



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

11/13/20 Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: **Tamara Atkinson**, Capital Area Workforce Solutions; **Eric Bustos**, Capital Metro; **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Dr. Nora Comstock**, CAN Community Council; **David Evans**, Austin Travis County Integral Care; **Fang Fang**, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **Jimmy Flannigan**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas; **Juan Garza**, (for Mike Geeslin, Central Health); **Dr. Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Dr. Stephanie Hawley**, Austin ISD; **Patricia Hayes**, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce; **Elizabeth Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Rudy Metayer**, Pflugerville City Council Member; **Meg Moore**, (for Natasha Harper-Madison, City of Austin Councilmember); **Becky Pastner**, St. David's Foundation; **Rich Segal**, Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce; **David Smith**, United Way for Greater Austin; **Ingrid Taylor**, Ascension Seton; **Ann Teich**, Austin ISD;

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

Other guests: Lawrence Lyman, Travis County; Ara Merjanian;

Call to order and Introduction: Board Chair Jimmy Flannigan called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and introduced the meeting.

Minutes: The 10/9/20 meeting minutes were approved, after a motion submitted by Rich Segal which was seconded by Dr. Gururaj. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Community Council Update: Dr. Nora Comstock mentioned that the Back to Work deliberative dialogue helped the Council identify a few issues on which to focus additional attention. It was a challenging conversation, and more challenges lie ahead in the wake of the election. The next meeting is planned for November 30th. The Community Council will also consider the Can Board priorities when planning for 2021 in order to support those goals. The Council plans 2 tracks next year: Policy and Community Engagement. Council members will choose a track and work with a committee to pursue that area of interest. A Chair-Elect for the 2021 term will be selected at the November meeting. Interviews are taking place for 7 potential new members, while 5 members are nearing the end of their terms.

Executive Director report: Executive Director Raul Alvarez mentioned expanding the language access work with the creation of the language access fund. A budget for the fund will be shared in December, along with the CAN Budget. Next, Alvarez shared [a presentation](#) highlighting CAN race equity resource development efforts. Alvarez discussed three spheres of impact with regard to race equity: individual, organizational, and community. One way to continue the work may be for partners to conduct their own institutional assessments and audit their own organizations, look at their outcomes, and find out what changes in policies and procedures are needed. There may also be value in a "continuing education" approach for folks who may feel that they are doing the work but could be doing better.

CAN Board Break-Out Room Discussions: Board members met in three breakout groups to discuss priorities for CAN in 2021 (notes from break-out groups are attached).

Report Out from Breakout Room Discussions: One group found basic needs and disparities as top two issues. Basic needs and economy go hand in hand because we cannot address basic needs without discussing what we can do to improve our economy. Mental Health was a top issue as well. There is also a need to place special attention

to evictions. Eviction will affect education since kids are learning at home. This group also supported the regional summit and identifying a process or topic around which to organize the event.

Another group echoed the first group in that health and mental health must be addressed before a serious discussion of rebooting the economy can take place. They agree that addressing health & economic disparities must be included in anything we do. This group also talked about treating technology access as a basic need since it is so critical for education and in terms of accessing services. As we move into 2021, we need to collect data on efforts to address these challenges to track progress. With regard to the Regional Summit, we will need to identify a purpose that seems relevant given current conditions. CAN's role should be in identifying gaps or issues no one is addressing and convening in order to ensure issues get addressed.

Another group had very similar thoughts to those mentioned above. This group found it challenging to prioritize from the document list because all are important, and all are related to each other. Instead of picking a focus area, this group discussed how to leverage CAN's competencies and focus it specifically on the impacts of the pandemic. What are the things that happened over the last year that are not on the radar or being highlighted? We should also highlight what has worked in the pandemic response. A role for CAN may be in compiling relevant data on the pandemic's impact and presenting that information in a way that is more actionable.

An overarching concern is the need to address racial disparities in outcomes. There also could be more focus on around housing and evictions. The housing piece is key to everything else. Mental health, abuse, and neglect come up regularly but the community may not be mobilize or engaged in the same way. CAN staff will discuss this input with Executive Committee and present draft 2021 work plan at the December board meeting.

Adjournment: Jimmy Flannigan adjourned the meeting at 2:58 pm.