CAN partners can utilize to address an issue via collaboration or via the work of their agency. They may or may not choose to use the tool. Additional discussion centered around: the need for more specificity in the work plan; an elaboration on CAN's relationship other community collaborations; and how the work of Community Council relates to and supports the broader CAN Work Plan. A revised Community Council Work Plan will be discussed at the next Community Council meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.