



## CAN Board of Directors Meeting 8/9/19 Minutes

**Location:** Boards & Commissions room, Austin City Hall

**Present:** **Marina Bhargava**, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **Eric Bustos**, Capital Metro; **Tina Cannon**, Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce; **Megan Cermak**, (for Juan Garza) Central Health; **Loretta Edelen**, (for Chris Cervini) Austin Community College; **Hunter Ellinger**, CAN Community Council; **David Escamilla**, Community Justice Council; **David Evans**, Integral Care; **Jimmy Flannigan**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Sherri Fleming**, (for Judge Sarah Eckhardt) Travis County; **Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Patricia Hayes**, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce; **Kenny Hill**, Goodwill Industries Central Texas; **Rev. Darryl Horton**, (for Simone Talma Flowers) Interfaith Action of Central Texas; **Damon Johnson**, Huston-Tillotson University; **Elizabeth Krause**, St. David's Foundation; **Jeremy Martin**, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Ann Teich**, School Board Trustee, Austin ISD; **Jeffrey Travillion**, Precinct 1 Commissioner, Travis County; **Dr. Tamey Williams-Hill**, Del Valle ISD.

**CAN staff in attendance:** Raul Alvarez, Justin X. Hale, Carlos A. Soto

**Other guests:** **Tracy Ayhart**, Central Texas Food Bank; **Miguel Briones**, Austin ISD; **Nora Comstock**, CAN Community Council; **Greg Cumpston**, Dashboard Steering Committee Chair; **Garrett Groves**, Austin Community College; **Mónica Guzmán**, Go Austin Vamos Austin; **Ashley Levulett**, Children's Optimal Health; **Ara Merjanian**, CAN Community Council; **Dr. Kelly Crook**, immediate past chair.

**Call to order and Introductions:** Jimmy Flannigan called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm, and members introduced themselves.

**Approval of minutes from 6/14/19 meeting:** The 6/14/19 meeting minutes were approved with an edit, after a motion submitted by Hunter Ellinger which was seconded by Sherri Fleming.

**Community Council Report:** Hunter Ellinger reported that the main focus of the Council's work over the past month has been on the recruitment process. Section 5.02 of the CAN bylaws say that 1/3 of the Community Council membership should be people who are users of social services, which is a shortcoming that needs addressing. When we do this year's process, the plan is to treat it as a nomination process. We will ask Community Council members/alumni, CAN Board members and non-profit leaders to identify for us people they think will be a good fit. Nora Comstock added we wanted to have a geographic, racial, and economically diverse council.

**Executive Director's Report:** Raúl Álvarez, Executive Director, began with a brief overview of the State of the Safety Net Forums. Two forums were held in the spring, one on the topic of Health, the other on the topic of Basic Needs. Two forums are scheduled in the fall, on the topics of Safety & Justice in September, and another on Achieving Our Full Potential in October. For the September forum, in terms of speakers/panelists, we have received confirmation from Roger Jeffries of Travis County Justice Planning and from Texas Apple Seed. We are working on securing somebody to present on civic engagement. We've had a good response to these forums. It seems like a good model moving forward.

The Regional Summit is scheduled for Oct 25 at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos, with a focus on expanding regional workforce opportunities. Workforce Solutions Capital Area and Rural Capital Area will both be there to enrich the discussion on industry needs. The agenda will include perspectives from the private sector and presentations from area Career & Technical Education (CTE) coordinators.

This summer we also continued our efforts to develop a new Strategic Plan. We plan to convene the Strategic Plan Planning Team later this month. We launched a book study on the book: *What Truth Sounds Like* by Michael Eric Dyson. This book uses a historical meeting between Robert F Kennedy and several African American community leaders in 1963 to help us understand the importance and complexity of having meaningful conversations about race equity. The book study meets every two weeks at 700 Lavaca St. from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. The next sessions are August 21, September 4 and September 18.

**Strategic Planning Update:** Patricia Hayes provided a brief update on the current stage of the process, mentioning that the feedback they have received from the partners they have met with thus far has been excellent. Board members will be contacted by Raul to schedule a time to meet with him and an Executive Committee member.

