



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

6/10/25 Minutes

Location: On Zoom

Present: Celso Báez, CapMetro; Emily Barron, (for Pflugerville Mayor Pro-Tem Kimberly Holiday); Sylvia Calderon; HACA; Aaron DeLao, United Way; Loretta Edelen, ACC; Juan Garza, Central Health; Celia Hughes, One Voice Central Texas; Hal Katz, Integral Care; Laura La Fuente, Austin Public Health; Yael Lawson, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; Jeremy Martin, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Craig McNary, CAN Community Council; Regan G. Moffitt, Sona Shah, CAN Community Council; St. David's Foundation; Jeffrey Travillion, Precinct 1 Commissioner, Travis County; Fernando de Urioste, Board of Trustees, Austin ISD;

Other guests: 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 1:04 pm and welcomed folks in attendance.

Minutes: The May 9, 2025, Board meeting minutes were approved after a motion submitted by Commissioner Travillion was seconded by Juan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Community Council Report: Craig McNary mentioned the Community Council is working on finalizing details for the September 17 [CAN Building Community Forum on The Power of Connections](#), the focus of which will be on the value of social capital. The Community Council is also planning an additional forum on the topic of Economic Mobility.

Executive Director's Report: Raul provided an overview of activities carried out over the Spring. The Community Council released an updated Building a Person-Centered Community report in February. In March we celebrated CAN's 30th anniversary at an event held at ACC. In May we completed our most recent round of Race Equity Principles in Practice trainings. As we continue work on these items, we are also beginning to prepare for the activities planned for this Fall. The Welcoming Week kick-off luncheon to raise funds for CAN's Central Texas Language Access Fund is scheduled for September 15. The Building Community Forum is also scheduled for that week, on Wednesday, September 17. Another Expanding Opportunity Forum highlighting "Earn & learn" Programs in Advanced Manufacturing is being planned for late September or early October. Other forums will also be planned on the topics of healthcare, skilled trades, and technology. The Family Support Work Group, which was established to support immigrant families as the environment around immigration changes, has met numerous times since the beginning of the year. Last month, the Immigrant Services Network of Austin began to develop a coordinated plan for how to support families that have been impacted by deportation/separation and resources to avoid deportation. In light of these developments, the FSWG is pausing regular meetings until that plan is put together. Once the plan is in place, the FSWG will re-convene.

CAN Dashboard Modification Recommendations: Carlos introduced the conversation and provided an overview of the current indicators in the Achieving Our Full Potential section. We are seeking to revise this section based on our conversations on the topic of economic mobility at the 2023 and 2024 Board retreats. CAN's interest in this topic traces back to the 2016 Deliberative Dialogues on Bridging the Economic Divide. Raul continued with a discussion of the current shortcomings of this section, and the recommendations from the Dashboard Steering Committee. An issue with the current Early Childhood indicator (Kindergarten Readiness) is that the measure changed in 2019 and the data available are not comparable to data from before that change. An issue with the Education indicators is the lack of indicators measuring outcomes between early childhood age and high school age. Another issue with the Education indicators is that there should be an indicator measuring some form of College and Career Readiness. Trustee Urioste asked if there had been any discussion about industry certification? The district is also focused on industry-based certifications, and students who follow that pathway may not pursue college credit-bearing course-taking. Jeremy mentioned that college credit completion, college credit-bearing course-taking and industry certification were indicators his workgroup discussed in the District Scorecard update process, and added that it might be a good reference for the Steering Committee.

A motion to add a Middle School Math indicator (8th Grade Algebra completion) to the CAN Dashboard was submitted by Fernando. After the motion was seconded by Loretta, the motion passed unanimously. We will follow up with the Steering Committee regarding the college credit-bearing course-taking indicator. Aaron mentioned that the United Way - Success by 6 Coalition will continue utilizing KG Readiness as a key indicator and recommends we continue with it as well. Craig mentioned that the Early Childhood Council for Austin will also continue to use KG readiness as a key indicator. A motion to allow Kindergarten Readiness to be reported with the new measure, once 3 years of data become available, was submitted by Aaron. After the motion was seconded by Craig, the motion passed unanimously. Loretta asked if there is a 3rd grade literacy indicator on the Dashboard and recommended having one. Several different indicators were discussed, and 3rd grade literacy arose in those conversations. The Steering Committee worked within the Dashboard's constraints to determine the indicators that would best fit.

Other changes being considered are the addition of several economic indicators. The community characteristics that were of most interest to measure consisted of financial hardship, income inequality, housing affordability (cost), and wealth building potential. Jeremy mentioned that ALICE is an indicator of United Way from Northern New Jersey. If that data were to go away, can we continue to re-create the measure from the publicly available data? Jeremy also mentioned that measuring income inequality as a ratio between the 80th and the 20th median income percentiles will show a smoother change over time, while income gaps may carry inaccuracies resulting from inflation. Jeremy voiced support for housing affordability and wealth building potential measures, but the wealth building measure has remained relatively flat over time, and it remains unclear whether there are ways to improve it. A motion to add income inequality (measured as a ratio between the Median Family Income 20th and 80th percentiles) was submitted by Jeremy. The motion was seconded by Juan. The motion passed unanimously. CAN staff will follow up on the other indicators and related issues that were discussed today.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.