

CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 30, 2020

Zoom Video Conference

Present: Nora Comstock, Sam Hensley, Myneeka Holloway, Caroline Reynolds, Hunter Ellinger, Nancy Gilliam, James May, Rachel Hampton, Thomas Martinez, Lou Serna, Blanca Alvarado, Nick Haigh, Ricardo Garay

Staff Present: Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill, Carlos Soto

Guests: Ara Merjianian, Kelly Crook, Gloria Vera- Bedolla, Laura Goettsche, Catherine Rockwell

Call to Order and Announcements	Nora called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm
Approval of September 21, 2020 Minutes	The September 21, 2020 minutes were approved as written unanimously on a motion by Hunter with a second by Thomas.
CAN Community Council Chair's Report	<p>Summary: Nora stated that the Deliberative Dialogues in October were interesting and she enjoys having these targeted discussions. She stated it would've been more beneficial if the discussion guide was focused more on our local situation than nationally. She also stated that participants need to be better prepared to discuss the topic and reach an end goal. She suggested we take this into planning for deliberative dialogues next year. Her thoughts are to use this method for interaction and to focus on local issues and to utilize local resources to frame, provide readings, conduct the dialogues to both build interest and connection to others interested in the topic; and to have specific expectations of how to utilize the results of the dialogue.</p> <p>Regarding the workplan, the goal is to base the Community Council workplan on CAN Board priorities in order to build a connection/ relationship to CAN members who have specific interests in the areas and to work together to achieve specific results.</p>
CAN Executive Director Report	<p>Summary: Raul stated the Board approved the Language Access Fund and it will be used as a vehicle for the CAN Language Access Action Team to get money to fund their efforts. He presented last meeting on the creation/evolution of the Central Texas Collective for Racial Equity. The Interim Executive Director is Kazique Prince. There are about 20 charter members, but it is open to other groups that are being intentional about their work on race equity.</p>

	<p>In October and November, the Board had 2 mini retreats to discuss the 2021 CAN workplan. There is a Dashboard Steering Committee meeting later this week and we will be looking at our dashboard in comparison to dashboards from peer cities to see what they are tracking, if there are indicators we should be considering, and how Austin compares. The dashboard data is about 1-2 years old and we are looking at it as a baseline before COVID hit and it doesn't reflect real time data. We created WeCanATX website to reflect more of the real time data about COVID (cases, hospitalizations), 211 and 311 calls, unemployment, distribution of relief funds/grants, and links to other COVID dashboards.</p>
<p>Nomination/ Election of Community Council Vice Chair</p>	<p>Hunter nominated Rachel Hampton as Vice Chair. 12 members voted in favor of electing Rachel Hampton as vice chair and none opposed.</p>
<p>Nomination of New Community Council Members</p>	<p>Hunter motioned that Saatvik Ahluwalia, Kelly Crook, Gloria Vera-Bedolla, Laura Goettsche, and Catherine Rockwell be voted in as new members of the Community Council in 2021 with a second by Rachel. 12 members voted in favor and none opposed.</p> <p>Hunter motioned to extend Nancy Gilliam and Nora Comstock's terms with a second by Rachel. 12 members voted in favor and none opposed.</p> <p>Nora acknowledged the service of Myneeka Cook, Thomas Martinez, and Ricardo Garay as they finish their terms on the Community Council.</p>
<p>2021 Planning Retreat</p>	<p>Workplan Process Summary: Nora overviewed the workplan process and reflected on the past year. She stated that 2020 ended up being a year of response to the pandemic noting that we learned a lot about the state of our community and perceived challenges from presenters. She noted that in preparation for 2021 the Community Council has been exploring different long-term approaches the Community Council could adopt including organizing around social capital domains, prioritization of dashboard socioeconomic indicators, and policy and civic engagement focus committees.</p> <p>2021 CAN Workplan Summary: Raul presented an overview of 2021 CAN Draft workplan and how it could tie into the 2021 Community Council workplan. The document he shared was based off the feedback from the 2 Board planning mini retreats. He highlighted Goal 1 which is to "enhance awareness of community needs and challenges requiring collaborative action and opportunities for engaging on these issues." He stated that we</p>