**Presentation and Discussion 2019 CAN Dashboard:** Raul Alvarez thanked the Dashboard Committee Members who are present at the meeting and introduced the presenters with him at the table: Garrett Groves, with the Austin Community College, and Greg Cumpton, of the UT Ray Marshall Center. This year is the tenth anniversary of the CAN Community Dashboard and Dashboard Report, and we wanted to think about our process and how we can improve it going forward. We also wanted to hear perspectives besides those of CAN staff. Alvarez called attention to a handout called Dashboard At-A-Glance, a tool that provides an easy to digest summary of the Dashboard. Alvarez also distributed and discussed a handout highlighting successes and challenges for each section of the Dashboard.

Garrett Groves, Vice President of Business and Industry Partnerships, continued sharing Dashboard data on education. Groves mentioned how E3 pioneered a new assessment for kindergarten readiness, and noted that wide gap exists for this indicator when comparing outcomes for low-income and non-low-income children. Next Groves discussed College Success, defined as completing a 2 or 3 year credential within 6 years, noting significant racial disparities in post-secondary success. Groves then shared a side-by-side comparison of two charts disaggregated by race: one chart showing college success and another showing median family income. The comparison highlighted racial disparities in educational attainment and median family income. A map showing percent low income individuals by census tract was shared to highlight the fact that census tracts East of I-35 have higher concentrations of low-income individuals and that the number of low income individuals is decreasing in Travis County but increasing in surrounding counties.

Greg Cumpton, Associate Director of the Ray Marshall Center at the UT LBJ School of Public Affairs, thanked CAN Staff, the board, and the Steering Committee for their work to make this dashboard a reality, and continued the presentation. The CAN Dashboard is successful because it provides a holistic understanding of our community's overall wellbeing through a consistent but flexible set of indicators. The Dashboard is also an opportunity for regional alignment on a broad swath of topics. Our community is rapidly changing, with 31 high rises built since 2007. At the same time some things have not changed. The CAN Dashboard sets the benchmarks to see where we have been, where we are going, and where we have not changed over the last decade. The community uses the Dashboard to examine potential impacts of local programs on community issues, to identify organizations within the community that are thinking about and working to resolve sometimes intransigent community issues. The CAN Dashboard includes on each indicator page a Local Efforts list of organizations and initiatives working on understanding and addressing issues related to the indicator. Cumpton noted that he has served as Dashboard Steering Committee Chair for two years, and in that time the Dashboard could be improved by increasing community awareness and usage of the Dashboard, and by ensuring that it continues to meet our community needs specifically. To that end, this coming year the Steering Committee intends to reach out to those who use the Dashboard to learn in detail what feature(s) of the Dashboard are most helpful and how they use the Dashboard in their strategic planning.

**Discussion:** The Crime indicator measures violent crime and property crime, which needs to be clearly specified because violent crimes have increased while property crimes have decreased.. With regard to disproportionality of jail bookings, County Attorney David Escamilla noted that total number of bookings have gone down. He also mentioned that his office and the District Attorney’s office have spent time trying to address this over the past few years. Unfortunately, since prosecutors don’t get the case until after a person is booked, in the past they have not had much of a role in bookings. Pre-booking diversion is one tool that can be utilized to reduce the total number of bookings, but this option is not available at the felony level. Another program in implementation at various jurisdictions across the nation is LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), which provides law enforcement officers the flexibility to divert individuals from the booking process to more effective options. Driving While License Invalid is another charge that can be diverted with a “cite and release” process. In terms of diverting bookings, the policy with most success is cite and release for marijuana possession A and B. Travis County has historically been a progressive county with regards to possession of marijuana misdemeanor cases. For Tavis County, one approach has been to cite the person to appear at the Judge’s court and offer the opportunity to take an education course. Successfully completing the course gives the County Attorney an opportunity to decline to file charges, thus keeping the arrest and booking off a person’s record. Reducing bookings for misdemeanor marijuana possession in this way could help address the challenge of disproportionality of jail bookings. Escamilla also suggested the need for a deeper dive on this particular indicator due to the complexity of the issue, noting that it may be worthwhile to see disproportionality by offense to identify offense categories, like misdemeanor marijuana cases, where an unequal impact across groups may exist. In order to get a better picture of the impact on disproportionality, it would be helpful to know what other crimes have this disproportionality, perhaps even more so, that we can target.

Council member Flannigan pointed out that his constituents which live in the half of the district within both Williamson County and the City of Austin, would not be able to benefit from cite and release despite paying taxes that fund APD if APD is the agency enforcing the law because the law says that an officer can only offer that in cases where the person resides in the same jurisdiction as the law enforcement agency which wrote the citation.

