



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

5/09/25 Minutes

Location: HACA Chalmer's Courts

Present: **Sylvia Calderon**, HACA; **Chris Cervini**, ACC; **Aaron DeLao**, United Way; **Jacqueline Evans**, CapMetro; **Simone Talma Flowers**, Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT); **Laura La Fuente**, Austin Public Health; **Juan Garza**, Central Health; **Natasha Harper-Madison**, Council Member, City of Austin; **Kimberly Holiday**, Council Member, City of Pflugerville; **Celia Hughes**, One Voice Central Texas; **Liz Johnson**, St. Edwards University; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Regan G. Moffitt**, St. David's Foundation; **Pilar Sanchez**, Travis County; **Fernando de Urioste**, Board of Trustees, Austin ISD; **Tamey Williams-Hill**, Manor ISD

Other guests: Fran Baylor, Asset Funders Network; Eric Byrd, City of Austin; 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 1:00 pm and welcomed folks in attendance.

Minutes: The April 11, 2025, Board meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Pilar was seconded by Council Member Hamilton. The motion was approved unanimously.

Community Council Report: Due to a family medical issue, Craig was unable to be present. Ara Merjanian mentioned that after updating the Person-Centered Framework, the council is using it as it prepares for the series of community forums discussing economic mobility scheduled for this fall. Raul mentioned that economic mobility will be a central topic at the next Community Council meeting, where we will also discuss several proposed new indicators for the Dashboard (which include several economic indicators).

Executive Director's Report: Raul mentioned there are two Spanish Mental Health Toolkit presentations being carried out per month, as part of the CAN Mental Health & Wellness initiative, with one in-person and the other virtual. Upcoming Mental Health First Aid training courses are scheduled for May 16 and June 27, and an upcoming Youth MHFA training course is scheduled for June 6. Members were also encouraged to complete a survey collecting information about their interest in becoming involved with one of the several committees that are being set up. These included defining parameters to guide CAN's work at a regional level and joining a dialogue on strategies for continuing DEI work in the current environment.

Table Talk: Raul introduced the discussion topics and members chatted at their tables.

Economic Mobility Briefing: Fran Baylor, Coordinator for the Asset Funders Network, introduced AFN beginning with the individuals making up their Steering Committee (which include St. David's and United Way for Greater Austin). AFN is a national organization that supports philanthropy throughout the country through locally coordinated chapters. Austin's chapter launched in 2023, and AFN's approach to economic mobility is through an asset-building lens (including personal assets such as homeownership or business ownership, and community assets such as childcare locations and services or career advancement pathways). In addition, AFN also works on issues relating to housing affordability. In 2024, AFN held a series of economic mobility roundtables to engage community partners who are working on economic mobility through employment & income, housing, and financial health. Participants discussed their priorities and core values for economic mobility to help local philanthropic organizations identify strategies for better supporting this kind of work. An important takeaway from these forums is that the potential for individuals to obtain upward economic mobility is determined by investments in the support systems, or enabling conditions, of our community. Community partners identified investments in data & research as a priority need. More specifically, it would be beneficial for us to work collaboratively to identify a shared economic mobility metric (or a set of enabling condition metrics) and to establish an economic mobility data hub. After the presentation, Board members shared their feedback. Several members mentioned that the data on the CAN Dashboard could be leveraged by AFN. It was also noted that there are also our previously published reports that AFN might also find useful.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.