



# CAN Board of Directors Meeting

## 4/7/17 Minutes

**Location:** Austin City Hall, 301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Board & Commissions Room

**Board Members Present:** **Tamara Atkinson**, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; **Alison Bentley** (for David Smith), United Way for Greater Austin); **Marina Bhargava**, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **William Buster**, St. David's Foundation; **Eric Bustos** (for Gerardo Castillo), Capital Metro; **Kelly Crook**, Del Valle ISD; **Sarah Eckhardt**, Travis County Judge; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas; **Stephanie Hawley**, Austin Community College; **Hal Katz** (for David Evans), Integral Care; **Ara Marjanian**, CAN Community Council; **Jeremy Martin**, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Irma Martinez**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; **Victor Obeseki**, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce; **Ronda Rutledge**, One Voice Central Texas; **Erica Saenz**, UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement; **Dewayne Street**, (for Jerry Davis), CEO Goodwill Industries; **Yasmin Wagner**, Austin ISD Trustee; **Susanna Woody**, Del Valle ISD Trustee

**CAN Partners Not Represented:** Central Health; City of Austin; City of Pflugerville; Community Justice Council; Huston-Tillotson University; Manor ISD; Seton Healthcare Family; St. Edward's University.

**CAN staff in attendance:** Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd and Carlos Soto.

**Other guests:** Louise Lynch; Sherri Fleming.

**Call to order and introductions:** Simone Talma Flowers called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and members introduced themselves. Flowers asked for a moment of silence to recognize the recent passing of community leaders Richard Moya, Charles Aikins and John Trevino. William Buster said the St. David's Foundation has released its Strategic Plan.

**Approval of minutes:** The 02/09/17 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Community Council Report:** Ara Merjanian, 2017 CAN Community Council Chair, said the Council is spending 2017 looking at child poverty across the four areas of the CAN Dashboard. In March, the Council focused on where families with children in poverty can live in Austin, with presentations by City of Austin NHCD, HousingWorks Austin and the Housing Authority of the City of Austin. Merjanian announced that the April meeting will focus on health. He said the Council hopes to focus on issues of community engagement and voter turnout in the future. Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt said Travis County would like to provide assistance with addressing issues of disproportionality in the criminal justice system.

**Executive Director's Report:** Raul Alvarez shared the meeting schedule for board meetings. He said the Board will not meet in July. The press conference for release of the 2017 CAN Dashboard will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Alvarez said he plans to launch a new Equity Blog to highlight disparities and equity issues by goal area. CAN is launching a new mobile-friendly website and CAN Dashboard website on May 1. CAN will host Deliberative Dialogues on Safety & Justice in September and October. CAN is convening a planning team of representatives from organizations that would like to participate in the dialogues. St. Edward's University has already agreed to be a partner. The CAN Language Access Work Group is focusing on its final report to the CAN Board in August. The Work Group is developing ideas for all CAN partners and other community organizations to better meet the language access needs of the people they

serve. CAN is also planning training about Institutional Racism for CAN partner organizations. Simone Talma Flowers thanked ACC for hosting Beyond Diversity training in the past and AISD and Del Valle are planning training sessions in the near future. Sarah Eckhardt said Travis County executives will be interested in participating. Alvarez will share information about future opportunities with the Board. Flowers thanked CAN partners who are committed to this training and encouraged others to hold such trainings for their staff and leaders. Judge Eckhardt said on Tuesday, Travis County will release its annual Community Impact report.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Revisions to CAN Dashboard proposed by the Dashboard Steering Committee:** Louise Lynch, 2017 CAN Dashboard Steering Committee chair, shared recommended changes to the CAN Dashboard. She said the Committee is made up of experts from across the community who are familiar with the data. The recommended changes included:

- Revision to the vision statements for “We are safe, just & engaged”
- Revisions the vision statements for “We are healthy”
- Replace indicator “Attainment of National Air Quality Standards” with “Number of Days with Good Air Quality” and to set the target to 249 days with good air quality by 2020
- Replace indicator “Vehicle Miles Traveled” with “Percent Who Drove Alone to Work” and to set the target at 70% by 2020
- Lower the target for the indicator “Percent who live below the federal poverty level” from 15% to 10%

Lynch was asked whether the Dashboard will show how poverty is changing in the community. She said the Dashboard and the drill-downs do include maps showing where concentrations of poverty and low-income (200% of the poverty level) exist. Kelly Crook said school districts use a poverty measure that is different and it is much higher. Irma Martinez asked if our objective is to take action or to measure what is happening. Judge Eckhardt said, when the Dashboard was created, the feeling was that we needed to have an annual report to inspire action. Saenz said the goal was to inspire CAN partner agencies to take action in areas where they have ability. Lynch said many people in the community use the data and information in the Dashboard to write grants and to assist in developing policy. Hal Katz asked if the Dashboard Steering Committee has considered adding water quality as an indicator. Lynch said she will share that suggestion with the Dashboard Steering Committee.

Irma Martinez suggested that we add the phrase “and inclusion” to the vision statement that says: “We respect and value diversity.”

Sarah Eckhardt said she chairs the Clean Air Force and suggested that information about commuting data from other counties also be included.

Hal Katz made a motion and Jeremy Martin seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the Dashboard Steering Committee as presented with the suggested change by Martinez.

**Presentation: The Texas Model for Addressing Disproportionality & Disparities, Specifically with Regard to Race Equity:** Raul Alvarez introduced the speakers and said CAN would like to help facilitate a process for interested CAN partners to implement the Texas Model for achieving race equity. Jon Olson & Lauren Lluveras, from the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality & Disparities, shared information about “The Texas Model: A framework for equity.” Jon Olson, Director of Equity and Inclusion for the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities, said in 2005, the State Legislature directed

staff to respond to disparities in the child welfare system. Texas was the first state in the union to have a mandate to address disproportionality in home removals for children in the child welfare system. In 2010, the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities was created with the intent of expanding efforts beyond child welfare to other state departments. Olson said decision making and strategies should be based on data and all employees at all levels must be enlisted to create more equitable systems.

Lauren Lluveras, Regional Equity Specialist for Texas, said the Center would like to assist partner organizations in implementing the Texas Framework. They shared trainings they provide and noted that they are all free of charge. Trainings can also be tailored to meet the specific needs of organizations.

**Discussion:** Ara Merjanian said he has noted reports that children with disabilities are even more disproportionately represented in school discipline than those of specific races and ethnicities. The Center also looks at data, especially in school discipline, not only by race and ethnicity but also by child development. Lluveras said the Center does focus on race and ethnicity but recognizes other factors also impact disproportionality.

Alvarez asked what types of organizations the Center has assisted. Olson said the Center holds key partnerships with Waco Health District, and in the past has worked with several schools within AISD, certain departments within the City of Austin, and the criminal justice department in Tarrant County. Olson said different organizations are at different places in addressing disproportionality.

Stephanie Hawley said the ACC Equity Office has been using the Texas Model to help them organize their efforts. ACC will have an Equity Academy that will be open, not only to ACC, but to the community at large.

Alvarez said he has discussed working with a cohort of CAN partner agencies to participate in the training. He reminded board members to complete the feedback form to share their interest in participating in the training.

Erica Saenz noted that the training modules offered by the Center can help strengthen the current work of the CAN Language Access Work Group and also CAN's previous work conducted by the Cultural Competence Diversity and Inclusion Work Group.

Dewayne Street said he is Chair of a Cultural Competency Work Group for One Voice Central Texas, and he looks forward to sharing the information about the trainings available with One Voice members.

Olson said future funding for the Center is in question, as it may not be included in the new State budget.

**Adjournment:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.