



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

8/12/22 Minutes

Location: Austin City Hall – Boards and Commissions Room

Present: Sundal Ali, Austin ISD; Moin Baig, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; Chris Cervini, Austin Community College; Emily Cicchini, One Voice Central Texas; Devon Darden, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Donovan DePriest, CAN Community Council; Amy Einhorn, St. David's Foundation; David Evans, Austin Travis County Integral Care; Simone Talma Flowers, Interfaith Action of Central Texas; Vanessa Fuentes, City of Austin; Juan Garza, Central Health; Rachel Hampton, CAN Community Council; Liz Johnson, St. Edward's University; Pilar Sanchez, Travis County; Jeremy Martin, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Rudy Metayer, Pflugerville; Annette Tielle, Del Valle ISD;

Other guests: Catherine Crago, HACA; Laura Marmolejo, ACC; Catherine McHorse, Success by 6; Lawrence Lyman, Travis County; Hal Katz, Integral Care.

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

Call to order and Introduction: City Council Member Fuentes called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.

Minutes: Because quorum for the previous meeting was not met, the 5/13/2022 minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Devon Darden, with a second by Emily Cicchini. The notes from the 6/10/2022 work session did not require a vote since a quorum of the board was not present at that meeting.

Community Council Update: Rachel Hampton discussed progress made at the June meeting. The Data workgroup is working on securing sources for community mental health data. The Council is also working on a public awareness campaign that will work in concert with the Language Access Action Team on increasing awareness of mental health and wellness. At the June meeting the Council created a schedule of panelists and experts active in this field. Integral Care will present at the meeting next week.

CAN Executive Director's Report: Raul Alvarez mentioned that the CAN Podcast is nearing its 100th episode. We plan to have a celebration on the release date, September 13. The Podcast Calendar also has a new format, with categories of events that mirror our goal statements in the Dashboard as well as events related to equity and other free and fun local events. Next, Alvarez discussed the Language Access Project for Mental Health & Wellness, with the goal of identifying ways of connecting non-English speakers with mental health services and resources. We are currently in the final stages of the RFP process to select a community partner to lead the project focused on serving the Spanish-speaking community. The committee tasked with developing criteria for identifying two other language communities to serve via this project have also had their first meeting. In November, there will be another Expanding Opportunity forum that builds on the discussions from last year's Regional Summit.

Regional Summit and Expanding Opportunity Forums Review & Discussion: Raul mentioned that Dr. Pedigo's plan for creating a more resilient and equitable Texas included a framework consisting of many different elements. This fall we will create a planning team around expanding opportunity to look at everything we've learned and start focusing in on a topic or two that CAN is well suited to address. Since the summit we've hosted a series of Expanding Opportunity forums in January, February, and April. These forums were recorded, and the videos are available on our website. The January forum was on the topic of expanding opportunity for communities of color during the economic recovery. The February forum was on the topic of expanding opportunity for women during the economic recovery. The April forum was on the topic of creating a family-friendly workplace to attract and retain employees.

In November we have another forum scheduled to discuss the role a community-wide apprenticeship program can play in expanding opportunity. We hope to bring in folks from other communities outside Central Texas who are currently operating apprenticeship programs to see how their models might work in a community like ours. Apprenticeship programs play an important role in major cities across the globe, but they remain absent from most cities across the US. This could be an opportunity for our community to benefit from models that has worked elsewhere.

Public-Private Partnerships Addressing Issues Relating to CAN Priority Presentation & Discussion: Council Member Fuentes introduced the panel that featured several entities who have an interest in seeing that there is equitable access to economic opportunity and that have made use of innovative partnerships to expand their impact.

Dr. Laura Marmolejo, associate dean of applied manufacturing programs at Austin Community College, discussed how community colleges can partner with industry to impact lives. One of the ways ACC achieves this is working with the Austin Regional Manufacturing Association (ARMA), that is a collaborative of different manufacturing companies in our community. Together they've worked on improving the job pipeline, enhancing secondary education with the high school academy, developing a bachelor's degree advisory board, and finding and training new instructors. The Certified Production Tech (CPT) program was developed in partnership with a local semiconductor company to identify the skills needed for entry level job opportunities. It embeds industry-relevant hands-on skills with a certification, creates a pipeline to enter the manufacturing industry, and has demonstrated success in Manor High School. The Earn and Learn partnerships help support the Samsung apprentice program through scheduling and mentorship. They also support the Applied Materials DOL apprenticeship, work with Tesla to support their high school graduate program with early training and provide scholarships. The ACC Manufacturing Pathway provides a stepped credential earning process through which students may enter the CPT program and work their way up to a bachelor's degree of Applied Technology.

Cathy McHorse from Success by 6 ATX, began with an overview of her work with the coalition and Early Matters Greater Austin (EMGA) and the Best Places for Working Parents initiative. The EMGA work is part of the collective impact initiative of the Success by 6 coalition. It was created by United Way and E³ Alliance to engage the business sector and bring business leaders to the table. In Travis County, more than 1/3 of children under age 6 live in low-income households. Of these children, 90% are children of color. Only 36% of Travis County children who live in low-income households are receiving early learning services. The EMGA alliance focuses on the relationship between access to high-quality early education and the short and long-term economic success of Texas. It works to promote the Best Places for Working Parents initiative, influence public policy, and advance innovation & education. Large gaps exist between the kindergarten readiness levels of low-income and non-low-income children, as well as for children of color. This amounts to an estimated loss of \$9.39 billion in revenue annually in Texas because parents are unable to work due to lack of childcare. Over the past 2 years, EMGA has designated over 140 Austin businesses as Best Place for Working Parents and advocated for local investments in early childhood education & state legislation to strengthen the educational system. They also encourage businesses to engage in family friendly policies and benefits. In the past 2 years, Best Place for Working Parents has been launched in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and El Paso as well as in Alabama, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington. A survey they conducted showed that onsite childcare and childcare assistance were the two least likely benefits to be offered by employers in our area.

Catherine Crago, Head of Strategic Initiatives & Resource Development for the Housing Authority of Central Austin (HACA), discussed some of the innovative strategies they have used to meet the needs of their residents through the Austin Pathways program. Crago began with an overview of the Smart Cities Initiative and the collaborative work

they have undertaken. Advocating for affordable (free) internet access is an important aspect of this work. Another program they have worked on is making computing technology accessible for folks to participate in educational opportunities from home. The Austin Pathways Program offers scholarships, digital inclusion, and smart city equity opportunities. There is also a program that saves decommissioned devices from city or county agencies such as ACC or the City of Austin, to be re-imaged and made accessible to Austin nonprofits. Interns from ACC also provide technical support. Donors to Austin Pathways include NGOs and 501c3s, corporate donors and in-kind gifts. Another initiative consisted of energy ambassadors assisting HACA residents with the installation and use of smart thermostats such as Nest, which allow caregivers to remotely adjust temperature and consume energy more economically. As a place-based organization, they work on blending and braiding financing for infrastructure, scaling critical services in a timely fashion, finding ways to lower the cost service & increase program participation, and making workforce, civic engagement, and community-wide innovation accessible. One goal is to eliminate the barrier of childcare. Technology allows us to overcome some barriers, such as transportation, and improving the family's ability to achieve their goals. With the impact of the pandemic, we have a deeper understanding of why we need digital equity.

Adjournment: Councilmember Fuentes adjourned the meeting at 2:51 pm.