



# CAN Board of Directors Meeting

01/12/24 Minutes

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Celso Báez III, CapMetro; Amelia Casas, (for Council Member Fuentes); Chris Cervini, Austin Community College; Donovan DePriest, CAN Community Council; Simone Talma Flowers, Interfaith Action of Central Texas; Suchitra Gururaj, UT Austin; Celia Hughes, One Voice Central Texas; Liz Johnson, St. Edward's University; Hal Katz, Integral Care; Yael Lawson, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; Jeremy Martin, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Regan Moffitt, St. David's Foundation; Jeffrey Travillion, Commissioner, Travis County; Chris Weddle, Del Valle ISD; Patricia Longoria, CAN Community Council.

**Other guests:** Patricia Hayes

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

**Call To Order, Welcome, and Introductions:** CAN Board Chair Liz Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm and welcomed folks in attendance. Members introduced themselves.

**Consideration of 2024 Vice Chair:** Board members considered the nomination of Commissioner Jeffrey Travillion for the 2024 Vice Chair position. A motion was made by Suchi, which was seconded by Chris. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report:** The December retreat had a good turnout. The Race Equity Principles in Practice sessions also had a good participation over the last year and a half, and we are looking forward to the sessions in April and October this year. CAN has incorporated an "alumni" component to the training.

The Mental Health First Aid initiative has reached its goal of training 1,000 individuals who work with CAN member organizations, five months ahead of schedule. The 2024 training schedule includes the following dates: January 31, February 5, and March 14. Work on the Language Access Project for Mental Health & Wellness. The project is in the outreach stage for the Spanish-language component. The parts of the project that involve the development of resources for the Arabic-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking community member are in the website development phase, which means the toolkit development phase is done. CAN has outreach partners identified to assist with community engagement once the website and collateral material have been developed.

The Central Texas Regional Summit on Expanding Opportunity is scheduled for Friday, April 5, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Stakeholders narrowed the topics to addressing affordability pressures for individuals participating in workforce training opportunities and promoting & supporting workforce development opportunities aimed at upskilling, including apprenticeships and other earn & learn opportunities.

In 2025, CAN celebrates 30 years. A few years ago (2020) we implemented a 5-year strategic plan. This plan can and should be updated as we look toward 2025-2029, keeping in mind goals like engaging to raise awareness & connect efforts, and engaging for action & impact. Part of our focus in 2024 will be partner engagement. A survey was shared to gather feedback on interest in current engagement opportunities. Part of the work will focus on the process of recruiting and bringing members on board.

Regarding the Dashboard Steering Committee, discussions with the committee have included taking a closer look at the "We Achieve Our Full Potential" section, which has 3 education indicators but only 1 economic indicator. The goal is to find a better way of looking at economic opportunity through the dashboard lens.

**CAN Retreat Learnings & Next Steps, MHFA:** Patricia Hayes provided an overview of the topics discussed to follow-up the work at the retreat. This includes continuing MHFA trainings for CAN member organizations through March 2024 (beyond the goal of training 1000 individuals), training 2 or more staff from each CAN member organization, making an announcement in April about achieving the goal, discussing whether to adopt a new goal, identify funds for “train the trainers” (to expand capacity for offering MHFA), establishing a better marketing system to ensure local capacity for MHFA trainings is maximized, and targeting efforts to youth mental health and under-served populations.

**CAN Retreat Learnings & Next Steps, Expanding Opportunity Summit:** Regarding the “earn & learn” topic, folks agreed we should focus on building awareness & resources, better defining what we mean by “earn & learn”, touting the benefits of “earn & learn” (how it strengthens Central Texas), producing a report highlighting effective examples, and creating resources that employers can use to “grow their own”. Regarding the Expanding Opportunity Summit, folks discussed defining an audience and targeting marketing/outreach accordingly, developing marketing tools to make it easier for CAN member organizations to promote the summit, engaging regional stakeholders before the summit (to promote it), and thinking about how we will engage around themes emerging from the summit after the summit.

**2024 Meeting Schedule & Announcements:** Meetings are scheduled for the second Friday of the month. However, we do not meet in March and July. A few weeks after Spring Break we will have our CAN Celebration and Butler Awards Presentation. Location is to be announced.

**Adjournment:** Liz Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:03 pm.