



# CAN Board of Directors Meeting

## 10/11/19 Minutes

**Location:** Austin City Hall – Boards and Commissions Room

**Present:** **Tamara Atkinson**, Capital Area Workforce Solutions; **Marina Bhargava**, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Dr. Kelly Crook**, Immediate Past Chair; **Jimmy Flannigan**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Sherri Fleming**, (for Judge Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County Commissioner's Court); **Juan Garza**, (for Mike Geeslin, Central Health); **Dr. Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Patricia Hayes**, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce; **Damon Johnson**, Huston-Tillotson University; **Ara Merjanian**, CAN Community Council; **Ann Teich**, School Board Trustee, Austin ISD; **Kwee Lan Teo**, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Jeffrey Travillion**, Precinct 1 Commissioner, Travis County; **Dr. Tamey Williams-Hill**, Del Valle ISD.

**CAN staff in attendance:** Raul Alvarez, Carlos A. Soto, Jelina Tunstill

**Other guests:** **Edna Butts**, Austin Independent School District; **Christian Casarez Clarke**, Austin Independent School District; **David Edgar**, Dell Valle ISD; **Dr. Gretchen Riehl**, Austin Community College;

**Call to order and Introductions:** Council Member Jimmy Flannigan called the meeting to order at 1:14 pm, and members introduced themselves.

**Citizen's Communication:** **Dr. Jerreka Thomas Hockaday**, founder of the Central Texas Allied Health Institute. The institute seeks to provide high quality job skills training to folks in vulnerable communities. Their goal is to diversify the Austin workforce, and to bring folks out of poverty and into the middle class through allied health careers.

**Approval of minutes from 9/13/19 meeting:** The 9/13/19 meeting minutes were approved, with an edit, after a motion submitted by Jeffrey Travillion which was seconded by Tamara Atkinson. The minutes with an edit were passed unanimously. Edit: Dr. Williams was not present at the 9/13 meeting.

**Community Council Report:** Ara Merjanian reported that the Community Council continues to receive nominations for the Community Council Class of 2020. In your inbox is an email with information on how to nominate somebody to the council and links to begin the nomination process. Over the past few months, Council members have also heard from organizations working on eliminating or overcoming barriers to employment, as part of the Council's work to support the [Master Community Workforce Plan](#). Organizations such as United Way, ACC, Goodwill, Capital IDEA, Garza High School, Work Force Solutions, and American Youthworks have presented. The communications committee continues its work on strategies to raise awareness of child poverty as a follow up to a report the Council published two years ago. Merjanian then mentioned that it will probably be the last time he addresses the board in this capacity because it will be his last year on the Council, after six years of service. Merjanian thanked the board for the opportunity. Merjanian noted that he finds it very encouraging that such a diversity of groups and organizations come together to collaborate through CAN. In his experience working with communities across the nation, the CAN model is unique.

**Executive Director's Report:** Raúl Álvarez, CAN Executive Director, thanked Ara for his dedication over the years and especially now with the Strategic Planning process. Regarding the Strategic Planning process, we've had a chance to meet with 2/3 of our partners. We will discuss more about the stakeholder survey at next month's Strategic Planning retreat. The retreat will take the place of the November Board meeting. It is scheduled for

November 8 from 12:00 to 4:00 at Fiesta Gardens, and lunch will be provided. The final State of the Safety Net forum, on Achieving our Full Potential, is scheduled for Wednesday Oct 16 from 9:00 to 11:00 at United Way. The forum will feature a presentation on the [Success by 6 initiative](#) and a presentation on the [E<sup>3</sup> Alliance's Blueprint for Educational Change](#). The Regional Summit is scheduled for October 25 at the San Marcos Conference Center from 9:00 to 1:00. Presenters include the two local workforce boards, Workforce Solutions Capital Area and Rural Capital Area. A local manufacturer, CFAN, will discuss how they work with local school districts and Texas State to help meet their workforce needs. Sandy Dochen from IBM will also present on the P-Tech model that IBM helped create. The summit will conclude with a panel of Career and Technical Education coordinators from three area school districts (Dell Valle, Leander, and San Marcos). In terms of Race Equity work, there are a few tools in development. For example, one piece of feedback we've heard from folks who have participated in the Beyond Diversity trainings is "what are we supposed to do after taking the training, besides taking another training?" In response, CAN staff has begun working on a series of conversations guided by Glenn Singleton's book *Courageous Conversations About Race* that helps people who have participated in Beyond Diversity to put those tools into practice. Members Travilion, Crook, Gururaj, and Cervini were interested in collaborating on the development of this dialogue tool. CAN is also working on creating a race equity asset map working with a race equity coordination committee.

**Strategic Planning Update and Planning Discussion:** Patricia Hays invited Ara Merjanian, who has collaborated on this effort, to provide a brief update. There is a call scheduled with the strategic Planning Committee to assess progress, report on feedback collected, and to engage on specific issues of concern. This will be followed by a process of analyzing, sorting, synthesizing and summarizing the input into a useful format. Raul Alvarez added that there is a critical mass of information ready to share with the planning team and that there are several meetings are planned to discuss the information before the Retreat. We have enough material to start looking at options and ideas for future directions.

