



CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 5/13/19

Community Council Members in Attendance: Ara Merjanian, Caroline Reynolds, Hunter Ellinger, Kathleen Galvin, Kirsha Haverlah, Laura Griebel, Leslie Puckett, Nora Comstock, Ricardo Garay, Thomas Martinez

Guests in attendance: Steve Jackobs, Rachel Hampton

CAN Staff: Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto, Jelina Tunstill

Call to order & announcements: Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

Citizens Communication: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for 4/15/19 were approved unanimously on a motion by Nora and a second by Thomas.

Report on Community Council Alumni Meeting and Plans: Ara summarized what took place at the Alumni meeting on 3/25/19. Ara introduced the idea of next steps for engaging with the Alumni. He suggested that the Community Council develop an outreach plan and it should be finalized by the end of the year. This would allow the Community Council to engage the Alumni in end of year and beginning of the year activities. The Community Council should create a 3-year plan to develop how they will connect with alumni and survey how the alumni would like to participate. Nora volunteered to be on the committee.

Suggestions for further participation:

- The sooner the better.
- Videos talking about their passions and testimonials about the impact of their experience in Community Council.
- Keeping this in mind all year. It doesn't have to happen all at once.
- Make a list of presenters and videos publicly available.
- Have a synopsis of each alumni member similar to the Community Council membership directory.
- Include alumni bios on the website.

Community Council Chair's Report: Hunter stated that he went to the first State of the Safety Net forum and reported that it was interesting. He met new people, and the event had good community participation. He also went to a couple E3 events. Austin is not approaching the workforce problem in a shallow and reflexive way. Nora offered to share the E3 report.

Executive Director's Report: Raul stated that there would be a Dashboard Press Conference, June 6th at 9 am in the City Hall media room. This will be the 10th edition of the dashboard. The back page summarizes the 5-year trend of the dashboard and there is also a timeline of the dashboard including its creation and important milestones. Since it's the 10th anniversary of the dashboard, we are holding 4 State of the Safety Net Forums to get community feedback about the indicators and the report overall. The forum on safety, justice and engagement will be on September 18th. The October forum will be the one on achieving our full potential. In the next CANews, we will have the signups for those forums.

The Regional Summit's topic will be expanding workforce regionally. A stakeholder survey of workforce interests was conducted and the results will guide the agenda development. The summit will take place October 25th. The registration link will also be in CANews.

We should be launching the strategic plan survey after this week after it is reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Discussion and Possible Action on Finalizing the Child Poverty Report Summary: Raul presented the revised copy of the Child Poverty Report Summary. He stated that he added an intro paragraph that highlights the connection between race/ethnicity and poverty, therefore strategies intended on helping poverty, help people of color. Laura felt that the added piece is helpful and provides a smooth transition to the strategies. Raul stated that he will wordsmith it some more and change the school readiness action plan to the correct name for the Success by 6 Strategic Plan. Once the summary is finalized, the communications team can be re-established to develop a communications strategy.

ACTION: The Child Poverty Report summary, with the addition of minor edits that will be finalized by Laura and Raul was unanimously approved on a motion by Nora and second by Laura.

Discussion and Possible Action on Starting the Community Council Accountability Information Project: Hunter presented the Accountability Information Project that stemmed from an idea that was presented by the Executive Committee. The idea is that Community Council could function as an accountability body for released plans by different organizations. Hunter felt that wasn't the role of the community council, but the community council could hold organizations accountable with what they say is publicly available versus what they actually have on their websites. The Council would be looking for performance measures, planning documents, and outcomes. This could also serve as a way to pull in more people who are more knowledgeable in those content areas. Nora suggested that it would be useful to develop a model of what the project could look like. Hunter's handout included a timeline for how the project would progress.

Raul added that we want to make sure that the public can find specific kinds of information and also easily determine how to engage or provide input. This could be looked at as facilitating Civic Engagement which aligns with a goal area in the dashboard.

Hunter stated that he would bring back an example to clarify this project's purpose.

ACTION: A motion to move forward with the Accountability Information Project beginning in June was approved unanimously on a motion by Caroline and a second by Kirsha.

Presentations on Barriers to Employment:

Leslie Puckett, Workforce Solutions: Leslie presented on the Master Community Workforce Plan. The goal of the Master Community Workforce Plan is to get 10,000 people trained in middle skills jobs; that includes 8,000 placed in middle skills jobs and 2,000 upskilled. There are 4 different strategies are included: Industry Sector Partnerships, Upskilling, Awareness and Enrollment, and Data Collection. There is a focus on growth in middle skills jobs because there is a lot of opportunity and the training is quick. There is a focus in 3 key industry sectors; skilled trades, information technology, and healthcare.

Leslie clarified that the initial 30,000 enrolled in middle skill training was a number developed from research done by the Ray Marshall Center. Thomas asked if the master community workforce plan included people who are not US citizens. Leslie answered that due to federal funding they concentrate on people who can legally work in the US. That brought up concerns because there is a need for bilingual people in the workforce. Leslie added that they are raising awareness working with KVUE which involves 6 different videos in different skilled trades. There were 8 million views on the videos and 1700 people have contacted them interested in training due to the videos. They currently have industry partnerships with healthcare employers, Austin Regional Manufacturing Association, and are working on developing an IT sector partnership.

Steve Jackobs, Capital IDEA: Steve presented on closing the gap of RN's in Austin with Austin Community College registered nurses. There is a gap of over 1,000 in Austin. Austin ranks 49 of 53 in US of registered grads per 100,000 population. Austin has 25 graduates per 100,000 vs the national average of 61. Austin Community College can fill this gap with their top-quality nursing program; employing 96-100% of its graduates. There is a great need for RNs that are racially diverse. Capital IDEA has had success with serving racially diverse communities because of the wrap around supports provided. Through the Career Expressway program, Capital IDEA providing supports to students such as tuition, book costs, childcare, and career placement services. Investing in ACC's majority-minority registered nurse cohort will result in a 950% return on investment. After receiving services from Capital IDEA, 70% of low-income high school students enrolled in college compared to 45% that don't receive services from Capital IDEA.

Rachel Hampton, Goodwill: Goodwill's target populations are 1. People with experience with the justice system 2. People experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness 3. People with disabilities 4. People lacking basic education 5. Opportunity Youth. Rachel presented on the barriers to employment for the re-entry population. In 2017, there were over 68,000 people re-entering the community. 84% of those people were men. The average age of those released is 36.7. 61% of those released are people of color. Studies show that there is a higher likelihood of recidivism if people who are re-entering don't have a job between the first and 39th day of being released. The unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated persons is 27%, which is higher rate than the overall unemployment during any other time in history, including the Great Depression. 15.3% of folks who are re-entering the community following incarceration had been homeless within a year prior to their incarceration, which 11.3 times greater than the estimate for the general population. 10% return to being homeless after they finish serving their sentence. The re-entry population faces many internal and external barriers to employment such as physical health, mental health, substance use, motivation, learned antisocial thinking, limited work history, accessing identification documents, financial responsibility after release, high conflict families, and many others.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

