

CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 21, 2020

Zoom Video Conference

Present: Thomas Martinez, Nora Comstock, Rachel Hampton, Lou Serna, Nancy Gilliam, Nicholas Haigh, Marcia Beckford, Hunter Ellinger, James May, Caroline Reynolds, Ricardo Garay

Staff Present: Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill

Guests: Ara Merjanian

Call to Order and Announcements	Nora called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
Approval of August 17, 2020 Minutes	The August 17, 2020 minutes were approved as amended unanimously on a motion by Hunter with a second by Rachel. Thomas sent minor grammatical edits to Jelina.
CAN Community Council Chair's Report	Summary: Nora stated that she is working with Hunter to develop the reports for 2019 and 2020. She will send the draft reports to the council for feedback. She is excited for the possibilities for next year and will be sending out information for nominating new members. The Community Council chairs will be bringing forward a nomination for vice chair for 2021. She announced that the CAN Executive Committee and CAN staff discussed structure for the Community Council Workplan that will have continuity. She invited council members to attend the 2020 CAN retreat which will take place during the October and November Board meetings. The Community Council workplan will be developed from the CAN priorities. Nora wants to change the November CAN Community Council meeting from the 16 th to the 23 rd to be able to consider what is discussed during the planning retreats into the Community Council workplan. The Community Council will be hosting a Deliberative Dialogue in October regarding going back to work and restimulating the economy. In November, the Community Council will have a planning session to develop a workplan for 2021 and possibly through 2023.
CAN Executive Director Report	Summary: Raul stated that the Dashboard release will be September 23 rd . The dashboards data is a couple years old and by analyzing the data you could kind of see what the impact would be if something like COVID were to happen. It shows that the disparities that we were already seeing were exacerbated by the pandemic. Hopefully, this leads to more systemic change. Raul thanked Austin Public Health, Travis County Health and Human Services, Central Health, and CommUnity Care for making

	<p>changes in response to Austin Latino Coalition that mobilized around the disparate impacts of COVID for Latinos. The hospitalization rate was at 70% for Latinos and now it's a lot closer to our demographics.</p>
<p>Race and Equity Coalition: A Case Study</p>	<p>Summary: A lot of people were talking about race equity and how we would address institutional racism as a community. The City, ACC, and AISD all hired equity officers. There was already this idea that we weren't being effective because everyone was doing their own thing and there wasn't a way to know if we were duplicating efforts. ACC was a leader in those conversations even when the Mayor's taskforce was still meeting. They were having community conversations about how they can address institutional racism internally but also develop the community infrastructure to advocate for change. The main things that were happening that led people to collaborate were ACC's Truth Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT), Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities, CAN and One Voice's involvement in equity and inclusion work, and public entities responding to calls for increased focus on race by hiring equity officers. CAN is often at the beginning of these movements but doesn't end up "owning" the effort. CAN developed the CCDI Toolkit and providing training to partners 7 or 8 years ago. Raul mentioned that when he became Executive Director one of the first things he implemented was the equity analysis in the dashboard. Dr. Hawley convened a group to work on the TRHT that was meant to be separate of ACC and self-sustaining. We knew we wanted to support that effort. We also knew we needed a group that could speak to and support what equity officers were asking for and show that the community is supporting that work. The challenges with collaboration is organizational bandwidth, they take a lot of time, and the ability to agree. We launched the Central Texas Collective for Racial Equity on August 11, 2020. It took about 3 years and the conversations that are happening now are very different than when ACC was leading this effort. He showed the 21 charter members. Kazique Prince is the Interim Executive Director and Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette is the Chair. He stated that this is a way for CAN to show the importance of sticking to an issue through collaboration. Hopefully, this is lasting and can have an impact around racial equity. Another example is what we are doing with our Language Access Action Team. We have been working on it for about 4 years and this year we got the Executive Committee to fund a Language Access Fund at the Community Foundation that will allow language access project to happen.</p>

	<p>Q&A: What is the set agenda for the first meeting and how often will they meet? Raul answered quarterly meetings of the membership and there is still a lot of organizational stuff to finalize.</p>
<p>Discussion and Preparation for 2021</p>	<p>Nora stated that she's had discussions with Raul and Ara about possibilities for the Community Council's work and both will present potential frameworks.</p> <p>Summary: Raul stated that he sees that there are some people on the council that have more of a policy focus and some that have more of a community engagement focus. The challenge with the engagement is what to engage around. He suggested organizing around those two interests. The policy committee could review the CAN Dashboard to identify policy interests, manage assessment and planning processes, and communicate their findings. The community engagement committee could engage with community council alumni, facilitate deliberative dialogues, and develop/ select community leadership training models. Each committee could pick 2-3 things they want to accomplish for the year and we would still come together as a whole group each month or every other month. When we had issue area groups, each recommendation went through the community council before it was recommended to the board. Which defined the community council's role of providing recommendations to the board. This group could be the group that defines Community Council's role more clearly.</p> <p>Summary: Ara presented a document explaining his suggested framework for the council's work. He stated that everything that we use to take for granted are up in the air now due to COVID and as Raul explained earlier the gaps that were there before are now wider. He wanted to create a framework that allowed the Community Council to move through all the types of capitals and not just going year to year based off interest. A possible framework could be to use the dashboard categories. He shared that its helpful to think about a theory of change and that can shape action. The council's goals is to inform and impact. This links with Raul's suggestion of community engagement and influencing the community. He suggested alignment strategies that can be used regardless of what framework is used. The alignment strategies are attending planning retreats, identify CAN member organizations that are a part of Dashboard categories, and engage with the Dashboard Steering Committee (DSC). He suggested a multi-year timeline and an example of what the timeline would look like played out using the example of "We are Healthy." Each step in the timeline lasts about 2-3 months. The steps are understanding & selecting, discovery & discussion, planning & prioritizing, reviewing & engaging, deliberating & deducting, and then repeat the process.</p>

	<p>The benefits of this framework are that it would be easy to understand for CAN members, it allows the Community Council to increase its impact, it engages CAN members and the DSC, it connects with interests of CAN members about moving the dial on community indicators, and it helps the community understand key issues.</p> <p>Q&A: Hunter stated that he thinks the two-committee structure that Raul presented may be better for the Community Council. He thinks adding a committee for the executive team would be beneficial because they work on the agenda and recruiting. He doesn't think there would be any need for change in the bylaws. The action team is still in the bylaws and is something that was more relevant in early years of CAN. Raul added that the process Ara described still needs to happen especially for the policy committee.</p> <p>Lou asked if there would be a leadership committee to track and monitor the movement of the other two committees. Nora answered that it would be the executive committee.</p> <p>Nancy added that she thinks this structure gives us a structure to have a report at the end of the year. Rachel agreed.</p> <p>Nancy added that focusing on "we are healthy" would help the community engage with the race equity group, language access, and cultural competency.</p> <p>Ricardo added that he would want to make sure we stay away from deficit-based language and a better analysis of power.</p> <p>Nick added that he likes the idea of increased structure and having real benchmarks.</p> <p>Marcia added that she appreciates that work will be done on policy change and that there will be structure.</p>
Adjournment	Nora adjourned the meeting 8:05 pm.