

CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2020

LifeWorks | 835 Pleasant Valley Rd.

Present: Blanca Alvarado, Marcia Beckford, Nora Comstock, Hunter Ellinger, Nancy Gilliam, Nicholas Haigh, Rachel Hampton, Sam Hensley, Jenny Jensen, Thomas Martinez, James May, Caroline Reynolds

Staff Present: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto, Jelina Tunstill

Guests Present: Ara Merjanian, Janice Dwight

Call to order and announcements: Nora called the meeting to order 6:04 pm.

Approval of minutes of November 18, 2020: The November 18, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously as amended to insert “ready to” in the sentence that says “...the board may not be adopt...” in the Executive Directors Report Section and minor grammatical errors on a motion by Thomas. Thomas will send grammatical corrections via email.

Introductions: Nora announced that we would be having our meetings at LifeWorks this year instead of Travis County Administration Offices. The January through March meetings will be the 4th Monday of the month and it will go back to the 3rd Monday of the month from April to December. The expectation is that meetings will begin on time. She stated that we have some members that are professors, and we can utilize their students for help with research. Nora stated that there are 4 goal areas that CAN’s work functions around and which the Community Council will organize their work and interests around. Hunter and Nora talked about finding a way to include recipients of these services in the meetings. Around June, Nora plans to appoint a vice chair, which is a three-year commitment. There is an expectation that members will give at least one presentation to groups in their existing circles. After a brief overview of what the Community Council is and what is expected of members this year, Nora asked each member to introduce themselves by stating their name, number of years served on the council, their employment and volunteer organizations, and their specific interests.

- Blanca Alvarado – 1st year on council – 14th year at acc – She is interested in children and health. She wanted to be on the Community Council to get more connected to organizations. Was on sabbatical in Costa Rica.
- Rachel Hampton – 1st year on council – Director of Workforce Development at Goodwill Central Texas – Passionate about justice and equity
- Sam Hensley – 1st year on the council – Director of Music at the Sheppard of the Hill. Involved with Community engagement in Riverside/Oltorf area. Focuses energy on helping people that are homeless.
- Nancy Gilliam – 9th year on the council – Texas association of Qualified Health Centers and consultant for strategic plans. Health care and mental health is her primary interest.
- Marcia Beckford – 1st year on council – retired teacher and works part time for ACC as a substitute and helping with assessments – volunteers with foundation communities, iAct, McKinley Falls state park – She is interested in families finding ways to destress

using nature. Her expertise is with education interested in the wellness of families and nature.

- Nick Haigh – 1st year on the council – Worked in the affordable housing industry for years, but not currently employed – interested in intimate work in small communities
- Hunter Ellinger – 5th year on the council – software developer, retired and self-employed – involved with cooperatives, education (more specifically, stem education in middle schools), Austin political scene, alternative press newspaper, and has a general interest in making the use of the internet more beneficial to the organizations and the community.
- Thomas Martinez – 3rd year on the council – retired from Texas Department of Health – Involved with sister cities Austin, UT Hispanic Alumni, South West Optimist Club Scholarship, San Jose Catholic Church as part of the social justice ministry, and provides workshops on property tax pro bono. Interested in the aging community and resources available to those communities.
- Jenny Jensen – 2nd year on the council – Communication's role on the council. She is involved with "Achieve Our Full Potential" and feels strongly about nature and its ties to mental health. Now works with Communities in Schools and they provide wrap around services in schools to prevent dropout.
- James May- 1st year on the council – works for the City of Austin as the Community Development Manager – Has lived in Austin for 18 months. Was involved with community collaborations in Virginia such as American Planning Association and chair of local political party. Interested in housing.
- Caroline Reynolds – 4th year on the council – worked as an engineer – volunteers as an election judge, science fair mentor and judge, on the women's committee, licensing and professional development committee, community band, neighborhood watch, and pro bono city code compliance. Interested in helping women understand science, continuing education for people, development, and transportation.
- Ara Merjanian – former community council member – hopes to continue to work with the council as an ambassador or through the alumni program. He is focusing on community schools, social isolation, alienation, and loneliness. His suggestions to new members is that they show up to community council meetings and show up at other CAN events, study the Dashboard, read the equity blog, and read the newsletter. In terms of being effective, look to the chair and the executive director for direction, step forward and offer help.

CAN Executive Director Report: Raul shared the CAN flyer explaining CAN's mission and listing CAN's partners. He stated that CAN started out with 12 partners and grew to have 26 partners. CAN develops tools to inform the community, creates opportunities to engage the community, and makes strategic connections. CAN tries to look at what's going on in the community and how to add value to community efforts. He then went over the Community Council flyer. The Community Council's role is to highlight community voice and identify what isn't being done in the community. The Community Council has started focusing on outreach and where there are gaps in the membership. Nora added that there are 12 slots that are still open. The flyer includes the work the Community Council has done the past 5 years. Raul shared the Child Poverty Report Summary and the Person-Centered Care Report. Regarding person-centered care, there was a 1-day summit and the Community Council took a year after

that to develop the 8 person-centered care principles. The Child Poverty Report was more recent. That will be the focus of some of the Communication Committee work.

From an organizational standpoint, the Community Council has 2 positions on the CAN Board. The 3 chairs of the Community Council also sit on the Executive Committee.

CAN has a monthly newsletter, and an equity blog we created last year. We are in the process of creating an audio podcast that will highlight community opportunities to engage. Jenny has been helping us develop a social media plan.

Dashboard Presentation and Discussion of 2020 Work Plan: Raul gave a dashboard presentation. He noted the new elements of the dashboard for 2019: "Dashboard at a Glance" and "CAN Dashboard Then & Now." He then provided highlights and challenges for each section.

In the Safe, Just and Engaged section, the highlight is that the crime rate declined 27% and there was an 80% voter turnout in 2018. The challenge is that Black people are 2.8 times more likely to be booked into jail.

In the we achieve our full potential section, the highlights are the unemployment rate being 2.8%, and the high school graduation rate being 90%. The challenge is that the unemployment rate for African Americans is 80% higher, and 53% of Central Texas students earn a degree in 6 years.

In the health section, the highlights are that adults without health insurance declined by 34% and adults that smoke declined by 9%. The challenges are that the obesity rate went from 23% to 29%.

In the basic needs section, the highlights are that the poverty rate is 12% down from 2013 and food insecurity is 15% down from 2013. The challenges are that the poverty rate is 2 times higher for African Americans than Whites and that 53,870 children were food insecure in 2017.

Raul and Nora asked for questions and comments regarding the presentation and areas of interest for the workplan. Nancy commented that one indicator that isn't improving that wasn't highlighted in the presentation was mental health. Marcia stated that the elderly aren't represented in the data, specifically calling out insurance and quality of healthcare for Medicaid patients. Due to the lack of time, Nora stated that this conversation would continue at the next meeting to develop a workplan. She encouraged communication through the google group between meetings.

Nora asked Jenny to talk quickly about the communications committee. Jenny stated that she is working with Jelina to produce social media for CAN. Raul added that if anyone has events that they would like to be included to send them to Raul, Jelina, or Jenny. Jenny also added that the communications committee will be putting together a simple presentation that council members can use to present to different groups about CAN and the Community Council.

Adjournment: Nora adjourned the meeting 7:55 pm.