



CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 5/21/2018

Community Council Members in Attendance: Rebecca Birch, Sandra Castillo, Nora Comstock, Hunter Ellinger, Ricardo Garay, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzman, Kirsha Haverlah, Thomas Martinez, Ara Merjanian, Leslie Puckett, Caroline Reynolds, Alba Sereno, Gloria Souhami

Guests in attendance: Cathy McHorse, Nicole Robison, Stacy Spencer

CAN Staff: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto, Jelina Tunstill

Call to order & announcements: Chair, Laura Griebel, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. She asked for everyone to introduce themselves and make announcements if they have any. Sandra announced Austin Energy's Affordable Energy Summit will be taking place July 25, 2018 from 9 am- 4:30 pm. It's a free event with free food and free parking, and the registration link is included on the flyers that were handed out to each table. Monica announced that Restore Rundberg has a meeting on Thursday, May 24th where APD will give an update on the Mobile Walking Beat and there will be community conversation about housing issues.

Citizens Communication: None

Approval of Minutes: The meeting notes of 4/16/2018 were approved as amended on a motion by Nora, seconded by Alba. The amendments included changing "2 high schools" to "1 high school and 1 opportunity center".

Community Council Chair's Report: Laura stated that the Del Valle fieldtrip was great. She thanked Rebecca and Dr. Crook for hosting the Community Council. She said there are some very exciting things that Del Valle is doing, and everyone should visit when they get a chance. At the CAN Executive Committee, we focused on some of the work plan activities and remind everyone that the Community Council will host a deliberative dialogues in October. She stated that the dates for upcoming meetings are at the bottom of the agenda, and to make sure they are added to everyone's calendar. Regarding the Deliberative Dialogues opportunity, Alba shared that there is a council item up for consideration for them to give direction to city staff to do research on how to respond to the opioid epidemic in Austin, so it would be good if something from the Deliberative Dialogues could be shared with the council if they decide to move forward.

Executive Director's Report: Raul shared a handout with updates on the CAN work plan. The DSC will go on hiatus for the next couple of months. The LAAT has had a lot of conversations, so the next couple of months will be used to create some of the resources that were discussed. First starting with the CAN website, translating it so that it is multilingual, and directs people to where they need help. It's will be an example to show our partners what they will have to figure out in order to offer language access. Regarding the Deliberative Dialogues will be developing some resource material that we can share with folks who attend looking to be connected to resources. There will be resources for prevention and treatment, but we will also need to find data around the epidemic in Austin, instead of only using national data. Last year, CAN hosted a Beyond Diversity training session with ACC. Del Valle ISD and ACC also collaborated on Beyond Diversity. The Mayor's Institutional Racism Task Force also underwent training in Beyond Diversity. This year, Leadership Austin is serving as the convening organization for Beyond Diversity and CAN is 1 of 17 entities helping to recruit for 5 training sessions outlined in the handout that is in the packet. CAN has some reserved slots for the training, so if you are interested just email Raul or Jelina to participate. Raul announced that he is the chair of the Anti-Displacement Task Force and they will have a community listening forum on June 4. He announced that the Dashboard Press Conference will take place on June 7th at 9 am at City Hall. CAN will release the dashboard and answer questions from the

media. Laura added that it would be great to have some Community Council members at the press conference.

Brief Committee Updates:

Hunter, Data Committee – Hunter handed out an informational sheet about a website template and said he will be seeking feedback on the site/tool. Hunter explained that the point is to have a site where we can collaborate and jointly work on something over time. It's not a site where people will make decisions. The point is to keep people up to date with what's going on to help people make decisions in meetings. He said if you have questions you can contact him and his contact information was listed at the bottom of his handout. The Dashboard Conference will be coming up soon. One of the main purposes of the data committee is to provide input about the dashboard to the DSC. His hope is that this will be one of the main ways that the Community Council can advise this process and invited members to participate.

Ara, Building a Person-Centered Community Committee – The Community Council has a history of looking at how services and relationships are conducted in the community. A framework was established and the Community Council published a report. Now, the Person-Centered Community Committee is continuing that work and building capacity. We are looking at doing a case study and using community schools as a model. We want to stay with the youth and children theme. Part of what we are doing is gathering information on what already exists. We've created a list of who we want to interview, culminating with some type of document that we can use as a resource, similar to profiles of collaboration. The Person-Centered Community Committee will be meeting next week.

Laura, Community Engagement Committee – The Community Engagement Committee will be meeting next week. The Community Engagement Committee is charged with getting our Child Poverty Report into the hands that need to have it the most.

