



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

04/10/26 Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Korey Darling**, Travis County; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT); **Laura La Fuente**, Austin Public Health; **Pamela Garcia**, CAN Community Council; **Liz Johnson**, St. Edward's University; **Hal Katz**, Integral Care; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Regan Moffitt**, St. David's Foundation; **Amy Price**, United Way for Greater Austin; **Sona Shah**, CAN Community Council; **Fernando de Urioste**, Trustee, Austin ISD; **Dottie Watkins**, CapMetro

Other guests: Celso Báez III, CapMetro; Craig McNary, CAN Community Council; Ara Merjanian, CAN Community Council; Ariel Pitre Young, E³ Alliance.

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

Call To Order, Welcome: Chair Chris Cervini called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and welcomed folks in attendance.

Minutes: The February 13 Board Meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Dottie was seconded by Simone. The motion was approved unanimously.

Community Council Report: Sona indicated that the Community Council recruitment drive is still ongoing, encouraged Board Members to spread the word & nominate folks to join, and mentioned that the Council continues to implement the work plan. This includes continuing discussions on building social capital, such as the Community Forum scheduled for April 29, that will include conversations on addressing social isolation by creating connectedness. The goal is to take a broad view and identify effective roles for us and our partners.

Executive Director's Report: Raul provided updates on recent CAN activities. On March 25, CAN hosted the annual Celebration & Butler Awards. The turnout was excellent, with many partners and other community stakeholders in attendance. Can also released the annual Dashboard Report, which is [available for download on the CAN Dashboard website](#) by clicking on the thumbnail. This year's Butler Awards included the Community Leadership Award, which recognized Kelle Coleman and Geronimo Rodriguez; the Transformational Impact Award, which recognized the Mental Health First Aid Training Team from Integral Care (including Alex Elder, Esmeralda Piñones-Hux, Leylee Morris, and Liz Reep), who trained over 3,000 CAN Partner employees, the CAN Member Organizations that trained 75 or more employees in MHFA (ACC, City of Austin, Integral Care, One Voice, Travis County, and UT), and the organizations that funded MHFA (Integral Care and St. David's Foundation). There are also two forums coming up, in April and May. The April forum will focus on Building Community through Social Capital and the May forum will focus on Expanding Opportunity through Earn & Learn and apprenticeship opportunities. In response to current and changing circumstances, a Membership Committee will be created to take a closer look at finances and what can be done to improve sustainability. The Dashboard Steering Committee is seeking members from CAN partners or stakeholder organizations. Efforts are underway to re-start the Language Access Action Team (which is also recruiting) to review current language access resources and determine what updates may be needed. Underscoring the importance of Language Access work, Chris Cervini encouraged the effort.

Presentation, Discussion, & Possible Action, Economic Mobility Report - Middle School Math: Raul mentioned that one of the sections in the Economic Mobility Report published earlier this year focused on education and shared an overview of the current metrics included in the Report. The education metrics in the Economic Mobility Report and CAN Community Dashboard have been recommended by members of the E³ Alliance. Ariel Pitre Young of the E³ Alliance presented on [Math Pathways](#) in Central Texas. Data show that the top 40% of 5th grade math

performers may succeed in middle school Algebra 1, and students who completed 8th grade Algebra 1 had 7.6 times greater odds of completing a college credit bearing course in high school Middle school Algebra 1 completion also accelerates postsecondary attainment and boosts future earnings (up to 16% for rural students). Challenges to Middle School Math Pathways include declining math scores and rates of Algebra 1 completion. Underlying causes include inadequate systems for tracking systemic bias & prerequisite support, issues with teacher retention and support, inadequate identification and provision of student supports, and lack of vertical alignment. Middle school Algebra 1 completion gaps persist for certain groups despite decreases of disparities in access. Future research includes linking Algebra 1 completion to college credit bearing course completion, high school graduation, postsecondary enrollment & success, and employment outcomes. Ariel encouraged folks present to support efforts to train elementary math educators, support districts utilizing parent communication resources, and explore challenges to parent communication.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

The April meeting minutes, and agenda and presentation for this meeting are available at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tQCP5oYdq7KCtP1vTjzrkemivJsvzIN?usp=sharing>