

**Central Texas African American Family Support Conference
Program Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: July 9, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Conference Room 3, 1430 Collier St, Austin, TX 78704

In Person: Shannon Carr, Willie Williams, Leonor Vargas, Lady Jane Acquah, Ellen Richards

On Telephone: Falecia Rivers, Najean Onwere, Gerald Pennie, Edwin Evans, Stephanie Bryant, Vickie Coffee, Sonya Hosey

Attendees introduced themselves.

Discussion of time and date for regular meetings. Meet 2nd Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m.
Discussion of identifying a north location to accommodate more people who want to participate in person. Next meeting will be at a north location TBD.

Call for Papers

Discussion of topics that might be areas of focus from the Planning Committee meeting: IDD, Knowledge/Hope/Resources, Homeless and evictions, School to prison pipeline, Resources, Transitioned Age Youth, Faith Based, Bring back presentations from last year, contact poster session winner from last year and ask to present, PTSD (not just for vets)

Suggestions for additional topics: human and sex trafficking, family violence and child welfare intersection, domestic violence, IDD high rate of victimization, early childhood suspension from an equity lens, integrating recovering addicts into society beyond sober housing

Need to develop a paragraph that is the introduction to the call for papers and including a list of possible topics. Our presentations are going to be a combination of old and new – that reflect our history and look to the future (tagline). Should we consider developing criteria for how we are determining who will be selected? The topic, balance of themes, does the presentation have the right vibe, not a concrete method. We select workshops/speakers based on creating a balance in the program based on the overall themes and the interests of attendees.

Discussion of whether or not to have specific tracks or themes. Typically we have done this internally once we receive the proposals. Support for having identifiers for the sessions that cue attendees as to the focus, such as recovery or hope stories, knowledge, resources, etc. Identify this on the program so that people understand what they are going to get from attending the session. Another idea is to have workshops broken into level of knowledge – is it entry level, mid-level or advanced. Further discussion on possible themes: recovery stories, integration, research and data, inclusion and equity, advocacy and leadership. For resource sessions – presenters bring hard copies so people can have take aways. Additional theme categories we need to consider: education and awareness, resources. Resources would include something like a presentation on CIT and how this works in a crisis. Could we beef up poster presentations to include resources? Are there specific things that someone will learn from the

presentation? Be aware of individuals promoting themselves or their businesses. Build connections, build knowledge, gather resources, build hope – possible way to describe conference or sessions.

Need to create the program committee email list based on those that attended this meeting.

Program

Thoughts on last year and any changes or things to keep for this year?

People who presented last year liked the format for the poster session.

Backdrop on main stage with changing lighting is good.

Proposal to create an opportunity for elders to offer wisdom and lived experience on living in Austin, the challenges, the growth. Want to get people who continue to live in the community. To reflect on the changes that have occurred over the decades – how things have improved. Maybe a retired AA police officer and representatives from other sectors? Possible people – Joe Powell, Brenda Coleman-Beattie, Shannon Jones, Willie Williams. Could do a panel.

Speaker system in main ballroom was much better and you could hear in the back and also hear the sessions held in this area. Exhibitor table sound was not an issue. Monitors encouraged people to move closer in small sessions to improve experience.

Post the review from last year in the program area files on line.

The co-moderators worked well. Could we use someone who is connected to the media to moderate so we could get more press coverage day of the conference? Want better media coverage day of. Use someone from the media to do a guest spot on the program to present awards or such. Quito Culpepper – could she do something on the media and coverage. Jennifer Borget should be considered – very involved in foster family issues. Young AA woman with a you tube channel who is always commenting on Austin – would she do some social media for the conference or invite her to be part of the conference planning?

We need a powerhouse at the end of the second day – someone who really engages.

Follow-up Items:

- **Create email list of program committee members for Shannon**
- **Develop list of possible keynotes for the Planning Committee on 7/17**
- **Draft a call for papers to run by the committee. Due 7/24**
- **Make timeline specific to Program Committee per prior discussions**
- **Compile list of possible new elements including Youtuber, Austin Clubhouse poetry reading, media personalities, etc. with information for locating/sampling.**
 - **Staff to identify ways to get more media coverage day of conference**