



## CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 11/26/2018

**Community Council Members in Attendance:** Myneeka Holloway, Hunter Ellinger, Laura Griebel, Rebecca Birch, Caroline Reynolds, Monica Guzmán, Ara Merjanian, Nancy Gilliam, Kirsha Haverlah, Carmen Luevanos, Ricardo Garay, Sandra Castillo

**CAN Staff:** Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill, Carlos Soto

**Call to order & announcements:** Laura welcomed everyone to the CAN Community Council meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. All members introduced themselves.

**Citizens Communication:** None

**Approval of 8/20/18 and 9/17/18 minutes:** The meeting notes of 8/20/2018 and 9/17/18 were approved as amended on a motion by Ara and seconded by Carmen. The amendments included correcting the spelling of “Gúzman” to “Guzmán”.

**Community Council Chair Report:** Laura announced that this will be the last meeting of 2018. There are 6 seats for membership that need to be filled for 2019. We look for diverse representation in our members (geographically, racially, non-profit, faith based, etc.). She asked that current members share the application and let their networks know that we are looking for new members. There is no cap to how many people can apply. The nominations committee will meet in early January to review the applications. Ara, Hunter, and Caroline volunteered to be a part of the Nominations Committee. Raul clarified the deadline was set for November 30<sup>th</sup> but will be extended to December 15<sup>th</sup>, if needed it could be extended again to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Monica stated that a hard copy of the application would be helpful for people who may not have digital access and to consider translating the application in the future for applicants that may not speak English.

**Executive Director’s Report:** The Community Council hosted the Deliberative Dialogues in October and the Legislative Forum in September. The Deliberative Dialogue held during the Community Council meeting was the best attended of the three CAN held. There will be a Deliberative Dialogue report that will share the findings from these conversations. Raul thanked the council for allowing CAN to convene and have a discussion about something that isn’t talked about often. There may be one more dialogue on the opioid epidemic at St. Edward’s in the spring.

CAN hosted a Regional Summit in November. We are currently compiling the feedback from that event. The summit was on the topic of expanding housing opportunity. While Austin is working on affordable housing, San Marcos is more focused on workforce housing which is 80-120% median family income. There were presenters that spoke about how to provide housing to people at different levels of need. Originally the summit was going to cover two topics, workforce housing and workforce development. The workforce development part of the summit will be held during the fall of 2019.

In April, CAN will host a State of the Safety Net event that will highlight the dashboard to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Raul added that we may be able to highlight the child poverty report if the communication and engagement piece has been completed by that time. Hunter and Ara added that this would be a good time for a reunion of the Community Council alumni, reaching out to board member alumni, and engaging them in a discussion about the dashboard’s layout, content, etc. The 10-year anniversary of the dashboard gives CAN a great opportunity to engage and build on what we have done so far.

Raul added that CAN will have a strategy session on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. It's intended to jumpstart the process of creating a strategic plan for CAN. It will not be about CAN's 2019 workplan, but about who we are, where we want to be, funding, and capacity. This strategic session will also explore what it would look like for CAN to become an independent informal non-profit association. Any Community Council member is welcome to come and participate in the strategy session.

Lastly, on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 CAN will host it's Beginning of the Year Celebration and Butler Awards presentation at Fiesta Gardens. The Butler Awards include awards for Community Leadership, Bridge Builder, and Spirit of Collaboration. There is information online regarding nominations and the awards.

**Review and Prioritize Observations and Recommendations:** Laura began this conversation talking about the Child Poverty Report, the goal is to enhance the work the Community Council has already done and make sure the info gets to the public. Each table had a Child Poverty Report and a recommended strategies table prioritizing topics within the report. The table showed action items and programs that are already in place. Laura asked the council to brainstorm about what the Council can do to have an impact on child poverty. Ara wanted to know what the use of the table would be. Laura said it is intended to be a working scorecard of the progress they are making in those areas that is constantly being updated. Raul added that this will simplify the messaging to the top 5 issues or strategies they should focus on rather than telling them everything and it being overwhelming. Hunter added that the table could include contact information for organizations so people who would like to act have a way to take action. Laura reiterated that this table is to outline a potential messaging system that has a powerful succinct message and specific ask and action. Ricardo suggested changing the format to a logic model as a way of sharing this information clearly with organizations that includes inputs, outputs, and goals. Nora suggested that we need to identify who the community advocates are that work in these areas, their impact, and when it is shared with the community we are also sharing who is doing it so were promoting the community. Raul added that there are 4 main buckets we could work in systems solutions, economic mobility, place-based efforts, cross-sector efforts. If we have a couple of suggestions in each category we can think about how all of it fits together, we could represent the information in that format. If we are doing a Safety Net forum in April it gives the council some time to prepare for that opportunity.

**2019 Workplan:** Hunter wanted members of the council to think about next year and what the council would want to focus on, including things that worked well and not so well in the council this year. CAN is focusing on making its presence known in the community. He opened up the dialogue to receive feedback from council members about their experience this year in the Community Council. Some common themes of things that went well this year in Community Council include:

- Meetings were intriguing, had interesting topics, and informative.
- The Deliberative Dialogues (opportunity to train facilitators and participating in them)
- The Legislative Forum
- Fieldtrip to Del Valle
- Discussions about child poverty and community engagement
- Gaining resources

Some of the common themes of things that did not work so well or could be improved/considered for 2019 include:

- Deliberative Dialogues – not scale-able, don't understand the impact, meaningless because there is no background knowledge

- Lack of a focused goal and organized message.
- Would've liked more participation from community members (not on the council).
- Missing is action items and the ability to show our impact.
- Committee work needs more structure.
- Would have liked to do more things together as a council such as touring, volunteering or attending a big presentation/ convening.
- We need reassessment of the purpose of the council.
- Idea for next year is having CAN ambassadors.
- Next year, include city leaders in legislative forum.
- We could partner with Leadership Austin Engage Breakfast to use our materials.
- There could be a Moral Compass committee.
- A real strength we could develop is really understanding the people in our community and how they work together.

Ara ended the meeting acknowledging Laura and her hard work and dedication as 2018 chair.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.