



CAN Board of Directors Meeting
02/13/26 Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Aaron DeLao**, United Way for Greater Austin; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT); **Laura La Fuente**, Austin Public Health; **Kimberly Holiday**, Pflugerville City Council Member; **Liz Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Hal Katz**, Integral Care; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Andy Miller**, One Voice Central Texas; **Sona Shah**, City of Austin; **Fernando de Urioste**, Trustee, Austin ISD; **Dottie Watkins**, Cap Metro; **Tamey Williams-Hill**, Manor ISD; **Suchi Gururaj**, University of Texas.

Others in Attendance: Ara Merjanian, Community Council

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

Call To Order, Welcome: Chair Chris Cervini called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm and welcomed folks in attendance. Members followed up with introductions.

Minutes: January 9, 2026 Board Meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Chris was seconded by Kimberly. The motion was approved unanimously.

Selection of 2026 CAN Vice Chair: Chris noted that he and CAN past chair Commissioner Jeff Travillion were nominating Dottie Watkins from CapMetro to serve as CAN Vice Chair, and he made a motion to approve her as Vice-Chair for 2026. Liz seconded the motion. Watkins shared some background information about herself and discussed her perspective as incoming Vice Chair, highlighting the critical role that transportation plays in helping people and communities thrive. The motion was approved unanimously.

Community Council Report: Raul mentioned that the Council is continuing its discussion on the role that Social Capital may play in economic mobility and social connection in general. There are several forums planned to develop recommendations on the kinds of changes, actions, or initiatives we may contemplate that would help folks build social capital in a more intentional way. The Council will be having a community meeting in the Spring and another in the Fall, and in between they will be having presentations from groups that are involved in different aspects of creating community connections. Ara mentioned that the Council selected a new Vice Chair at the most recent meeting, Pamela Garcia. The Council has developed a calendar of events and a work plan for the year, which include continuing community conversations that began last year on the topics of social capital, social connectedness, economic opportunity and mobility. The Council hopes to have preliminary findings in time for the CAN retreat later in the year. A new round of recruitment will follow, now that the Council has a better idea of the kind of work that's planned for the rest of the year.

Executive Director's Report: Raul shared a recap of recent developments. The updated [CAN Dashboard Report](#) was published last month, together with an [Economic Mobility Report](#). One of the items in the work plan last year included creating opportunities for Board Members to connect with each other since regular opportunities to connect in person at the monthly board meeting became more difficult with the shift to virtual meetings as well as the reduction in meeting time from 2 hours to 1 hour. This led to the creation of the CAN Community Connections Breakfast, an opportunity for CAN Members to connect with each other and non-CAN affiliated stakeholders to brainstorm and share each other's work. CAN is also seeking nominations for the Butler Awards, with the Celebration scheduled for March 25th. One of the big

achievements we plan to celebrate is completing Phase II of the mental Health First Aid Training Challenge and recognizing the people & partners who carried out the trainings.

Presentation, Discussion, & Possible Action, Dashboard & Economic Mobility Report: Raul provided an overview of the updated Dashboard Report and new Economic Mobility Report, including a demonstration of how to access them and how to navigate the Dashboard website and drilldown sections. Raul followed this introduction with a closer look the Economic Mobility Report's principal findings, features, and indicators not found in the Dashboard Report. These indicators include Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed families (ALICE); 8th Grade Algebra Completion; College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR); Labor Participation Rate; Income Inequality; Affordability of Homes and Rental Housing; Business Ownership by Race; and Share of the Population With Debt in Collections.

Reflections on Economic Mobility Report and Discussion on Next Steps: The findings in CAN's new Economic Mobility Report present us with an opportunity to highlight our partners and other community stakeholders working to improve local performance on key metrics and invite them to present to the Board so members could leverage experience and expertise to better plan collaborative approaches on specific issues. We will begin with presentation from the E³Alliance related to their research and work on 8th Grade Algebra Completion education indicator.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.