Presentations on Providing Holistic Support to Families with Children Panel:

Cathy McHorse, Success by 6 United Way – Cathy handed out a copy of the early childhood dashboard and a study that was done on child care deserts in Travis County. She explained that her daily role is to improve access to high quality childcare in formal and informal settings for children age birth to 5. The quality child care increases with the amount of supervision and monitoring of the center. Outside of formal, center-based child care settings, there are also community based settings such as listed family homes, registered child care homes, and licensed child care homes. These less formal settings are more difficult to monitor and support. Part of the reason that we don't have more child care centers that have a "high-quality" designation from the State is that reimbursement rates do not cover the costs of providing care to children on subsidies and this is a requirement for the designation. Center based child care is state regulated. There are minimum requirements a center has to meet to become licensed by the state. Out of 544 centers, 273 don't serve infants and 172 don't serve infants and toddlers because of the adult to child ratio that is required is expensive. We include Early Headstart and Headstart programs in the center based childcare data. Headstart is federally funded. Although they service families living at 100% of the federal poverty level, they have limited hours and months which affects utilization.

Given the number of children we have in the community, the capacity of our childcare centers is inadequate. One of the informal childcare settings that comes up often in conversation in regards to meeting the community need is Friends, family and neighbor care. Friends, family and neighbor care is hard to get data on because there is no structure to gather that data. Another barrier to getting data on these settings is if we walk into a home that isn't licensed or registered we are required to report. But we do believe a lot of children are served in these informal childcare settings, especially low-income and undocumented children. We meet 48% (37,465 children served) of the need in Travis County (77,695 children in total), not taking into account quality.

The ways that we measure quality is by structural quality and process quality. We have national accreditation NAEYC or NAC. They are a really high bar of accreditation and it's expensive. Our Workforce board has some of the highest numbers in the state in Texas Rising Stars participation. We know that environment and experiences of a child impact the development of their brain. She showed a graphic of a brain with positive stimulation and a brain with negative stimulation (toxic stress) and showed how stress can change the architecture of the brain. She stated that low childcare quality can have that same impact on a child's brain.

She showed a graph showing our progress between 2014 and 2017 with students that are kindergarten ready. The dip in 2014 and 2015 is thought to be caused by the 2011 recession. Childcare in Austin is on par with UT tuition.

The only revenue for Childcare Centers comes from tuition paid by parents pay and child care subsidies. Subsidies have an incremental increase for quality cares, but it doesn't cover the cost of what it takes to be a quality center. There are 81 quality and subsidized spaces for every 1000 low income children with working parents in Travis County. Only 4 centers offer weekend care and accept subsidies and only 2 centers provide nighttime care and accepts subsidies.

Nicole Robinson, Workforce Solutions Capital Area – Nicole stated that she had been working within the childcare industry for over 20 years. She provided a handout that covered the child care services available via Workforce Solutions. Workforce Solutions doesn't refer to child care centers, they allow families to pick what will meet their family's needs. They serve them until the child is 13, unless the child requires services for special needs. If so, then they are able to serve the family until the child is 19.

In order to be eligible, the family must be a Travis County resident. Rural Capital Area serves the surrounding counties. The child must be a legal citizen and reside with the parent or guardian. The parents qualify if they are doing a minimum of 25 hours per week of an approved activity for one parent, or 50 hour per week of an approved activity for 2 parents. The income cap is at 85% of MFI. They offer a sliding scale. TANF recipients, DFPS referred, and CPS referred children are mandatory populations to serve. The second and third priority group would include former CPS children, teen parents, board determined, parents are deployed, children with disabilities, children of a qualified veteran, and homeless. They do outreach services in that order.

The following was included in the April snapshot of providers: 495 possible providers that accept our subsidized children, 90 that are Texas Rising Star, 37 school ready, 32 accredited, and 3089 children. Families can apply on line, in person, or through e-mail. Workforce Solutions received 22 million dollars in federal funding for direct childcare services. Two million is put into quality programs. Workforce Solutions partners with the City, County, and United Way on Continuity of Care funding. There is more flexibility with local dollars, and less with federal dollars due to eligibility requirements. The local funds allow Workforce Solutions to close the gap with "continuity of care funding" for families that weren't meeting eligibility in the middle of their care.

Regarding the demand for services, the waitlist time is hard to pinpoint since time allowed in care has changed. The list has become longer and right now there are 1,400 children on the waitlist. The way to get updates on the subsidized childcare services would be to attend the quarterly provider meetings and sign up for the quarterly newsletters.

Stacy Spencer, Families with Voices - Integral Care – Families with Voices is funded by Travis County. It is a multiagency collaboration led by Integral Care. It targets families in Manor ISD. The families have to be referred by MISD and have to be identified as homeless. This program follows the school definition of "homeless," meaning the child can be housing insecure, couch surfing, or living with another family to

qualify. Families must be within 60-80% of the MFI and take an intake matrix assessment and score “at-risk” in at least two areas. The capacity of the program is 30 families. They offer comprehensive help for families. They follow the wrap around services model and have a Wrap Care Coordinator that meets with the family once a week. An Employment/ Career Case Manager from Goodwill of Central Texas helps with the occupational training and employment piece of the comprehensive wrap around care. They have flex funding to help some families with occupational training. A Housing Stability Specialist from Integral Care helps families access home in the fair housing market. We find housing complexes that are willing to work with people with housing barriers, such as criminal records or bad credit. The agency will vouch for families that have housing barriers. Therapy is available for children and parents and does not have to be tied to a diagnosis. Program services typically last 12-18 months, possibly longer if the family needs longer to get on their feet.

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