

CAN Community Council Notes
 January 26, 2026, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
 Zoom Video Conference

Attendees: Craig McNary, Patricia Longoria, Caroline Reynolds, Pamela Garcia, Ara Merjanian, Nancy Gilliam

CAN Staff: Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill, Carlos Soto

Guests: None

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am. A quorum was present.
Approval of minutes from the August 18, 2025 and December 15, 2025 Meeting	The August 18, 2025 and December 15, 2025 minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ara and a second by Nancy.
Nomination of Vice Chair	Pamela Garcia was voted in unanimously as the 2026 Community Council Vice Chair with a leadership role in the Community Council for 3 years on a motion by Patricia and a second by Craig.
Community Council Chair’s Report	<p>Summary: Craig stated that he will now be the immediate past chair and Sona will move into the Chair role for the Community Council. He shared that CAN released the CAN Dashboard and their new Economic Mobility Report.</p> <p>Comments and Suggestions: He also asked Raul if there are any concerns with the budget that got approved for the City. Raul answered that we had to draw from our reserves last year due to healthcare. This year we will focus on member contributions, which haven’t gone up in 10 years, and inviting new members to join to make sure that we have a balanced budget. Craig suggested also revisiting where we can increase “in-kind” contributions and decrease costs. Caroline suggested prioritizing budget items. Raul stated that we are going to look for sponsors for our big events instead of trying to pay for it all out of pocket and possibly doing a fundraiser one or two times a year to diversify our revenue streams. Ara suggested United Way’s Community Grant process.</p>
Executive Director’s Report	<p>Summary: Raul shared an organizing framework concept for the Community Council that includes: Building Connected Communities, Expanding Opportunity, and Building a Person-Centered Community. Raul asked what members thought about the framework and if they felt it would make the Community Council’s work easier to explain in recruitment efforts and if should have all three categories or just 2. He explained that the bylaws can also be adjusted to reflect the Community Council’s purpose.</p>



	<p>Comments and Suggestions: Pamela liked the framework, especially for recruitment. Craig suggested a one pager with bullet points. Ara also liked the framework and added that this will help the Board understand what we are working on.</p>
<p>CAN Dashboard Presentation</p>	<p>Summary: Raul shared the Dashboard presentation explaining that these are community wide indicators and doesn't tell the whole story. The drill downs on our website help fill in the full story.</p> <p>Comments and Suggestions: Patricia added that the statewide numbers for incarceration rates linkages to mental health should be looked at.</p>
<p>Proposal: Draft 2026 Calendar for CAN CC on "Building Social Capital"</p>	<p>Summary: Jelina shared the proposed calendar for 2026.</p> <p>Comments and Suggestions: Craig suggested not dropping the Community Council meeting in lieu of the community forums. Raul suggested having a shortened CAN CC meeting and later that week having the forum. Ara suggested reviewing what we already have to form our own frameworks. He suggested having Steven Pedigo to come present or be an advisor and the Annette Strauss Center for Civic Engagement. He suggested Suchi Gururaj as a connector. Craig suggested adding Judge Denise Hernandez and Cara Crowley to provide an update on ACC's programming.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm</p>