

CAN Community Council Notes

May 15, 2025, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference

Attendees: Ara Merjanian, Pamela Garcia, Sona Shah, Caroline Reynolds, Donovan DePriest

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, and April 21, 2025 Meeting	The March 24, 2025 and April 21, 2025 meeting minutes will be moved to the June meeting for voting due to lack of quorum.
Executive Director's Report	Summary: Raul shared that CAN staff shared the recommended economic and education indicators to the Executive Committee. They approved it to move forward to the Board for consideration. He stated that it is progressing well and this is something that doesn't change often. He stated that the strategic plan was completed in January, released the Person-Centered Care report in February, and the CAN celebration in March, something else he'd like to republish this year for the 30th anniversary is "Communicating for Action" which explains how to communicate effectively in collaborations. He shared that we are currently doing the Race Equity Principles in Practice Training Series.
Social Capital Forum Planning and Update	Summary: Jelina shared that she has been in communication with Ivanna Neri with UpTogether and she is available the week of Sept. 15 th for the Social Capital Forum. She shared the Doodle Poll to collect everyone's availability for that forum. Jelina stated that the beginning title for the forum is Building Community in Austin, and it would be consistent throughout all the forums. The group needed to come up with a descriptive and compelling handle to follow. After discussion, the group decided to take an email vote on the final three options: The Power of Connections: Taking Social Capital to the Bank; A Person-Centered Approach to Social Capital; and Connections for Success: Where and How to Build Social Capital.
Economic Mobility/Expanding Opportunity Forum Planning	Summary: Jelina shared that at the last meeting the group got a presentation from Carlos about the current and proposed indicators for the economic and education section in the Dashboard. The group had a lot of energy around childcare, but there is a lot of work going on in the community. We need to discuss how we could add to what is already happening in the community vs duplicating efforts. Raul shared that this is a topic the Board is interested in this topic but isn't focusing on and suggested broadening the scope to barriers to economic mobility



	<p>instead of focusing on just childcare. That is something that is a barrier for folks in earn-and-learn programs. Jelina asked if this forum should be structured the same as the social capital forum where there is some level setting and participant discussion. Ara suggested having a couple of questions for table discussions. Jelina asked if there were any plans that the group is interested in reviewing in the months when we aren't having a forum. Ara suggested asking subject matter experts to identify relevant reports. Sona suggested not overpacking the agenda. Ara suggested the CAN Community Council Chairs reach out to Board members personally to invite them to the forums.</p>
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm