



CAN Board of Directors Meeting 6/14/19 Minutes

Location: Boards & Commissions Room, Austin City Hall

Present: **Tamara Atkinson**, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; **Marina Bhargava**, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **Eric Bustos**, Capital Metro; **Tina Cannon**, Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce; **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Kelly Crook**, Del Valle ISD; **Hunter Ellinger**, CAN Community Council; **David Evans**, Integral Care; **Jimmy Flannigan**, Austin City Council Member, City; **Sherri Fleming**, Travis County; **Juan Garza**, Central Health; **Kay Garza**, (for David Smith, United Way for Greater Austin); **Patricia Hayes**, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce; **Damon Johnson**, Huston-Tillotson University; **Elizabeth Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Jeremy Martin**, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Rudy Metayer**, Pflugerville City Council Member; **Luis A. Rodríguez**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; **Ronda Rutledge**, One Voice Central Texas; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action; **Ann Teich**, Austin ISD.

CAN staff in attendance: Raul Alvarez, Justin X. Hale, Carlos A. Soto

Other guests: **Deece Eckstein**, Travis County Intergovernmental Relations; **Brie Franco**, City of Austin Intergovernmental Relations; **Ara Merjanian**, CAN Community Council; **Kwee Lan Teo**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Julie Wheeler**, Travis County Intergovernmental Relations.

Call to order and Introductions: Chair Patricia Hayes called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm, and members introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes from 5/10/19 meeting: The 5/10/19 meeting minutes were approved with edits, after a motion submitted by Jeremy Martin which was seconded by Juan Garza.

Community Council Report: Hunter Ellinger provided a brief overview of the work the Community Council has done since the last Board meeting. The focus of the conversation was issues related to reentering the workforce once individuals exit the criminal justice system. Discussion topics include barriers upon exiting the system, such as policies that exclude the formerly incarcerated from accessing education and career training opportunities. The Council is also working on a project where the websites for local organizations are evaluated for community accountability.

Executive Director's Report: Raúl Álvarez, Executive Director, briefly introduced some of the topics in the report, including the CAN Dashboard, this year in its 10th edition, the Safety Net Forums, and the CAN Community Council Child Poverty Report Summary and Recommendations. In 2018 the Community Council published a report on child poverty, developed as a tool to help raise awareness about child poverty and the implications of the data related to the issue. The report updates the data on child poverty and highlight programs and issues aimed at addressing child poverty that were referenced in the 2016 child poverty report.

Alvarez highlighted a few documents developed to support communication about the CAN Dashboard, including "10 reasons to love the CAN Dashboard," and the "Dashboard at a Glance." There will be a more in depth presentation about the Dashboard at the August meeting. Because it's the 10th year of the report, CAN is gathering community feedback via the "State of the Safety Net" series of forums. Council member Flannigan commended CAN staff for the Dashboard and the work that went into it, and offered the help of his staff to develop a visual tool that encapsulates the data into a single infographic that effectively communicates the wealth of information contained in the report.

Discussion: Community Workforce Needs and Opportunities to support Austin/Travis County Master Community Workforce Plan: Kwee Lan Teo, representing the Austin Chamber of Commerce, began the discussion with a brief overview of the Chamber's 2019 State of Talent event held at the UT McCombs School of Business on June 12. A variety of stakeholders participated in the event, including private, public, and community partners. As part of the event, the Chamber presented [a series of "asks" to the business community](#), which included: increasing educational opportunities available to veterans, increasing investments in outreach and recruitment, increasing the amount of industry exposure for students and educators, and deepening the hiring continuum. For each of these asks, the Chamber partners with key community stakeholders to help create opportunities that move work forward in each aspect.

Tamara Atkinson, representing Workforce Solutions Capital Area, began [her presentation](#) with a brief refresher of the Master Community Workforce Plan. Goals for the Plan included ensuring 10,000 local residents living at or below 200% of the poverty line secure middle-skill jobs by 2021. The Plan's 4-layered approach would equip workers with skills, connect employers with local talent to fill middle-skill jobs, and assist frontline workers in acquiring skills to advance into middle-skill jobs. The plan, developed in 2016-2017 and launched in June 2017, is currently in the second year of a 4-year timeline. Atkinson then provided an overview of goal metrics as validated by the UT Ray Marshall Center, and discussed projected metrics through 2021. Measuring upskilling continues to be a challenge for this kind of work in general. Early wins as a result of evaluation: giving key stakeholders access to the most comprehensive information on outcomes, creating first-ever articulation agreements between Community-Based Organizations and Austin Community College, tracking educational completion and employment by industry sector to match demand for skilled workforce, and tracking education outcomes by equity indicators to ensure opportunities for all.