	<p>would continue our community engagement around language access, the dashboard, and race equity work. We will try to expand the information we provide into two other languages. Strategy 1.4 is about engaging the community in conversations about key challenges which relates to the Community Council; the council has hosted State of the Safety Net forums in the past. Strategy 1.3 is about cross promoting which we have been doing through the “Get Engaged” podcast. Goal 2 is about supporting and promoting collaborations. Strategy 2.1 is about the tools and resources. We want to do a “profiles of collaboration” on food access efforts in response to the pandemic. The issues that rose to the top of people’s concerns is children’s mental health and housing. The Board and Executive Committee both agreed that there needs to be a Regional Summit this year and it will most likely focus on economic growth. There will be discussion next year to finalize a topic.</p> <p>Overview of Workplan Template Summary: Nancy gave overview of workplan template document that was designed by Ara. This document will help identify a topic for the Community Council and help keep track of the work each committee completes. Having all the information in one place will help the council plan for the future, keep on track with meetings, and develop a report at the end of the year.</p> <p>(Breakout Notes Attached Below)</p>
Adjournment	Nora adjourned the meeting 8:10 pm.

2021 CAN CC Workplan Session Breakout Notes

Breakout 1

1. Under the broad category of basic needs, what are some focus areas or issues that may be worthy of analysis?
2. What kinds of community information will be needed to support this analysis (e.g. statistical, demographic, performance/outcome measures, qualitative/ quantitative, aggregated/disaggregated measures, etc.)

Group 1	<p>Homelessness was an area where it seems there is duplication and lack of efficiency. CAN might be able to play a role. Whatever we work on (whether it is homelessness or not), we need to ensure that we do not duplicate efforts.</p> <p>How do we take a holistic view of family need? If families are struggling with meeting their basic needs, how do we make it easier for them to access the different kinds of assistance that they need (assuming they are available)?</p> <p>Regarding efforts to address homelessness, is there an opportunity to align efforts? Would adding CAN's voice into the mix be strong enough to affect the dynamic?</p> <p>We need to consider the capacity that community council actually has to take-on these ideas.</p> <p>Is it prudent or necessary to select from issues that it appears the CAN board wants to work-on?</p>
Group 2	<p>Children's mental health, food security, shelter, and disruption of education. The question of how to deal with this disrupted year of education is something we are already dealing with but will need to deal with it a lot more over the summer and fall.</p> <p>Person Centered Report said we prioritize children.</p> <p>Some things are medium term things, like economic issues. Not as worried about children, looking more at job situation.</p> <p>What was going on earlier was more and more separation between services such as food service and construction, for people who did not have the computer skills and people in the tech sector. Crisis now has exacerbated that, if you are in tech you can WFH but other jobs not so much. Some people will need retraining to do something differently.</p> <p>Mental health is a huge issue we need to focus on, and not necessarily just in the traditional counseling sense</p> <p>First responders, funeral workers, healthcare workers, are folks on the front lines. We have lost many healthcare professionals as well as educators and other professionals who are leaving their professions which is causing a shortage.</p> <p>What kind of data or information is necessary?</p> <p>Interested in something like when Nora brought front line workers to talk about the needs. Would like more of that.</p> <p>Would like better information about current outcomes for minorities, more of the mapping on how these resources are getting to folks. How are these services being organized and delivered, and how is it being determined who needs what services/resources?</p> <p>As the recovery starts and folks get vaccinated, it will be interesting to see how many people are unable to return to the jobs they had. This will be very informative as to what the community response should be.</p>

	One aspect of data that we need is some assessment of how good the data is, how much of the data available is accurate? A guide to that would be helpful.
Group 3	<p>The undocumented community has been facing these issues since before the pandemic. The community is lacking in having ways to bring those efforts together instead of working in silos.</p> <p>The eviction crisis is going to be much worse than people anticipate with a series of cascading effects. This is what CAN should focus on. Better use of current housing programs and ideas for better systems.</p> <p>Housing first with hands-on services. mental health would be the second one because it is a major contributor to homelessness.</p> <p>Housing and Mental Health (ACES/ trauma)</p> <p>Get acquainted with the issues and get more insight. Speakers that have lived-in experiences. Domestic violence rose due to the pandemic and there is a lack of services addressing domestic violence.</p> <p>What are the existing procedures and what is the evictions court, property managers doing to prepare for evictions? This is research that can happen in the council.</p> <p>Research and define food insecurity</p>

Breakout 2

1. What roles and principles should the policy committee establish and what potential strategies should the policy committee pursue in 2021?
2. What roles and principles should the engagement committee establish and what potential strategies should the engagement committee pursue in 2021?

