

CAN Community Council Meeting Notes

Monday, January 24, 2022

Zoom Video Conference

Present: Nora Comstock, Caroline Reynolds, Laura Goettsche, Donovan DePriest, Rachel Hampton, Patricia Longoria, Anaami Pandit Haji, James May, Nancy Gilliam, Lydia Galvan, Lisa Boyd

Staff Present: Jelina Tunstill, Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto

Guests: Ara Merjanian, Jenzie Zane, Dulce Gruwell, Ariel Comstock

Call to Order and Announcements	Rachel called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. A quorum was present. Each member introduced themselves.
Approval of December 13, 2021 Minutes	The December 13, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Nora and second by Nancy.
CAN Community Council Chair's Report	Summary: Rachel explained her role in the Community Council and the Community Council's role in the larger CAN network. She stated that Tamara Atkinson is the CAN Board Chair, and the two main priorities are ensuring an equitable economic recovery and mental health. She stated that last year the Community Council did about 3 years of work by picking three topic areas and writing reports for all three in one year. Today we will be hearing from the Food insecurity workgroup and mental health workgroup about their report updates. She stated that she wants the Community Council to be able to select priorities for the year.
Executive Director's Report	Summary: Raul shared that we are no longer fully staffed and we are looking to hire an Administrative/Communications Specialist. CAN has started getting partnership agreements from the Executive Committee and will reach out to the rest of the CAN partners next. There are 3 Expanding Opportunity Forums scheduled for this week and throughout February as a follow-up to our Regional Summit that took place in November. He then provided a priority area status update. Language access, race equity, and pandemic equity are in the engagement phase. Economic recovery and mental health are in the research and assessment phase. He shared a similar status report for Community Council that showed evictions is in the engagement phase. Food security and mental health are in the plan development phase. He asked the Community Council to consider the Board priorities as they begin to plan their priorities for 2022.

	<p>Q&A: Caroline asked if there is a focus on upskilling and training to get people employed. Raul answered that ACC and Workforce Solutions are doing a lot around rapid certification.</p>
<p>Vice Chair Nomination</p>	<p>Rachel nominated Donovan for Vice Chair.</p> <p>Donovan DePriest was accepted unanimously as the 2022 CAN Community Council Vice Chair with a motion by Nora and second by James.</p>
<p>Workgroup Report Updates</p>	<p>Food Insecurity Workgroup Summary: Raul shared the final report with the addition of 2 graphs on 211 calls for food assistance and percent of individuals who are food insecure.</p> <p>The Food Insecurity Report was approved unanimously to move forward to the CAN Board on a motion by Nora and a second by Donovan.</p> <p>Q&A: Nora shared that a company called Iron Ox in Lockhart that bought land for food distribution. Donovan stated that their workgroup knows there isn't one perfect "fix-all" solution and just tried to give an idea of possible solutions. Nora added that ACC has an entire campus dedicated to agriculture and would like to make sure that is reflected.</p> <p>Follow-up: Rachel will reach out to Donovan about presenting the report to the CAN Board February 11th.</p> <p>Mental Health Workgroup Summary: The mental health workgroup presented their final report. Nora provided the background information and context. She shared that mental health is not a new issue and has only been worsened by the collective trauma of the pandemic. She shared a list of stressors, contributing factors to trauma, illness, and stress, areas of success in our community for addressing mental health, and outlined the areas of focus for the report. Jelina shared the data that was included in the report relating to CAN Dashboard data, children's mental health, tech, isolation, social connectedness, and civic engagement. Anaami shared what the workgroup learned throughout interviews and Community Council presentations regarding mental health. Ara presented short term and long term recommendations to address mental health and community well being in the schools, homes, and in the community.</p>

	<p>The Mental Health Draft Workgroup Report was approved unanimously to move forward to the CAN Executive Committee for their initial consideration and feedback on a motion by Nora and a second by Nancy.</p> <p>Q&A: Nora offered for people to read the full report and email feedback.</p>
<p>2022 Planning</p>	<p>Summary: Rachel asked if mental health is where the Community Council would like to put its focus in 2022. There was a consensus that mental health would be the primary focus. She proposed 2 pathways. One subgroup that would be more direct, action focused, and community organizing and another workgroup that would be a continuation of the current workgroup. The current workgroup structure is to identify speakers and research the topic and share information in our individual networks. Nora added that the expectation would be to share pre-prepared content with our networks. Rachel stated that the multiple workgroup structure worked well for the Community Council last year and the February meeting could be used to determine the “what” and “how” of the 2-3 workgroups. Rachel asked everyone to read the mental health workgroup report ahead of the February meeting.</p> <p>Q&A: Raul asked if the Community Council wants to identify priorities before the report goes to the Board or send it to the Executive Committee as the Community Council begins working on the report simultaneously. Nora and Ara agreed.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Rachel adjourned the meeting 8:00 pm.</p>