



## CAN Board of Directors Meeting 08/11/23 Minutes

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Present:** **Monica Muñoz Andry**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, **Tamara Atkinson**, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; **Celso Báez**, CapMetro; **Chris Cervini**, 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; **Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Rachel Hampton**, CAN Community Council; **Celia Hughes**, One Voice Central Texas; **Liz Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Rudy Metayer**, Pflugerville City Council Member; Regan Moffitt, St. David's Foundation; **Pilar Sanchez**, Travis County HHS; **Christopher Weddle**, Dell Valle ISD; **Patricia Longoria**, CAN Community Council.

**Other guests:** Licelda Briones, Hispanic Austin Leadership; Enrique Castro, Hispanic Austin Leadership; Stephanie Gatica, Hispanic Austin Leadership; Hal Katz, Integral Care; Stephanie Lang; UT Austin; 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 1:07 pm.

**Minutes:** The 05/12/2023 and 06/09/2023 CAN Board minutes were approved, after a motion submitted by Celia Hughes, which was seconded by Pilar Sanchez. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Community Council Report:** Patricia Longoria mentioned that the Community Council is working on reviewing some of the initiatives from past years as well as closing out some of their work on the behavioral health space. They are also reviewing opportunities related to previous work and collaborations to see which areas have been successful and which areas may need additional work. They are also looking at economic equity and reviewing their capacity in that space. The work plan for the upcoming year will be finalized at the next meeting.

**Executive Director's Report:** The focus over this summer has been research and planning. The 2024 CAN Dashboard Report is planned to be released this fall. Some of the indicators have had their goals met (food insecurity, driving alone to work, and smoking), so the Dashboard Steering Committee has been providing advice regarding possible adjustments to the current goals. Work on the 2023 CAN Work Plan Priorities also continues. Mental health is an important focus because the most recent data show an increase in the percent of adults who reported 5 or more days of poor mental health in the previous month. The Mental Health First Aid training initiative continues, with, as of July 31, 2023, a total 512 individuals who work with CAN member organizations having been trained. The Spanish mental health toolkit is close to being finished. This toolkit (which is also available in English) will be used to create a website while a social media campaign will also help facilitate sharing of the tools. Other work has included a prioritization process to outline a role for CAN around "ensuring an equitable economic recovery" and the continuation a planning team to help guide the work. The team reviewed learnings from the 2021

Regional Summit and 2022 Expanding Opportunity Forums and prioritized the identified strategies, which were refined by the CAN Board and Executive Committee. The selected topics are: address affordability pressures for individuals participating in workforce training opportunities; and promote & support workforce development opportunities aimed at upskilling, including apprenticeships and other earn & learn opportunities.

**Mental Health First Aid Update:** This kind of education is critical. We are currently over halfway to meeting our goal. With increased efforts in training the trainers, we can meet and exceed our goal. Please let us know if you find that trainings are full so that we can evaluate the ability to add more offerings.

**Presentation & Discussion - Hispanics and Mental Health report:** Monica Muñoz Andry introduced the other members from the GAHCC Hispanic Austin Leadership Work Group on Mental Health and provided a brief overview of their work. The presentation included a discussion of myths and facts related to mental health, highlighting how Texas is the worst state in the USA for mental health and Hispanics fare worse & are less likely to receive services. They also spoke with several organizations around mental health and the Latino community, including NAMI Central Texas, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., Real Queens, Girasol Texas, and Contigo Wellness. The main barriers that were identified included language barriers, lack of cultural competence, stigmas around mental health, poverty & health insurance, immigration status, and gender roles. They also found that sharing testimonials from the community is a powerful way to create impactful awareness. Next steps include talking about the issues, listening to feedback, and getting involved with advocacy.

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