

CAN Community Council Meeting Notes

Monday, June 26, 2023

Zoom Video Conference

Present: Kelly Crook, Nancy Gilliam, Batool Abbasi, Patricia Longoria Camacho, Donovan DePriest, Nora Comstock, Caroline Reynolds

Staff Present: Jelina Tunstill, Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto

Guests: Ara Merjanian

Call to Order and Announcements	Donovon called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. A quorum was not present.
Approval of March 20, 2023, April 17, 2023, and May 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes	The March 20, 2023, April 17, 2023, and May 15, 2023 minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum. They will be moved to the next meeting.
Community Council Chair's Report	<p>Summary: Donovan stated that at the last Board meeting they prioritized goals relating to an equitable economic recovery. Donovan wanted to address how the Community Council could support the CAN Board and utilize work that has already been done. One of the focuses of today's meeting will be setting up a plan for the Community Council moving forward for supporting the equitable economic recovery and the work that has been done with mental health.</p>
Executive Director's Report	<p>Summary: Raul stated we've been doing a lot of work around mental health and wellness which is one of the two priorities identified for this year. In terms of our Language Access Project for Mental Health and Wellness, we're getting close to finalizing our mental health toolkit that's focused on serving the Spanish speaking community. The process is just now beginning for the Arabic and Vietnamese speaking communities.</p> <p>The lead partner that's going to focus on developing the mental health toolkit to serve the Arabic speaking community is a group called SAIVA. We haven't found a lead community partner for the Vietnamese community. Many nonprofits don't have the capacity to take on a project like this, so we might have to create a collaborative group around that topic with multiple groups instead of just one lead partner. We should have kind of a beta version of the Spanish toolkit available by the end of July. The other thing we launched in the last month is our initiative to train 1000 staff</p>

	<p>members or volunteers of our CAN partner organizations on Mental Health First Aid. We had several trainings in late May and early June. There's another training coming up in early August and hopefully several others. We are working to schedule something specifically for educators for Del Valle ISD, Manor ISD, and AISD. Several CAN staff and Community Council members are doing the train-the-trainers training for Mental Health First Aid at the end of July. In the last six weeks, over 100 people from our CAN partner organizations have been trained in Mental Health First Aid. Once we receive the schedule for the fall trainings, we will send that out to you all.</p>
<p>Presentation of Past Community Council Reports and CAN Board Priorities</p>	<p>Building a Person-Centered Community Report Presentation Summary: The first report Raul covered was the Building a Person-Centered Community report that began in 2014 but was published in 2016. This report came out of conversations focused on the State of the Safety Net forums around affordable and safe housing, employment and work supports, healthy living and care, cultural proficiency, and interpretation/translation services. Through those conversations it was determined that providers try to address family needs or individual needs holistically through a person-centered approach. The Community Council took that concept and brought in providers who serve the community, not just through health, but with other services as well, and asked them about if and how their services were person-centered and the wins and challenges of being person centered. So that conversation in 2015 with those service providers culminated the Person-Centered Community Summit. We had over 100 people attend, and we had a conversation about the concepts associated with person centered care that we can apply more broadly to create a person-centered community. Following that summit, the Community Council spent another year studying some of the best practices in person centered care, figuring out how we apply it across other areas of life, and considering how it impacts bridging the economic divide. The Community Council identified 8 principles that could lead to creating a person-centered community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We prioritize the safety and well-being of all children. 2. We provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for employees/clients. 3. We strive to identify and eliminate existing inequities, especially by race and income. 4. We have a shared community responsibility/accountability for achieving equitable outcomes for all people. 5. We consider the impact that language and culture have on the effectiveness of programs and services.

6. We listen to clients and give meaningful consideration to their input.
7. We base services on clients' needs, resources, lives, and schedules.
8. We help people find their voice so that they can advocate for themselves, their families, and their community.

Raul stated that as we begin talking about ensuring an equitable economic recovery, the Community Council might apply these principles in the process of trying to see where being person-centered relates to ensuring an equitable economic recovery.

Comments and Suggestions: Ara added that this report includes a 2-gen component. Raul stated that 2-gen work is a strategy for being person-centered. Donovan suggested going back to the people who participated in the summit and see what the impact was and if there is something new and revitalized that we need to do. Donovan asked for the questions that were asked during the Summit to inform what we should ask now.

Child Poverty Report Presentation Summary: Raul stated that the Child Poverty Report stemmed from the first principle in the Building a Person-Centered Community Report. Children of color are 5 times more likely to be in poverty if you look at that subset of the population. The Community Council decided to deep dive into the topic of Child Poverty. The 3 strategies or approaches that the report highlights is using a family-friendly and person-centered approach, focusing on public awareness and messaging, and taking a systems approach to addressing challenges faced by families in poverty. We heard from organizations serving formerly incarcerated people and the Community Council felt that it was important to highlight wrap around services for children who have a parent that was incarcerated. They also highlighted access to affordable housing and wrap around services and quality childcare for individuals trying to access workforce training. For the focus on public awareness and messaging, the Community Council created civics messages to raise awareness about child poverty. For taking a systems approach to address challenges faced by families in poverty, the Community Council suggested developing pathways for accessing services, considering how the physical environment impacts equity and opportunity, helping the state understand what is happening with state and national legislation, and helping advance the community schools model.

Comments and Suggestions: Ara stated that at the same time as this report the City of Austin designated themselves as a

	<p>“Compassionate Community”. He suggested we consider this in our “look back” to see what they have done since that designation.</p>
<p>CAN CC Workplan Discussion</p>	<p>Summary: Since there wasn’t a quorum, this agenda item was a free flow of ideas around how to approach “looking back” at these reports. Donovan suggested looking at more than just the City, including CAN Board member organizations. He also stated that he wants to focus on reporting to the CAN Board what the community needs with a focus on asking the community what they need. Kelly added that she is interested in not just the CAN Board members, but also specific organizations that have this a specific mission. She stated that no one is going to focus on their mental health if their basic needs aren’t met. Economic recovery, to her, means that people are at that stable level to where they can then move towards other things. Donovan stated that stability looks different for different places and cultures, and it ranges with opportunity. There are places where there is no opportunity, but stability is simplistic. One thing we will need to consider is that all of Austin is not alike. Caroline added that most children have similar basic needs. Donovan pointed out that even in school districts, different schools have different resources. When we are looking at economic recovery, what part of the city are we talking about, and what are the people in those areas saying they need. The building a person-centered community framework went through a pandemic, so looking at whether or not those 8 principles kicked into gear during that time and thereafter would be interesting to look at. Nancy stated that they asked nonprofits what they needed to be person-centered and stated we could ask some of those same organizations is they were able to make progress on those needs or if their needs are different since the pandemic has happened. Ara suggested making this year’s Community Council process an 18-month process instead of 12-month and possibly create a mid-process report. He also suggested having United Way and the call center coming to present.</p> <p>Raul shared the results of the prioritization activity from the Board meeting around ensuring an equitable economic recovery. The top 2 topics were workforce development and addressing affordability pressures. He shared they are going to take those two topics and create a 12-18 month workplan and also plan the November Expanding Opportunity Summit around those topics.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.</p>