



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

05/12/23 Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: **Tamara Atkinson**, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; **Jessica Chen**, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **Donovan DePriest**, CAN Community Council; **David Evans**, Integral Care; **Jacqueline Evans**, CapMetro; **Vanessa Fuentes**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Liz Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Patricia Longoria**, CAN Community Council; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Rudy Metayer**, Pflugerville City Council Member; **Regan Gruber Moffitt**, St. David's University; **Monica Muñoz Andry**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; **Pilar Sanchez**, Travis County HHS; **Annette Tielle**, Del Valle ISD; **Celia Hughes**, One Voice Central Texas.

Other guests: Rachel Hampton, CAN Community Council; Ara Merjanian;

CAN staff in attendance: Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill

Call to order and Introduction: Austin City Council member Vanessa Fuentes called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. New members introduced themselves.

Minutes: The 04/14/2023 CAN Board minutes were approved, after a motion submitted by Liz Johnson, which was seconded by Tamara Atkinson. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Community Council Report: The Community Council is finalizing the Mental Health report and working on ways to support the Mental Health First Aid initiative. They are framing their work through a theme of resiliency. Next steps include presenting recommendations to partners on how, collaboratively, our network of organizations will be able to support the community in these efforts.

Executive Director's Report: The focus on mental health is a result of the sharp increase over the past few years in the percentage of adults who report poor mental health in Travis County. Efforts include the Mental Health First Aid training initiative, the Language Access & Mental Health Project, and the Community Council Mental Health Report. The number of Mental Health First Aid sessions has been adjusted to three, with a total of 52 individuals registered at this time. The disparities in unemployment by race in Travis County indicate we need to work harder on building a community with more equitable access to opportunities. The work on expanding opportunity began with a planning team that was created in March. The June Board meeting will include a discussion on "ensuring an equitable economic recovery." Follow-up activities and outreach leading up to the Regional Summit will take place from June to October, with the Summit planned for November.

Mental Health First Aid Update: The press conference was on Wednesday, with the participation of several local partners. With over 200 folks already registered community-wide, we are well on our way to meeting our goal of training 1,000 people. At this point, Councilmember Fuentes made a motion for the CAN board to show its support and intention around training 1,000 residents with Mental Health First Aid as a priority of CAN. The motion was seconded by Pilar Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously. Feedback: part of it is how does it translate to individual member organizations? One option we discussed involved creating a pledge form that commits the organization to train a specific number of staff (contingent on organizational size). Another question regards the education arena, which may have some funding to offset the cost of training. Would it make sense to engage in something this summer, perhaps an extra focus on education? Considering the interest in the training, how many do we want to do per month that can get us to our goal? The further we can plan them out, the better for promotion and attendance. We can also rotate the location among partners. Dell Valle can host over the summer.

Recommendations from Mental Health Report & Discussion: There is a new draft of the report on the shared drive. The 1st recommendation is to ensure mental health insurance benefits for employees are adequate. The 2nd

recommendation is to provide funding for or provide supports for peer specialist, such as vouchers or livable wage compensation. Third: expand peer support programs in Spanish and in other languages. Fourth: utilize existing trusted systems like community health workers to help expand availability of peer support services. Fifth: initiate a collaboration to train and/or recruit more mental health professionals to Travis County. Sixth: launch a campaign to train service providers and community members to respond to mental health episodes. Seventh: use data sources, like the ones shared in this report and others, to direct mental health services to high need populations. Eighth: focus resources to better serve communities of color, since people of color may be currently accessing mental health services at a lower rate than Whites. Ninth: CAN partners should work to publicize the mental health toolkits being developed for non-English speaking populations. Eleventh: establish a clearinghouse of information about local mental health needs. Twelfth: publish a report of data from the clearinghouse documenting local mental health needs. The final recommendation is to track data relating to number of new peer support specialist and community health workers who intend to focus on mental health support. Fourteenth is that mental health training programs ensure an evaluation component that tracks the number of individuals trained and the number of community service members served through those programs.

Small Group Discussion:

Mental Health First Aid: For UT it would be great to kick the academic year off with some training dates so that we can plan on folks getting this training around the same time as admin go to faculty meetings. Through a grant with Dell Med, UT has begun the process of developing a Community Mental Health council geared toward ensuring equitable research around mental wellness in communities. Integral Care can have their Community Planner, Mary Dodd, have a portion of her assignment to work with Raul to help design some of this reporting and collection, and work on logistics and alignment. Next steps should include a meeting to discuss these details further. We should also continue to think about how all these interacting pieces fit together to develop a comprehensive, integrated approach. Near-peer programs can also be helpful and could be expanded. Having some way to capture general interest and feedback would also be helpful.

Expanding Opportunity: At most of our forums, having a family friendly employer came up as an important factor for workers. Would Early Matters Greater Austin be willing to share with us the trends they are seeing in their responding businesses? What would Early Matters consider a “Gold Standard” among those responders? A lot of the areas we have here are areas of need that have been identified in the working plan by Laura Patino at the Chief Resilience Office with the City of Austin. One of the greatest needs to help “connect local people to local jobs” is getting the word out to communities that are underserved with workforce development programs. CAN could develop a broad understanding of the available resources for no-cost career development (including apprenticeship) and help promote resources and agencies that can help folks grow their skills and get good jobs. Hub entities that can be contacted may be more effective than existing structures at keeping track of available resources as funding comes and goes. This group should prioritize the suggestions/recommendations develop by staff and present the prioritized list to the full board in June. This would help us plan out the rest of the year.

Adjournment: Vanessa Fuentes adjourned the meeting at 2:01 pm.