



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

09/08/23 Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: **Monica Muñoz Andry**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; **Celso Báez**, CapMetro, **Amelia Casas**, City of Austin; **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **David Evans**, Integral Care; **Kimberly Holiday**, City of Pflugerville; **Celia Hughes**, One Voice Central Texas; **Liz Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Regan Moffitt**, St. David's Foundation; **Amber Warne**, Workforce Solutions; **Ofelia Zapata**, Austin ISD Trustee; **Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin

Other guests: Hal Katz, Integral Care; Ara Merjanian

CAN staff in attendance: Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill

Call to order: CAN Executive Director Raul Alvarez called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. New members introduced themselves.

Minutes: The 08/11/2023 CAN Board minutes were approved, after a motion submitted by Trustee Zapata, which was seconded by Amelia Casas. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Community Council Report: Liz Johnson

Executive Director's Report: The CAN Dashboard Report will be published on November 1. The Language Access Project for Mental Health & Wellness, developed with support from St. David's Foundation and United Healthcare, includes development of a mental health toolkit for Spanish-speakers. Toolkits are in the process of being developed for community members who speak Arabic and Vietnamese. A social media campaign will help promote the availability of these resources.

Regarding the transition to a Texas Unincorporated Non-Profit Association, most of our members have completed their Member Agreements. We are looking at the November meeting to have a "signing ceremony" to create the Nonprofit Association. Prior approval of the by-law changes is required. Ofelia moved to approve bylaws changes. Hal Katz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mental Health First Aid Update: Work around the Mental Health First Aid initiative continues, with a total of 627 individuals who are affiliated with CAN member organizations having been trained as of August 31, 2023. CAN member organizations should estimate the number of individuals they hope to train and complete a pledge form. Additional training dates are available on September 29, November 10, and November 15. As we continue, it is important to think about the broader goal to be considered once this initial challenge is met. Once goal is met, we may want to shift the focus to a providing "train the trainers" opportunities so that we can build the infrastructure that might be needed for a broader campaign.

Update on Focus Area Selection and Small Group Discussion: We selected our priorities around ensuring an equitable economic recovery and presented those at the previous meeting. The Executive Committee further refined the strategies ranked highest by the Board. The selected topics were to address affordability pressures for individuals participating in workforce training opportunities (housing, childcare, healthcare, transportation, and food), perhaps with an asset map of the current programs, industries, and availability; and to promote & support workforce development opportunities aimed at upskilling, including apprenticeships and other Earn & Learn opportunities, perhaps by having workforce partners discuss what they currently are doing and also bringing in non-CAN partners to the conversation.

Affordability is an integral part of expanding opportunity. Staff and planning team suggestions include researching and creating information sheets about existing programs that assist with navigation of public assistance programs and wrap-around supports that workforce training programs currently provide. We plan to have our regional summit in February or March with upskilling via “earn and learn” opportunities as a focus. Something to think about is that if the summit is scheduled for 2024, and the economic recovery effort began in 2021, we might be past the recovery phase at this point. Perhaps a better way to frame it like: “ensuring an equitable economic future;” or “building a roadmap to an equitable economic landscape”. For parents with children in AISD, concerns related to mental health are currently the most common. Good mental health is also a key aspect of success in a work environment, which is why it’s a CAN priority.

Group Discussion Report Out: We should strongly consider having Earn & learn opportunities that are accessible online and ensuring that opportunities are accessible to people living with disabilities. As we transition to in-person work, it is important to keep remote options available since these are beneficial for all workers, but especially for families, students, and people with disabilities. At the planning team meeting, members mentioned that Earn & Learn opportunities are increasing, but not all the spaces are being filled. Is raising awareness, promoting & recruiting for these programs something CAN could help with? Support for technology and internet access would be key because the digital divide continues to be a barrier for many who would benefit from these opportunities. Other barriers to accessing these opportunities include housing, transportation, food access, and medical care. As a community, it would be beneficial to collaboratively work on a clearinghouse that can unify all those opportunities, resources, and supports so that folks don’t have to spend time on different platforms.

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