



# CAN Board of Directors Meeting

06/09/23 Minutes

**Location:** Austin Energy HQ  
Shudde Faith Community Room

**Present:** **Tamara Atkinson**, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; **Celso Báez**, CapMetro; **Donovan DePriest**, CAN Community Council; **Loretta Edelen**, Austin Community College; **David Evans**, Integral Care; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas; **Vanessa Fuentes**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Juan Garza**, Central Health; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Kim McPherson**, St. David's Foundation; **Pilar Sanchez**, Travis County HHS; **Jeffrey Travillion**, Commissioner, Travis County

**Other guests:** Ara Merjanian

**CAN staff in attendance:** Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill

**Call to order:** Austin City Council member Vanessa Fuentes called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

**Community Council Report:** The Community Council is drilling into the direction they will be following this year. An important focus will be on getting more community engagement. As of now, they anticipate that the focus will be on youth and elderly issues. The Community Council is also recruiting new members, so if you have recommendations, please send them in.

**Executive Director's Report:** Work continues on CAN priorities, especially around mental health. The Mental Health First Aid Initiative commitments include a request for CAN member organizations to estimate the number of staff, volunteers, etc. that they hope to train. MHFA training for CAN education partners will be available on July 18 and August 8. Opportunities are also in development for folks to train to be a MHFA trainer. The September 2023 to June 2024 schedule is forthcoming. Mental health toolkits are also under development in Spanish, Arabic, & Vietnamese. In terms of Ensuring an Equitable Economic Recovery, follow-up activities and outreach leading up to the Regional Summit will take place from June through October. As disparities persist in unemployment by race/ethnicity, this continues to be an important area of work. Common themes from the Expanding opportunity forums include family-friendly policies, pathways to better careers/opportunities, affordability as a barrier to economic mobility, and the need to prop-up small businesses. Cross-sector approaches showing great potential include place-based approaches and apprenticeships. Complicating factors include racism and the small businesses lost during the pandemic.

**Mental Health First Aid Update:** Work continues with Integral Care and local school districts to create opportunities for educators to train in MHFA, including youth MHFA. From late July to early August might be the best time for teachers to be trained. It might also be helpful to open the training up to PTA members from the surrounding neighborhood. Every campus should have a planning team with diverse stakeholders. Members who attended the training also shared their experience, adding that it might be a good training for first responders to attend. Additional trainings will be announced as they become available. The pledge forms will help partners determine how many people they will need to train per month in order to meet the goal.

**Presentation & Discussion, Ensuring an Equitable Economic Recovery:** Raul shared a 3-page resource list developed from input gathered at the Forums and Summit regarding possible areas of focus for CAN. Another document included the outcomes of a poll with the planning team to prioritize solutions & recommendations, cross-sector approaches, and complicating factors. Members reviewed the options before prioritizing.

**Prioritization Exercise Results & Direction:** Members gathered and, through a collaborative exercise, ranked priorities. The scores from the exercise will be shared with the Executive Committee who will make suggest a strategy to be considered at the next CAN board meeting.

**Adjournment:** Vanessa Fuentes adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.