



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

09/13/24 Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: Celso Báez III, CapMetro; Chris Cervini, Austin Community College; Mike Gerber, HACA; Suchitra Gururaj, UT Austin; Liz Johnson, St. Edward's University; Hal Katz, Integral Care; Laura La Fuente, Austin Public Health; Patricia Longoria, CAN Community Council; Jeremy Martin, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Craig McNary, CAN Community Council; Regan Moffitt, St. David's Foundation; Monica Muñoz Andry, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Pilar Sanchez, Travis County; Matt Thompson, United Way for Greater Austin; Ofelia Zapata, Austin ISD Trustee;

Other guests: Sandy Dochen, AARO

CAN Staff in attendance: Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill, Carlos Soto

Call To Order, Welcome, and Introductions: CAN Chair Liz Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and welcomed folks in attendance. Members introduced themselves.

Minutes: The August 9, 2024, Board meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Suchitra Gururaj was seconded by Mike Geeslin. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Council Report: Craig McNary mentioned the Council continues its work updating the Building a Person-Centered Community Framework. There are also ongoing conversations about what the Council's work can look like on the issue of economic opportunity and how it can maximize its impact. They plan to center on a point of focus next meeting, having reduced their scope down to three options at the most recent meeting.

Executive Director's Report & 2024 Work Plan Adoption: Raul Alvarez mentioned we are setting up strategic plan dialogue opportunities with our Board Members. We are also carrying out our Stakeholder Survey, giving you the ability to share input on where we are and how we've done this last year. We also added some dates to the Strategic Plan meeting dates. The feedback from these meetings will help to maximize productivity at next month's retreat. Last week we extended our goal for the Mental health First Aid Initiative. We are scheduling a press announcement to share that we have met our goal and are preparing for Phase II. The date for the press conference is to be determined. The new goal is to have 3,000 personnel trained by 2025. During this time, we will also have at least 3 Train the Trainer opportunities. Partner collaboration is crucial for these Train the Trainer sessions. The report concluded with a brief overview of past CAN Board Chairs starting in 1995.

AARO Catalyst Summit Presentation: Liz welcomed Sandy Dochen with the Austin Area Research Organization, and CAN Board Chair in 2001. Dochen provided an overview of AARO and the Catalyst Summit. A poll that AARO conducted of local leaders asking about the most pressing growth-related challenges facing our community today, the top issues were housing affordability (41%), transportation and infrastructure (27%), and economic inequality (11%). Deeper discussions took place around meeting future water needs, housing unaffordability and social inequity, and regional mobility. Considerations for regional growth include barriers to regional collaboration, and essential elements to foster regional partnerships. Barriers identified through surveys include political ideology, competing interests, lack of trust, limited resources, and others. Broader visions, instead of issue-specific thinking and working, can be helpful in building wider support. Opportunities identified for the region include enhanced public transit infrastructure and regional connectivity, state-level policies that can assist local entities in expediting housing, and water and wastewater infrastructure planning and development. In addition, there exist opportunities to: create a public-private education/advocacy organization to support growth of the Austin-San Antonio Metroplex; initiate Envision Central Texas 2.0; and mobilize Central Texans to advocate for nonpartisan objectives that enhance our region. The next summit is scheduled for December 9, 2024, at Kalahari Conventions & Resort in Round Rock.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.