



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

02/14/25 Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: **Emily Barron**, (for Council Member Rudy Metayer, City of Pflugerville); **Eric Byrd**; (for Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, City of Austin); **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Jacqueline Evans**, CapMetro; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT); **Mike Gerber**; HACA; **Suchitra Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Natasha Harper-Madison**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Kimberly Holiday**, Council Member, City of Pflugerville; **Celia Hughes**, One Voice Central Texas; **Hal Katz**, Integral Care; **Laura La Fuente**, Austin Public Health; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Craig McNary**, CAN Community Council; **Rudy Metayer**, Council Member, City of Pflugerville; **Regan G. Moffitt**, St. David's Foundation; **Amy Price**, United Way for Greater Austin; **Pilar Sanchez**, Travis County; **Jeffrey Travillion**, Precinct 1 Commissioner, Travis County; **Fernando de Urioste**, Board of Trustees, Austin ISD; **Tamey Williams-Hill**, Austin ISD

Other guests: Edna Butts, Austin ISD; Gina Hinojosa, Texas House of Representatives – District 49; Donna Howard, Texas House of Representatives – District 48; Ara Merjanian, CAN Community Council

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

Call To Order, Welcome, and Introductions: Executive Director Raul Alvarez called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and welcomed folks in attendance. Members introduced themselves.

Minutes: The January 10, 2025, Board meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Commissioner Travillion was seconded by Chris Cervini. The motion was approved unanimously.

Update – 89th Legislative Session: Representative Gina Hinojosa mentioned she was appointed to the Public Education committee and the Land & Resource Management Committee. Priorities include school funding (with an increase in per-student funding for all Texas students), post-incarceration transition/re-integration, and affordable housing. Representative Donna Howard, Chair of the Woman's Health Caucus, mentioned that priorities include women's access to care, increasing treatment options to reduce overdoses, workforce pipeline with a focus on nursing and healthcare professions, and higher education. Council Member Harper-Madison mentioned that a rising concern in the community related to legislation and policy creation around urban food production, especially regarding food scarcity and food production labor shortages because of recent immigration policy changes.

Community Council Report: Craig McNary mentioned that the Council will release the updated Building a Person-Centered Community report at the next meeting scheduled for February 24. The topics for this year's forums will be social capital and workforce development. One forum will be held in May, the other in the Fall.

Executive Director's Report: Raul invited folks to CAN's 30th Anniversary celebration scheduled for March 26 at 11:30 AM at the ACC Rio Grande campus. The trainings around the Spanish mental health toolkit continue, with two training per month taking place (1 in-person and 1 online). Upcoming Mental health First Aid training opportunities will be shared via email. Some of the issues that emerged from the survey included defining parameters to guide CAN's regional-level work, and developing a Family Support System for Immigrant Families (including a recurring 30-minute weekly meeting on Wednesdays at 9:00 am starting on February 19th).

Legislative Update - Education: Edna Butts mentioned that the AISD Board of Trustees adopted legislative priorities in June and November. A major focus will be increasing basic allotment for all students. The current allotment has

not been raised since 2019 despite over 20% inflation, while the buying power of the basic allotment has decreased by \$1,340 since 2020. Texas ranks in the bottom 10 states in per pupil funding. The most underfunded programs include special education, transportation, and safety & security. The bill for Education Savings Accounts (SB-2 School Vouchers) passed the senate on February 5, with \$1B set aside in the budget beginning in 2026. The bill defines “low-income household” as a household that is at or below 500% of the federal poverty level. Voucher amounts are expected to be \$10,000 and \$11,500 for students with disabilities, \$2,000 for homeschoolers, and \$2,500 for homeschoolers with special needs. It’s been sent to the house and will likely be referred to the House Public Education Committee. Budget bills include HB-1 and SB-2. These include \$5.25B in total new money for public schools (with \$400M for increased school safety allotment, and \$4.85B for increased public school funding), \$6.5B in property tax relief (with \$3B to maintain existing tax relief passed last session, and \$3.5B for new property tax relief), in addition to \$1B for vouchers and other funding for items already required by law. To receive weekly legislative summaries regarding issues affecting Austin ISD, please email Edna. Tamey Williams-Hill mentioned that Manor ISD’s legislative priorities, which are specified in a document that was shared in the chat, are aligned with Austin ISD’s. A priority unique to Manor is an increase in the funding for the instructional materials allotment regarding the curriculum. Commissioner Travillion offered support for AISD and the other school districts in the area.

Legislative Update – Counties & Municipalities: Austin City Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison mentioned affordability and other community quality of life issues as legislative priority areas. Housing affordability has historically been and continues to be an important issue area. Land use and resource management, mobility, and infrastructure are other important focus areas. Under economic opportunity, they are focusing on reframing the conversation around workforce preparedness to career pathway opportunities. Finally, protections around maintaining local control are also being prioritized.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.