

CAN Community Council Notes

April 21, 2025, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference

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

CAN Staff: Jelina Tunstill, Raul Alvarez, Carlos Soto

Guests: None

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 11:46 am. A quorum was not present.
Approval of minutes from the March 24, 2025 Meeting	The March 24, 2025 will be moved to the May meeting for voting due to lack of quorum.
Community Council Chair’s Report	Summary: Craig stated that there aren’t many updates to report. The goal of this Community Council meeting is to continue planning the forums and solidify forum dates.
Executive Director’s Report	<p>Summary: Raul shared that the CAN Board and Executive meetings were a couple of weeks ago. He stated that CAN is having the Race Equity Principles in Practice Training will be in May. We released a “Profiles of Collaboration” video with himself, Vanessa Sarria, and Fred Butler describing the history of CAN. He stated he wants to do a few more videos about CAN and then move on to interviewing other organizations. He shared that something new we will do for the 30th anniversary is a “Data Roundup” where we will share different data reports with each other. The May Board meeting will be in person at Chalmers Ct. The Earn and Learn Workgroup has met for about 3 months and is working on planning Expanding Opportunity Forums in the Fall to highlight local earn and learn programs in the healthcare, skilled trades, technology, and advanced manufacturing industries.</p> <p>Comments and Suggestions: Ara asked when the new meeting format would take place for the Dashboard Steering Committee. Raul explained that it is a one-off event in October. It’ll be a 2-hour block, potentially 2 2-hour blocks, depending on how much content there is to share. We are currently planning this to be a virtual event. Ara thought this would be a good thing for Community Council Members to attend.</p> <p>Ara asked if Raul is hearing in the community about DEI and are we thinking about what steps we may need to take, or risk management, to continue our work. Raul shared that we polled the Board at the beginning of the year and there wasn’t much interest in addressing DEI before it was mandated. He stated that he wanted to reintroduce the topic in the upcoming Board meeting. Caroline suggested framing our organization as a community organization which means everyone.</p>



	<p>Raul shared that we did have a discussion with the Executive Committee about terminology. We are trying to figure out how to prepare ourselves if something is directed our way.</p>
<p>Social Capital Forum Planning</p>	<p>Summary: Jelina led the conversation to continue planning the Social Capital Forum. Jelina asked if they wanted to keep the forum in June or move the forum to the fall. If they want UpTogether to come, they will have to select June 16th at 11:30. Sona shared with Jelina ahead of the meeting that she liked the idea of UpTogether presenting because they worked with the City on the family stabilization grant. She stated that a good angle would be to get people to give testimony on how the grant helped them personally. She shared that June may not work due to vacation and we may want to have a focus on poverty. The group decided on a hybrid format for the meeting that would include some level setting and community conversation at the end. Regarding time, Patricia stated that June will be a busy time frame and is leaning toward having the forum in the fall. Ara shared that delaying the forum makes sense and since the forums will be closer together we can tie them together.</p>
<p>Economic Mobility/Expanding Opportunity Forum Planning</p>	<p>Summary: Jelina shared that the Board has a workgroup that is planning Expanding Opportunity forums focused on Earn and Learn programs and that the Community Council may want to avoid selecting that topic. She shared that Carlos will be sharing relevant Dashboard indicators and potential new Dashboard indicators to help guide the conversation.</p> <p>Carlos shared data from the We Achieve Our Full Potential section of the Dashboard on Kindergarten Readiness, Post-Secondary Completion, Highschool Graduation, and Unemployment. He also shared the suggested additions to that section of the Dashboard: percentage of households that are ALICE, college credit bearing course completion, 8th grade algebra, household income gap, housing affordability, and homeownership rate.</p> <p>Comments and Suggestions: Patricia asked if there was going to be any indicator for private school data with vouchers coming down the pipeline. Raul stated that when money is rewarded, reporting is usually expected so he foresees indicators tracking vouchers. Ara shared that he likes the suggested new indicators. He asked if they present a topic for the Community Council forum. Raul shared that wealth building may be an interesting topic because homeownership is a path to wealth building but a lot of people don't like it because of the housing discrimination of the past, so looking at that more broadly may be interesting. Ara shared that the first forum is social capital and finding a topic that could tie into financial capital. Craig shared that kindergarten readiness is what stuck out to him as it relates to childcare for working employees. He shared that we all felt the impact during the pandemic. He also shared its easier to make an impact on a kindergartener that cant read than a 6th grader who cant read. Ara liked that we'd be looking at something early in the process and helping working parents. He shared that it also relates to social capital. Ara asked if the council wanted to focus on something that isn't being highlighted or put wind in the sails of something that is. Craig stated</p>



	<p>that we could be advocates for little people. Jelina added that there is a lot of energy in the community around this topic and there will be interest in the forum. Ara suggested looking at workplaces practices to see how they value social and financial capital. Craig stated looking at ROI for businesses would be interesting. Nancy added that there is a designation for businesses focused on family-friendly workplaces. Raul cautioned the group to make sure we aren't duplicating efforts, especially with Affordable Care NOW! Craig suggested inviting SME's and tying it to social and financial capital. Raul shared that barriers to workforce development would also be an interesting angle, childcare is one of those, but so is transportation etc.</p>
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm