

CAN Community Council Notes  
 March 24, 2025, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
 Zoom Video Conference

**Attendees:** Nancy Gilliam, Ara Merjanian, Sona Shah, Pamela Garcia, Patricia Longoria, Donovan DePriest

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

**Guests:** None

<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am. Quorum was present at 11:45 am.
<b>Approval of minutes from the January 27, 2025 Meeting</b>	The January 27, 2025 will be moved to the April meeting for voting due to lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting.
<b>Community Council Chair’s Report</b>	<b>Summary:</b> Patricia stated that we would use today’s meeting to plan our forums and speakers for our forums.
<b>Executive Director’s Report</b>	<b>Summary:</b> Raul shared that the CAN Celebration is happening March 26 <sup>th</sup> at ACC Rio Grande where we will give out awards for Community Leadership and Transformational Impact. In April we will release a video of Raul, Fred, and Vanessa about the story of CAN. He stated we will continue doing our REPP Trainings which will begin in May.
<b>Social Capital Forum Planning</b>	<p><b>Summary:</b> Jelina gave a brief overview of what was decided in the last meeting. She then gave two options for the title of the forums (1) Building Community in Austin or (2) Breaking Down Barriers in Austin.</p> <p>Jelina shared a proposal on how the forum could be laid out. She suggested the day and time of the forum remain the same as the May Community Council meeting since it is already on Community Council members’ calendar. She shared that there isn’t a lot locally on social capital, so she suggests a virtual forum to allow national presenters to participate. Ara shared another option for how the forum could be laid out. He suggests that the meeting be held in person to drive engagement. He reflected on the Community Council engagement pre-pandemic and felt that engagement in meetings and forums was better when we gathered in person. He also felt that we needed to reevaluate our meeting structure in general. He feels we should prioritize local programs over national programs. He is especially concerned about public engagement in this forum and reflected upon the Building a Person-Centered Community Report Release and the lack of attendees for that.</p> <p><b>Votes</b></p>



	<p>The meeting in June and in-person the vote was 2 neutrals and 4 in favor. The whole group agreed the audience should be community members. Jelina will send out a follow up poll to determine the duration and time of day (11-1 and 6-8) of the forum.</p> <p>Jelina shared a document that had the definition of social capital and stated it was similar to the PCC framework the Community Council developed. She suggested UpTogether as a potential local presenter. Ara also suggested that having an organization that has social capital as something that is essential to their mission but isn't their focus area would also be beneficial. He suggested having the Annette Strauss Center to talk about how they measure the health of our society. Nancy suggested Community Health Workers through Central Health of APH. Ara suggested El Buen or Austin Voices Community Block Leaders.</p> <p><b>Comments and Suggestions:</b> Sona liked the Building Community in Austin option because it seemed proactive and positive. Patricia stated she agrees and building community can stay consistent throughout topic changes. Nancy and Pamela agreed in the chat. Ara agreed. Raul suggested Building and Bridging Community in Austin. Donovan agreed with "Building Community in Austin" for the sense of positivity. Sona felt adding bridging would be wordy since bridging is a part of building.</p> <p>Regarding forum structure, Sona stated that if the regular Community Council meetings remain during the day virtual meetings are more convenient. Jelina suggested we bring back the conversation of regular meeting time and move it back to the evening. Patricia agreed to re-evaluate the regular meeting time. Regarding the May forum, Sona asked about the capacity of CAN staff to pull off an in-person forum in May. Raul stated that we could push it to June to have time to have an in-person forum. Ara suggested expanding the forum to 2 hours. If the forum is poorly attended, we reevaluate and make changes for the September forum. Sona asked if the outreach would be professionals or community. Jelina stated the SMEs would talk about highlights in their program for social capital and that lends itself to organizations. Ara stated that the community should be the audience. Jelina added that we share information about events CANews which is organization heavy and we will need an all-hands approach if we want community members to attend. Ara also suggested looking at events around the date to make sure there aren't any big events happening.</p>
<p><b>April Meeting Topic Discussion</b></p>	<p><b>Summary:</b> Jelina asked if the Council still wanted to review relevant plans in the in-between meetings or if there was something else the Council would want to focus on.</p> <p>The Economic Mobility dashboard presentation will be in April.</p> <p><b>Comments and Suggestions:</b> Ara suggested looking at community plans and potentially surveying the CAN member organizations to see if they have a social capital plan to gather information and spread awareness about the forum. Jelina</p>

	added that we could have national organizations to present in the in between time.
<b>Adjourn</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm