



## CAN Board of Directors Meeting 5/08/20 Minutes

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Present:** **Marina Bhargava**, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **William Buster**, St. David's Foundation; **Eric Bustos**, Capital Metro; **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Nora Comstock**, CAN Community Council; **David Escamilla**, Community Justice Council; **David Evans**, Austin Travis County Integral Care; **Jimmy Flannigan**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Sherri Fleming**, (for Judge Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County Commissioner's Court); **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas; **Nancy Gilliam**, CAN Community Council; **Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Stephanie Hawley**, Austin ISD; **Patricia Hayes**, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce; **Elizabeth Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Dan Leal**, One Voice; **Jeremy Martin**, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Rudy Metayer**, Council Member, City of Pflugerville; **Catrina Montgomery**, (for Colette Pearce Burnette, Huston-Tillotson University); **Luis A. Rodríguez**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; **Rich Segal**, Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce; **David Smith**, United Way for Greater Austin; **Ann Teich**, Austin ISD; **Jeffrey Travillion**, Precinct 1 Commissioner, Travis County; **Erik Byrd**, Office of Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison; **Jennifer Tucker**, Goodwill of Central Texas;

**CAN staff in attendance:** Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill

**Other guests:** Caitlin Brown

**Call to order and Introduction:** Board Chair Jimmy Flannigan called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and allow participants to introduced themselves. Approval of minutes from April meeting was deferred.

**Community Council Report:** Nora Comstock provided an overview of the most recent meeting which included presentations by representatives from HACA, Dell Medical School, and AISD. In May, working on a program to help better understand situation of senior citizens and families, as well as challenges to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The CC is also interested in looking at the status and situation for immigrant and undocumented populations.

**Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Raul Alvarez provided an overview of last month's executive committee meeting. There, members asked to explore avenues where CAN could play a role in the COVID response. Rigorous conversations on with numerous stakeholders on each of the ideas have been held. CAN staff is working to ensure we don't duplicate efforts and that the right stakeholders are engaged. Members highlighted the utility of a dashboard focusing on response efforts as well as developing a clearinghouse for volunteering to support the COVID-19 response. A separate dashboard related to the economic response is also under development. Next week CAN will launch a weekly podcast called, Get Engaged, that will highlight engagement opportunities and activities for the coming week. Partners are encouraged to email information about upcoming community events to CAN staff so that they can be publicized in the podcast. CAN staff also continues developing a platform for "getting help with needs arising from COVID-19" that can be translated into multiple languages and shared with those communities. Developing this site was already in this year's work plan.

With regard to community engagement, it was suggested that CAN staff connect with NACER, North Austin Communities for Educational Readiness, that has developed resources page of their website and have a Trello board with an exhaustive list of resources organized so that families can find resources quickly. Williamson County

links to a County branded site on the Aunt Bertha platform. This may be something to consider for Travis County also.

### **CAN Partner Updates & Highlights on COVID-19 Impact, Health Arena:**

The City of Austin is mobilizing around several items approved yesterday. Item 23 creates a CLEAR fund for small businesses that includes loans and grants for business operations and to cover the costs to keep people safe and comply with the governor's orders. There is a fund to help provide childcare. There is also an ANCHOR fund with \$6 million for nonprofits to maintain their operations. The City will solicit for nonprofits to help administer the funds; it will not make direct grants. The idea is to roll this out with the initial \$18M in funding and gather data to optimize response for subsequent COVID spikes.

Travis County is working in multiple capacities to put resources where most needed. This includes optimizing frequency and amount of resources provided to partners, and rental & utility assistance. Travis County is also partnered with Central Health to work to increase access to testing in vulnerable communities.

Through collaborative efforts, the local chamber has opened the Pflugerville fund to provide bridge financing and loans for local businesses. Pflugerville ISD has provided meals 7 days a week.

Central Health will look at effectiveness of telemedicine, since approximately 75% of doctor consultations are now taking place via telemedicine.

Public mental health services provided by Integral Care remained open throughout crisis. Integral Care have moved 450 clinicians onto a telehealth platform. Also working with city and county emergency operations in leading a behavioral health task force. Grants awarded recently to Integral Care help support local suicide crisis prevention work and help increase access to behavioral and mental health services. Integral Care and Central Health have also been working with 5 local psychiatric hospitals to ensure capacity for individuals with psychotic conditions or in crisis as Austin State Hospital undergoes improvements. Employers should: expect that employees returning to work may need access to their EAP program; know the signs, symptoms, and referrals for mental health crises; and be aware that childcare might be a critical issue.

Over the last several weeks, St. David's has closed physical offices and released over \$15 million to current grantees. Their partners have shared information about the increase in services they have been called to provide, as well as about the stress on the organization themselves and staff members. The recovery fund was launched a few weeks ago, and the application deadline was yesterday. They received over 300 applications, with a total of approx. \$20 million requested. The fund will have 2 additional rounds of fundraising, the next rounds are scheduled for August 15 and October 15. They expect to do something similar next year, as they also expect that this will be a long-term event for nonprofits in this community. The dental program has been shut down due to schools closing. They hope to return to some capacity at clinics in June.

United Way's All Together ATX fund is almost at \$6 million and have deployed about \$1.8M in their first phase. The second phase will be released in the next few weeks, the money will be deployed in July. Third phase planned for October. This crisis highlights historical, generational inequities, our hope is that we will be able to sustain an effective, long-term response. Childcare is an area of focus, including working with childcare centers to keep them open in a safe way. Calls to 2-1-1 - had originally quadrupled but are currently at a level that is double their usual volume. Top two needs are food and rental assistance. Jump of 300% of first-time callers. We are just seeing beginning of need.

iACT biggest need is meeting people where they are with purchasing cards, rental assistance, and utility assistance. Digital divide is also an issue. Many families do not have computers. Bridging that divide, and language barriers, are pressing needs.

One Voice has been very active in public policy advocacy. Also working on securing PPE for partners and support for nonprofit leadership.

#### **CAN Partner Updates & Highlights on COVID-19 Impact, Basic Needs Arena:**

Cap Metro has no plans to make service adjustment beyond what was discussed last meeting. Meal delivery programs will continue, over 200,000 meals delivered in partnership with HEB and the Food Bank. They need volunteers to help with those programs, and they need PPE. Grateful for donations they have received and encourage more.

Community Justice Council: The County Attorney and District Attorney continue collaborative efforts to lower jail population which is currently reaching record lows. Protocols have resulted in zero detainees having tested positive. Additional efforts to reduce number of individuals entering the system have also been successful.

#### **CAN Partner Updates & Highlights on COVID-19 Impact, Education & Economic Impact Arena:**

Goodwill continues to offer all its services virtually, including Charter High School, Technical Academy, and Job Readiness Services. Technical Academy has seen inquires for healthcare training programs double this month. Goodwill also expects folks with less barriers to employment will need services, potentially pushing folks with more barriers to employment out of the workforce as people go back to work. Goodwill also reports an increase in requests for basic needs, including housing, childcare, food, and mental health.

Austin ISD working hard to support teachers and students. Schools will reopen once Commissioner Morath makes the decision, check the TEA website for news. Check the AISD website for information about online learning, and meal distribution. AISD seeks volunteers to help support food efforts. SAFE Alliance is working to help children in domestic abuse situations.

Huston-Tillotson University is working hard to support students, many who have been displaced. This includes disbursement of CARES Act support funds, online instruction for the summer, and work to bridge the digital divide for their students.

St. Edwards will celebrate graduation tomorrow in an online, asynchronous event featuring Madeline Albright. Instruction will remain remote through the summer.

The University of Texas is also online for the summer. Let Suchitra know of opportunities that might be available for students to work on, as many internship opportunities arranged for the summer have fallen through. UT reports a high volume of queries regarding mental health supports for students, so they envision that will be a primary area of focus into the fall. UT interested in tracking inequity, especially involving students.

Austin Community College is working to get student CARES act funds out to students. They are online now, also online for summer. Working to implement limited in person career technical education for the second summer session, in critical workforce areas. ACC continues to work with Texas Association of Community Colleges in developing online certificates that can be deployed uniformly across the state so that new jobs created by this crisis can be filled with appropriately trained workers. ACC's Center for Nonprofit Studies offering several free modules for nonprofit professionals to learn how to cope with emerging challenges. They have over 32 sessions scheduled from now to mid-July, free to nonprofit professionals.

Travis County Health and Human Services has an agenda item with the Commissioners Court regarding social services investments. HHS also collaborated with City's Office of Sustainability to work on food access throughout the crisis.

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce is leading the Central Texas Task Force on behalf of Judge Eckhardt and Mayor Adler. The initial draft report went to leadership earlier this week. Actions being taken include advising Mayor and County Judge on orders issued today, continuing to monitor public health as area reopens, and serving as an advisory role in the long-term task of economic recovery. The Task Force includes members from all the chambers, Workforce Solutions, and other local organizations, totaling over 100 members in various issue area groups.

The Black Chamber continues to serve as a resource providing guidance and information to small businesses in the community and folks in need who need to access economic relief resources.

The Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce is also on that Chamber Task Force on re-opening. One of their members is starting a workplace disinfection enterprise. The Asian Chamber is also raising money to pay to have restaurant meals delivered to shelters, healthcare workers, and hospitals. Today, would have been the Chamber's APA gala, but now focusing instead on a whole month of APA focused programming. The Asian Chamber will also host webinars, on topics such as dealing with a potential racist incident at your workplace and on how to market to Asian consumers.

The LGBT Chamber hosted several webinars, most recently on mental health, anxiety, stress, and depression of adults and children in partnership with Sage Recovery. Currently working with Austin Regional Clinic and some private practice partners to develop more webinars. They are interested in developing guidance or training opportunities for members on when and how to safely re-open. The Chamber also continuously updates its resources page.

**Adjournment:** Jimmy Flannigan adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.