Tina Cannon mentioned that the Dashboard tracks offenses done *by* people, which is important data to track, and asked if it may also be worthwhile to track offenses *against* people, such as APD’s recent efforts on hate crimes.

Regarding the College Success indicator, Suchitra Gururaj mentioned that, on a national level, approximately ¾ of college students are considered non-traditional. Going forward it might be useful to track paths back into higher education. This could potentially be an opportunity to intersect with the workforce data. A metric that racks pathways through postsecondary education, particularly though all our diverse institution types.

Sherri Fleming expressed concern that the Poverty indicator shows an improvement without a footnote highlighting the fact that low-income persons in our community are being displaced.

Raul commented that complex issues as poverty and jail bookings did appear to warrant a deeper dive and that a series of issue briefs may help to better frame the issues involved.

David Evans noted that part of the strength of the CAN is that we are not just working on each of our own “siloes” but that we view these complex and cross cutting issues as opportunities to affect deeper change. Picking an issue, such as health, and drilling down into the social determinants of health, disproportionality, or other analysis of the data, helps prioritize and organize the work leading to meaningful improvements.

An added feature for the Dashboard might be to include stories of hope as a way of sharing how our community is mobilizing to address the needs and challenges highlighted in the Dashboard.

Regarding the poverty and low income data, and generally, *can we work collaboratively* with other entities to produce the report, and thus build greater opportunity to drill down on issues? This may be a way to tell the story more completely.

**CAN Partner Spotlight: St. David's Foundation:** Elizabeth Krause, Senior Program Officer St. David's Foundation, introduced herself and the organization. St. David's Foundation is straddling the charitable role it has always played in this community and a more strategic, visionary role moving into the future. Longtime CEO Earl Maxwell has announced his intention to retire at the end of the year, and currently the Foundation is in the final phases of a national search for his successor. It's one of the largest health foundations in the United States, funding \$70 million annually to over 65 partners in the region. It's mission is to create healthier lives for all Central Texans by addressing the region's top health challenges, with the goal of building the healthiest community in the world. Krause then discussed some of the representative programs that embody the foundation and its mission. The Neal Kocurek Scholarship is the largest health scholarship program in Texas and has awarded more than 500 scholarships since its inception, providing long-term support to post-secondary students who intend to become health practitioners. Krause also highlighted the mobile dental program, which works in a number of school districts in the region bringing services to Title I schools. Recent changes to the program include opening access to charter schools, and this work has shown that there is more need in some of these schools than in schools with whom we have ongoing relationships. Next, Krause highlighted Strategic Priorities, centered on providing the healthiest care, in the healthiest places, resulting in the healthiest people, followed by an overview of a few initiatives. Currently the Foundation has an RFP called Parks with Purpose, part of the Healthy Parks Plan effort that the Trust For Public Land also worked on, which provides funding between \$20,000 and \$200,000 in the form of "activation grants" to organizations working to unlock the full potential benefits of an underutilized park or park land. Krause also highlighted another effort that resulted in a new playground at McDade Elementary School in Bastrop ISD. Another grant opportunity (closed at the moment pending grant recipient announcement) is around preventing childhood adversity and building community resilience. The Foundation is looking at successes in home visit programs to provide services to the family and the child that is going to set them up for a lifetime of health. Family Connects is based on a model called Durham Connects originating in Durham, NC. St. David's Foundation and United Way are working together on this program through which new parents can opt-in for one home visit where a nurse will offer and connect the family with home-based support. These interactions also help identify families that might need more intensive services so that the appropriate referrals may then be made. The Fourth Trimester Initiative brings together 12 local organizations working on improving maternal health equity in the postpartum period to help improve maternal and infant mortality and pathology rates, which disproportionately affect specific populations. Another important recent initiative is the ACA enrollment campaign.

**Discussion:** As we all think about the future of some of our organizations that are under new legislative tax caps and our ability to maintain these types of programs, moving forward we will need to consider the impact and effectiveness of these existing relationships.

Regarding a question about the 4th Tri-mester Initiative, specifically the impact of the quality of hospital care on birth outcomes, Krause noted St. David's involvement, along with over 200 hospitals in the state, in the [TexasAIM Safety Bundles](#) that specifically addresses that issue. She also noted that the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force found that the majority of deaths in Texas take place after the 60 day postpartum cutoff period for Medicaid and CHIP. This is one of the reasons why the 4th Tri-mester Initiative is so important.

**Adjournment:** Dr. Crook adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.