

## CAN Community Council Minutes

April 15, 2024, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference

**Attendees:** Kelly Crook, Patricia Longoria, Nancy Gilliam, Donovan DePriest, Sona Shah, Caroline Reynolds, Ara Merjanian

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

**Guests:** Tiffanie Harrison

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| <b>Call to Order</b>   | The meeting was called to order at 11:40 am.   |
| <b>Approval of minutes from the March 18, 2024 Meeting</b>   | The minutes from the March 18, 2024 CAN Community Council meeting were unanimously accepted on a motion by Kelly and a second by Donovan.  |
| <b>Community Council Chair’s Report</b>  | <b>Summary:</b> Patricia stated that she reported at the Board meeting and she announced to them that the Community council is in the process of finalizing the workplan. She stated that she also asked the Board to send out the CAN CC Recruitment flyer to their networks. One of the things that the Board asked is for defined asks for new members, which is in the recruitment flyer. She stated that her hope is that the Board will disseminate the flyer out.   |
| <b>Vote on Addition of New Community Council Members</b>   | <p>Pamela Garcia was voted in as a new Community Council member with a three year term from 2024-2026 unanimously on a motion by Sona and a second by Kelly.</p> <p>Ara Merjanian was voted in as a new Community Council member with a three year term from 2024-2026 unanimously on a motion by Kelly and a second by Nancy.</p>   |
| <b>Building a Person Centered Community Presentation – <a href="#">Black Parents and Families Collective</a></b> | <b>Summary:</b> Tiffanie stated that the Black Parents and Families Collective was formally the Round Rock Black Parents Association. It was limiting because people thought they only worked in Round Rock but they work throughout central Texas. They expanded the name to say “Black Families” because black kids don’t always have black parents and “Black Families” is more inclusive. They started as an education focused organization, but realized quickly that they needed to be holistic. She shared that a student in Round Rock ISD was choke slammed by a police officer. They ended up making national news and they were frustrated that the school district wasn’t taking accountability. The student ended up moving out of the state of Texas because of what happened to them and their family. As an organization, they hold the school district accountable for racial and educational equity and the outcomes for black students. In 2020 they received funding from The New Schools Venture Fund which allowed them to have funding for strategic planning. They started an HBCU fair, a program on navigating the education |



system, and legislative advocacy through Black Family Legislative Day of Action. They are shifting their focus to what they can create instead of only advocating in existing systems. They also focus on holistic wellness. The plan for the future is to becoming a 501.C3 and accomplished that in January 2024. They are focusing on national engagement, continued partnerships, and producing toolkits for black families and students. They seek to unify, mobilize, and uplift black families. Tiffanie stated that she has taken the PCC network back to her organization to review.

**1. How has your organization/ program utilized the strategies from the PCC framework?**

Raul asked specifically about how culture and language impacts their approach to addressing police and the school district. Tiffanie answered that their culture focuses on their inside outside strategy. There was a point in time they were heavily advocating for no police on campus but black families weren't showing up to the meetings. They had to think about the culture that they were walking into that was racist and hostile. They parent with other organizations and allow white allies to show up in those spaces for them. They also saw more engagement in Board meetings when a member would live stream the meeting and provide commentary. Even in being black focused they uplift all children which prioritizes the safety and wellbeing of all children.

**2. What PCC strategies does your organization/ program utilize that isn't reflected in the framework?**

She didn't see ability reflected in the framework.

**3. Of the strategies listed in the framework, which one could we help your organization/ program implement?**

They are always looking to deepen their commitment to basing their services on the resources, needs and schedules of the community they serve.

**4. How did COVID impact how you can focus on your service population? What kind of innovative strategies did you develop that you can continue using?**

We changed a lot of things to virtual. Parents were able to engage while still moving around. A lot of times we are doing racial equity work, we had to do some work around capacity to engage and building trust when we are working with families that have been historically harmed by systems.

**Q&A:** Sona asked during these times where there is a lot of backlash for DEI work in Texas, how is their organization impacted by the current climate. Tiffanie stated that it's hard but it isn't new. She said that they are grounding themselves and healing from burnout. They are focusing on rest and wellness to prepare for the slow journey that is DEI work. She said they are also reframing their focus. What is being experienced is white lash, they aren't fighting nothing, they are fighting progression.

Ara asked what the biggest economic opportunity related issue is in the black community. Tiffanie answered that a lot of the work that is being done for black



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|                                      | <p>communities is being done at the expense of black organizers. A lot of the money they earn is given back to the community and she wonders what can be done for the wellness of the organizers.</p>  |
| <b>2024 CAN CC Workplan Proposal</b> | <p><b>Summary:</b> Patricia shared the 3 workplan options and opened up for discussion. Jelina added that 1.5 came out of conversations to make a happy medium between option 1 and option 2. In past discussions 2 felt too broad and permanent. Option 1.5 allows more time on a topic than Option 1.</p> <p>Option 1.5 (finishing the Person-Centered Care report review will end in June and “expanding opportunity” will be a focus for the next 24 months) of the workplan proposals was adopted unanimously on a motion by Ara and a second by Caroline.</p> <p><b>Comments and Suggestions:</b> Ara stated that he likes that option 1.5 allows for more time on a topic and could be used to reach out to the community and figure out what their priorities are. Caroline suggested changing Expanding Opportunity Advisory Council to Opportunity Advisory Council.</p> |
| <b>Executive Director’s Report</b>   | <p><b>Summary:</b> Raul shared that CAN held the regional summit and CAN celebration. We are in the middle of our Race Equity Principles in Practice training. We are about to begin strategic planning, which we will need to ask for feedback from the Community Council.</p>  |
| <b>Adjourn</b>                       | <p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm</p>  |