Partners called for continued and increased efforts in terms of sharing resources, data gathering & evaluation, and increasing engagement with smaller businesses. Smaller tech businesses also struggle with locating and retaining skilled talent. Engaging with the talent available at the numerous institutions of higher learning in our community is another key aspect of the plan, including agreements and partnerships with ACC, Huston-Tillotson University, and TSTC. Workforce Solutions is also working on articulation agreements between CBO's and institutions of higher education to facilitate tracking of individuals as they connect from the community, through a CBO, to getting into the community and working. One issue our community is struggling with is a shortage of nursing professionals, and the challenges facing our institutions such as ACC to rise to the occasion and meet those needs, especially in the context of recent state-level changes to the revenue streams cities can draw on to fund their budgets.

Debrief: 2019 State Legislative Session: Brie L. Franco, from the City of Austin's Intergovernmental Relations Office, began the session with a slide quantifying the bills introduced and passed as well as highlighting the number of city-related bills introduced and passed. Of the 7,324 bills introduced, 54% were filed in the last 10 business days before the filing deadline. The Governor, Lt. Governor, and the House Speaker each have roles in the legislative process. A notable difference from this session and last session is the role of the House Speaker, who is now Dennis Bonnen. Their agendas aligned very closely, specifically on the issues of property tax reform and school finance reform. The bill that had the biggest impact for the City was the Revenue Cap bill (Senate Bill 2), which reduces the rollback rate from 8% to 3.5% effective January 1, 2020 and requires an election to exceed 3.5%. This change only applies to large cities and not special taxing units, junior college district, or a hospital district. Another bill that affects cities (all cities) is SB1152, which affects cable franchise fees. SB1152 mandates that the City may collect either a telecommunications or cable franchise fee from companies that provide both services, whichever is greater. The City currently collects both fees. This change would result in a \$4 million reduction in City revenues in FY 2020; \$5.6 million annual reduction in subsequent years. This law becomes effective September 1st, 2019. The General Fund Base forecast anticipates an \$18.5 million deficit with a 3.5%

tax cap in FY21, projected to widen to a \$58.2 million deficit with a 3.5% tax cap in FY24. Of the over 2,000 city-related bills that passed, a number of priority issues stand out. Franco reported success on issues related to Austin Water, Austin Energy, super preemption, extra territorial jurisdiction regulation, zoning/short-term rentals, employees rights and benefits, and city lobbying.

Deece Eckstein, from the Travis County Intergovernmental Relations Office, continued the debrief, beginning with a set of statistics echoing those shared earlier, as well as quantifying the number of bills vetoed (7 at the moment, before the governor's Sunday June 16 deadline to sign or veto bills passed during the regular session). The Travis County Intergovernmental Relations Team tracked over 2,500 bills during the 86th legislative session, accounting for approximately 33% of bills filed. The 2020-2021 budget is expected to increase by over \$250 billion, with public education expected to see an over \$12 billion increase, and property tax relief of over \$4.5 billion. Regarding Senate Bill 2, Eckstein added that there will be a \$500,000 "de minimis" amount to add on each year, that counties and cities can "bank" any unused increment for a 3-year period, and that the bill adds additional transparency measures and reforms to the appraisal system. An analysis of the Travis County's tax rate history from 1990 to 2019, the County met or almost met the 8% limit 3 times, with an average of 3.7% over The 8% limit offered flexibility to respond to incidents such as the Halloween Flood, wild fires, or other unforeseen circumstances. Travis County's forecast for FY 2020 to 2024 anticipates \$30 million per year less revenue. Next, Eckstein presented a series of slides, organized by issue area, listing legislation that might affect the CAN Dashboard. Examples include HB4468 facilitating access to mental health services, HB 1888 eliminating mobile early voting, SB 1474, offering expanded access to financing for affordable housing, SB 670 expanding Medicaid telemedicine, and HB 3 which deals with school finance reform and expands pre-k. HB 3, like HB 2, also falls short in that it does not offer a sustainable source of revenue after this biennium. Another issue with HB-3 is that it can result in compliance requirements that will burden school administrators and administrative staff. Hiring the large amount of additional pre-k teachers will pose another challenge.

Adjournment: Dr. Crook adjourned the meeting at 3:02 pm.