

CAN Community Council Notes  
 December 15, 2025, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
 Zoom Video Conference

**Attendees:** Craig McNary, Ara Merjanian, Sona Shah, Pamela Garcia, Nancy Gilliam, Caroline Reynolds

**CAN Staff:** Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill

**Guests:** None

<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 11:39 am. A quorum was present.
<b>Community Council Chair’s Report</b>	<b>Summary:</b> Craig stated that the Board meeting heard from 2 groups discussing childcare. He also announced that this is the last meeting he will be chair and that Sona will be chair in 2026.
<b>Approval of minutes from the August 18, 2025 Meeting</b>	The August 18, 2025 minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ara and a second by Sona.
<b>Executive Director’s Report</b>	<p><b>Summary:</b> Raul shared that CAN had a Board retreat last month and during the Board meeting they heard from Generation ATX and Raising Travis County.</p> <p>Raul shared the “Organizing Framework Concept” that he hopes can help the CAN CC define parameters for their work moving forward. The framework includes building connected communities and expanding opportunity and each of those connect to indicators in the CAN Dashboard. He explained that this will also help with recruiting.</p> <p><b>Comments and Suggestions:</b> Sona stated that Austin is losing children and wondered if we had an idea why. Raul explained that in these plans and initiatives there’s a lot that still needs to be defined. He said his hope is that we create a system that each part is a part of the solution instead of not addressing each part of the system.</p> <p>Ara liked the framework proposal. Sona also like the framework and felt the “bridging communities” piece is timely.</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Raul and Jelina will meet with the chairs to discuss CAN CC framework.</p>
<b>Building Community Forums Debrief</b>	<b>Summary:</b> Craig shared that we need to do a better job of marketing for the forums so that they are better attended. He stated that if we continue to build connections and trust we will do better in the future. He shared the highlights of the forums: food was there, agenda was well developed, and the location was central. Jelina summarized the content that was covered during the two forums. She shared that the social capital forum had a lot of interest receiving 60+



	<p>registrations on Eventbrite. Due to the lack of time, the conversation was cut short and the group only brainstormed what is already happening in the community. She shared that a work group was formed to continue the discussion. She shared that the economic mobility forum happened a month later with no meeting in between. She shared the takeaways from that forum.</p>
<b>Select “Building Social Capital” as 2026 CAN CC Focus</b>	<p><b>Summary:</b> Jelina shared that the Board will be focused on Economic Mobility, Mental Health and Wellness (happening with funding only), and Creating a Welcoming Community. CAN is proposing that the Community Council focus on Building Social Capital which would continue the work of 2025 and has interest from the community and Board.</p> <p>There was general consensus to select “Building Social Capital” as a topic. Raul suggested targeted outreach based on location. Craig suggested outreach to each members’ personal networks.</p> <p><b>Comments and Suggestions:</b> Ara shared that he likes “Building Social Capital” as a focus and thinks its relevant. He suggested looking at the report we want to submit and working backwards from that. He shared that through this topic we could look at the changes in demographic areas we are currently seeing, but we could also focus on emerging issues such as AI and how that affects social capital. Craig added that video reports would be more accessible. Sona added that this is also about building leaders and something that continues being glossed over is essential workers. Ara asked a question about timeframe and suggested October. Jelina shared that it makes sense to have everything done before the next Board retreat, but CAN is focused on releasing quality content so it doesn’t need to be done by October. Ara suggested sharing a report outline and selecting CAN CC’s direction early on to help with recruitment. Raul shared that this work is adding value but will be difficult because no one else is working on this. If the Community Council wants to focus on this we can develop a year calendar to outline our work.</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Raul and Jelina will develop a proposed calendar to present in 2026.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm</p>