**CAN Partner Spotlight: Austin Community College Task Force Report on Workforce Development:** Dr. Gretchen Riehl, Associate VP for Workforce Education at Austin Community College, began with an overview of regional and state priorities highlighting the [60x30 Higher Education Plan](#), the [Regional Master Community Workforce Plan](#), and the [DIC70 Summer Melt](#). A similar program to Summer Melt is needed that is designed to help students affected by FAFSA funding gaps that prevent them from accessing classes/courses during the summer between their senior year of HS and freshman year of college. Enrollment highlights at ACC in Fall 2018: over 40,000 credit students, with a diverse student body. Three year completion and progression has increased from 74% in 2013 to 84% in 2017. Also ACC is the top community college for students transfers to a 4-year college in the state of Texas.

Next, Dr. Riehl highlighted increases in enrollments and completions in programs within the 3 industries highlighted in the Community Workforce Plan. Health Sciences, and Computer Science & Information Technology both saw growth in terms of enrollments and completions, while Manufacturing & High-Skilled Trades saw an increase in completions and a decrease in enrollments. ACC is revisiting its Master Facilities Plan, with sights set on expanding land/space available for workforce training. Next steps include increasing the number of Bachelor's degree offerings that ACC will be able to offer (up to three per state legislation). ACC currently offers Bachelor's degrees in Health Care and Information Technology. The third will likely be Advanced Manufacturing & Skilled Trades. Regarding the Earn & Learn Apprenticeships/Internships programs, ACC received a \$12M grant from the Department of Labor over the summer to develop 350 apprenticeships over the next 4 years, especially in fields where it's not as typical such as IT.

**Discussion:** How is ACC dealing with the shortage of slots available to students interested in the nursing program? It continues to be a challenge. Next Fall ACC will open phase 2 at the Highland Campus, which will have 9 simulation labs. These labs are important because the institution's nursing accreditors have stated that up to 50% of student clinical time could be simulation. The Eastview and Round Rock campuses already have

simulators. With the large number of small and medium sized businesses in our community, it's important to include them in developing apprenticeship positions. Dr. Gururaj mentioned that work-study funding can be used to place students in community based organizations. It is also important to build an asset map to include details such as companies available to provide internships, and the resources available to fund opportunities for students who want to work, otherwise we run the risk of building a system that functions on a transactional basis.

**Presentation and Discussion on the Impacts of 2019 Legislative Session on School Finance and Public Schools:** Edna Butts introduced herself and provided a brief overview of the major topics at the legislative session, and a summary of bills. Nicole Conley continued with an overview of HB 3, highlighting what's included in the \$11.6B investment, such as new state aid, recapture reduction, and changes in funding. Additional money is available for Special Education, Dyslexia, dual language, and other programs. The Compensatory Education Allotment will be determined relative to degree of poverty measured by census block group based on measures such as Median Household Income, Average Educational Attainment, % single parent households, and rate of home ownership. Additional funds were allocated to full-day pre-k. Teacher & Employee pay also increased, with a requirement that districts use 30% of the additional revenue per ADA for those purposes. AISD board approved \$48M in raises across the board. Additional funding is available for issues such as outcomes-based funding, CTE, transportation funding for recapture districts, and additional instructional days for students enrolled in PK-5. The impact of HB3 on AISD included additional revenue and reduction in recapture payments. There is a challenge with the funding formula switching to "Current Year Values", prior year values are more reliable and predictable. Another challenge is sustainable funding, since increased funding was made possible by a robust economy combined with elimination of certain formulas or allotments. Relying on continued economic growth to maintain public education investments is unsustainable. This is a complex bill with many uncertainties, and the TEA rules may take years to work out.

Question: How do you balance planning for immediate changes, while at the same time planning for upcoming projections over the next 18-36 months? There's a high degree of uncertainty, from new codes to updated data requirements, which affects the ability of Districts' to track kids in a way that allows them to draw down funding. There was an anomaly this year where AISD student enrollment grew. We are seeing a proliferation of charters in this area. We also have to be smart with our money. We could do better with our outcomes if we realigned how we are spending our dollars. The situation will remain unclear until the Commissioner provides initial spending allotments. We are hopeful that the legislature will continue to fund education at this rate in the future.

SB 11 was a big safety bill with broad reach especially around facilities, but it also includes things like: trauma informed care instruction; continuing education for staff; required FAFSA completion for students to graduate (with certain exemptions). HB76, HB496, and SB21 relate to improvements to student health. HB 692, HB 811, and SB 1756 include changes designed to improve outcomes for at-risk students. HB 18 aims to invest in mental health. HB 906 brings forward a study on mental health services funded by the state and provided at public schools. HB 3980 brings forward a study on suicide.

**Adjournment:** Hays adjourned the meeting at 3:03 pm.