



## CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 1/12/2015

**Community Council Members in Attendance:** Christopher Auruajo, Cathy Brandewie, Michelle Casanova, Crystal Crawford, Rolando Delgado, Rhonda Douglas, Nancy Gilliam, Monica Guzman, Vincent Harding, Anne H. Harutunian, Kirsha Haverlah, Knox Kimberly, Molly Latham, Carmen Luevanos, Stacey Mather, Ara Merjanian, Melissa Orren, Blythe Plunkett, Laura Poskochil, Ruthie Redmond, Ken Ripperger-Suhler, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami, Terry Wilt, Michelle Zadrozny

**Community Council Members unable to attend:** Sylvia Blanco, Stephan Molina, Clint Smith, Roman Venegas (resigned 1/26/15 – moving to San Antonio for new position)

**Staff in Attendance:** Hannah Brown, Mary Dodd, and Kevin Paris

**Others in Attendance:** Laura Morrison and Richard Franklin

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Anne H. Harutunian called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. Members introduced themselves and provided information on their background, interests, and reasons for joining the Community Council.

**Citizens Communication:** None.

**Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2014:** Rhonda Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes. Stacey Mather seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Overview of CAN and CAN 2015 Work Plan:** Mary Dodd presented. The full presentation is available at: [http://www.canatx.org/CAN-Councils/Community\\_Council/Presentations/](http://www.canatx.org/CAN-Councils/Community_Council/Presentations/)

Dodd provided an overview of CAN and its work plan for 2015. CAN brings together organizations across sectors to address issues in an interdisciplinary matter. CAN's partners represent a variety of sectors, including health care, education (both primary and higher), government, criminal justice, business, non-profit, and others. Each partner appoints one executive level staff member to the CAN Board of Directors. Travis County and the City of Austin each have two seats on the Board, and the Community Council Chair and Vice Chair sit on the Board as well. The CAN Executive Committee approves the agenda and provides guidance for the Board of Directors. Each year, CAN also convenes Implementation Teams and Work Groups to implement CAN's yearly Work Plan. Much of CAN's work builds on needs highlighted in the annual Community Dashboard report, which tracks seventeen key socio-economic indicators for the Austin/Travis County area.

Throughout 2014, CAN, through its Community Council and Safety Net forums, identified key themes for serving people in a holistic manner. The 2015 Work Plan focuses on identifying best practices for addressing needs holistically. The Community Council will work to identify organizations that currently exemplify these practices. The Community Council's 2015 meetings will culminate in an October Summit to highlight the best practices identified throughout the year. The Community Council's work will focus on delving deeper into organizations that serve the vulnerable populations considered at its 2014 meetings. CAN staff have incorporated last year's discussions into a new section of the website at: <http://www.cancommunitydashboard.org/vulnerable-populations/index.php>

Community Council members' roles include:

- Attend Community Council meetings
- Participate in Work Groups and leadership roles
- Become familiar with [canatx.org](http://canatx.org) and [cancommunitydashboard.org](http://cancommunitydashboard.org)
- Sign up to receive CANews and follow CAN on social media
- Share CAN research, reports, work groups, and activities
- Invite CAN staff to present to groups in which you are involved, and connect friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to CAN events

Discussion included:

- Members suggested the Dashboard information be shared with new City Council members
- Members may contact CAN staff or Chairs with feedback and suggestions

**Special Guest: Laura Morrison:** Former Austin City Council Member, and former member of both the CAN Board of Directors and Community Council, spoke. Morrison expressed satisfaction that the Community Council has grown and that there is so much interest in the Council. She has seen CAN grow and develop over her term of service. Developing the Dashboard took a great deal of work, and CAN's work serves as a focal point for Community needs.

Everyone is only one bad City decision from becoming an activist. Morrison became involved locally in her neighborhood, then helped to grow neighborhood associations throughout the City. Working at the City on issues of affordability and environmental issues, she saw the importance of bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders. After a time of working at City Hall, she decided to run for office herself, and served slightly more than two full terms. Given the historic changes occurring in our City, it will be important to continue to build on this momentum in order to involve more voices in discussions of public issues and raise the needs of vulnerable populations.

Given the growth in our City, it will be important to continue to grow funding and support for social services. We must also work to preserve and increase the stock of affordable housing in our City. As the City continues to grow, we must ensure that we avoid pushing the poor and vulnerable out of the City. The City must also continue to invest in providing community services in newly developing areas, as well as revamping aging facilities in existing neighborhoods. We must also work to include more individuals in the digital world.

The Community Council must work to continue to keep all voices involved in the discussion, particularly highlighting the needs of vulnerable populations. There is also power in numbers- the Community Council provides a space for relationship building among people with a variety of different backgrounds and interests.

It is important to keep the conversation real. Policymakers are often removed from the discussion, and Community Council members can bring their passion and ground level experience to the discussion.

Community Council members also act as tentacles-branching out into the community to continue to the discussion among a diverse array of community members.

The Community Council has also provided real, actionable solutions for issues to the Board of Directors.

Community Council members' discussion included:

- It is important to keep all the options on the table and fuel your passion.
- Imagine Austin can be useful as a blueprint for identifying priorities.
- We currently don't have school districts from the West side of the County involved in discussions.

**Updates from CAN Chair:** Anne Harutunian provided several announcements and updates.

- *CAN Board of Directors 12/12/14 and 1/9/15 meetings:* Harutunian did not attend the December Board meeting, but discussions included amendments to the Bylaws that will be voted upon at the February Board meeting. CAN staff also provided an overview of poverty trends in the Greater Austin area. Board meetings are recorded and posted on the City of Austin's website. Presentations from meetings are also available on CAN's website. At future meetings, the Board of Directors will be providing 5 minutes at each meeting for an update from the Community Council. At the last Dashboard Steering Committee meeting, members discussed setting new targets for the 'uninsured' and 'housing cost-burdened' indicators.
- *CAN Executive Committee Meeting 12/19/14:* Not discussed
- *Community Council Working Groups:* Anne Harutunian provided Council members with a binder that included documents giving an overview of the Community Council's Work. To help implement the Community Council's work plan, Council members will be asked to join a Committee.

- *Common Questions for Panelists* Michelle Casanova will chair the Committee to develop questions for panelists at Community Council forums. The Committee will develop a common set of questions for organizations that will be presenting to the Community Council. The Committee will work with the Summit Planning Committee to ensure that questions asked at meetings align with the goals of the forum.
- *October Summit Planning:* Ara Merjanian and Nancy Gilliam will chair the Committee. They are currently in the early phases of planning and are working to identify outcomes, purpose, and an outreach plan. More detailed plans will be developed throughout the year. Merjanian and Gilliam are working on strategic alignment. At the Summit, the Community Council will highlight organizations that are doing a really good job with person-centered care. Right now, the sub-committee must develop the criteria for determining which organizations are organization. Council members were asked to email Mary Dodd with suggestions for organizations that serve vulnerable populations in a person-centered manner.

**Adjournment:** Anne H. Harutunian, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Next month, the Community Council will be hearing from organizations that serve individuals who have been incarcerated. All future meetings will be held in Multipurpose Room B at 700 Lavaca. Future 2015 meeting dates are: February 9, March 9, April 20, May 18, June 15, No July meeting, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, no December meeting.