Group 1	<p>On the policy side, we need to be very focused on the issue selected and the type of recommendations made. It is difficult to do policy work as volunteers. It will take time to arrive at such recommendations. The focus may be more on learning about things that work in other cities or new research that might be applied locally.</p> <p>On the community engagement side, we should be sure that we are raising awareness about the research and other resources developed by community council and CAN more generally.</p> <p>Engaging individuals or families with lived experience may be another avenue or role for community council relating to community engagement.</p> <p>The community engagement committee should serve the role of raising awareness of the data, tools and resources that CAN and Community Council have developed or are currently working on.</p>
Group 2	<p>Recruiting somebody active in Kiwanis, a church group, or something like that that might be interested in testing out the deliberative dialogue platform.</p> <p>Yes, that is something that seems to be missing from CAN operations. CAN is so social activist oriented, but there is a massive amount of community-oriented thinking that are not politically oriented at all. It would be good if we connected with them.</p> <p>PTA groups, the Jay, maybe neighborhood associations.</p>

	<p>Role-playing aspect, have three people take different points of view to model the conversation, deliberate, and see what comes out of it. Kind of like a debate in high school or college.</p> <p>How much can CAN use its weight regarding evictions? How do we keep people from being in the streets? Who are the key players, how do we start building this movement to make sure the organizations are really talking? Organizations competing for money, can they collaborate? CAN could be useful in figuring out in terms of policy how we keep people in their homes vs figuring out what to do once they are out in the streets. Maybe one of the principles underlying policy is looking at preventative measures, short term, and long term. Are there short-term policy changes that can be done easily for quick wins in areas where attention is lacking? Also, another point of engaging other people, how do we identify key players and how do we get them involved?</p> <p>Include financial institutions in the conversation.</p> <p>Big issues are going to get attention. Lot of relatively small things that do not get attention for example felony conviction excluding people from accessing Pell grant.</p> <p>Maybe an issue is around advocacy, such as a more aggressive role leaning on these lending companies. Having a lot of foreclosed properties may be a problem for them, but they can still turn a profit.</p> <p>The thing to look for there is are there local funds available in some way? Are there local obstacles? How does eviction function locally?</p> <p>Regarding the Regional Summit, have 2 or 3 viewpoints, pre-prepared discussion to show that everybody needs to acknowledge these viewpoints.</p>
<p>Group 3</p>	<p><u>Policy Committee</u></p> <p>Committees need to define themselves with real statement of purpose. Unclear purpose makes it hard to communicate who we are, our values, and mission.</p> <p>Council members need to know each other and what each other do in order to communicate with each other. We need to set ground rules and build trust.</p> <p>We should amplify work that is already being done. We could form a relationship with the OVCT policy committee and help push what they are working on forward. Figure out where CAN can be most impactful in the community. One Voice and CAN relationship - What does that currently look like and what can it look like.</p> <p>Identify policies on state and federal levels and the gaps. Communicate that to the Community Engagement committee and have them bring it to the Board and partners. The two committees should connect.</p> <p><u>Community Engagement</u></p> <p>Talk directly to communities not through other non-profits or organizations, but actually canvas.</p> <p>Individuals that are in their communities "moving and shaking" people that have a real pulse on the community. Connect strategically and be a resource for CAN but as a Community Council get more connected with the community.</p> <p>Decrease duplication, increase amplification.</p>

	<p>Develop workshops and invite key people the "movers and shakers." Through zoom we can get together more easily. Models in the community of how they collaborate (profiles of collaboration)</p> <p>Defining a purpose and vision statement and make sure there is a delineation between the two groups.</p>
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