



Transition Planning for Homeless Persons Leaving Local Jails Initiative

**First Partner Meeting
Wednesday, March 21st, 2012
12p-1:30p
5501 Airport Blvd**

Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome and Partner Introductions**
- **Why Have This Conversation?**
- **Discussion/Consensus Building:**
 - Project goal (s)
 - Project work processes
 - Project timelines
- **Review: What is Currently Happening**
- **Discussion: Best Practice Review**
- **Next Steps**

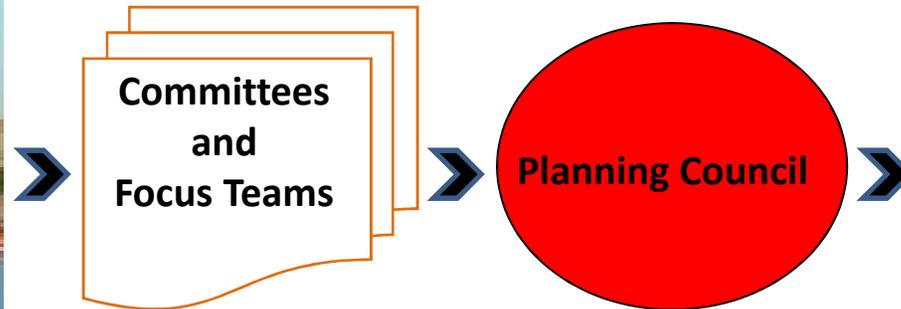
Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable



The mission of the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable is to be a robust, community-wide collaborative and catalyst for systemic change that educates, facilitates and advocates to promote public safety through effective reentry and reintegration of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons.



Identifies the needs/barriers for “real life” change



Makes recommendations for change to addresses needs/barriers

Governing body for the A/TCRRT that is the catalyst for change



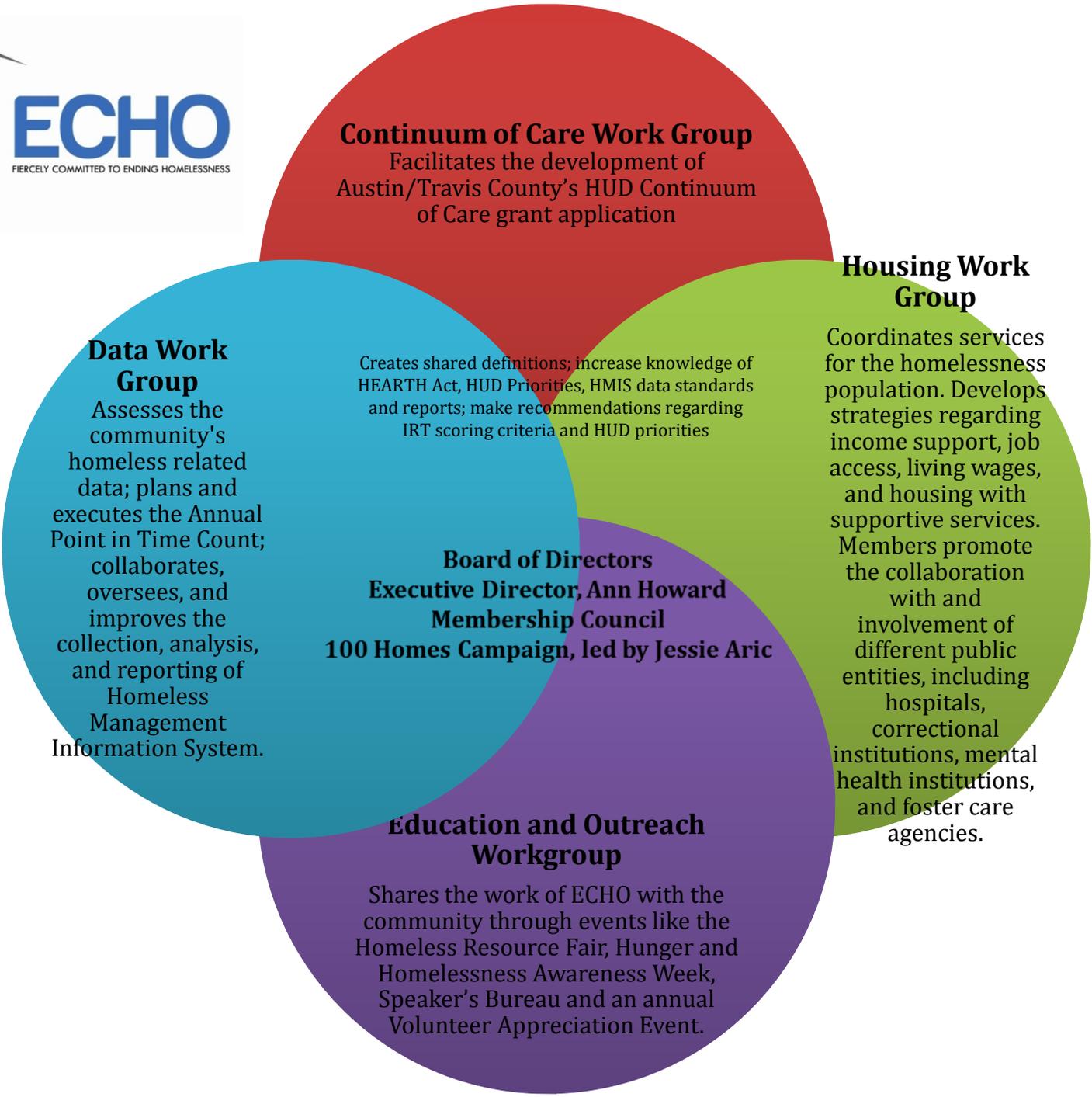
Cost effective improvement in public safety through reduced recidivism

A/TCRRT FY 2010-2011 INVOLVEMENT

HOUSING FOCUS AREA



- ✓ **The City of Austin adopted the Austin Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) strategy to guide the development of 350 PSH units by 2014.**
- ✓ **The City of Austin created the PSH Leadership Committee.**
- ✓ **An award of \$400,000 was granted from U.S Housing and Urban Affairs Department HUD to fund 20 units of PSH for Downtown Austin Community Court frequent users.**
- ✓ **A concept paper was submitted on the Bureau of Justice Affairs Justice Reinvestment Phase 2 for service dollars for 50 units of PSH for frequent users of the jail.**
- ✓ **Housing options for persons with mental illness and criminal backgrounds were increased as a result of fair housing training.**



Continuum of Care Work Group
Facilitates the development of Austin/Travis County's HUD Continuum of Care grant application

Housing Work Group

Coordinates services for the homelessness population. Develops strategies regarding income support, job access, living wages, and housing with supportive services. Members promote the collaboration with and involvement of different public entities, including hospitals, correctional institutions, mental health institutions, and foster care agencies.

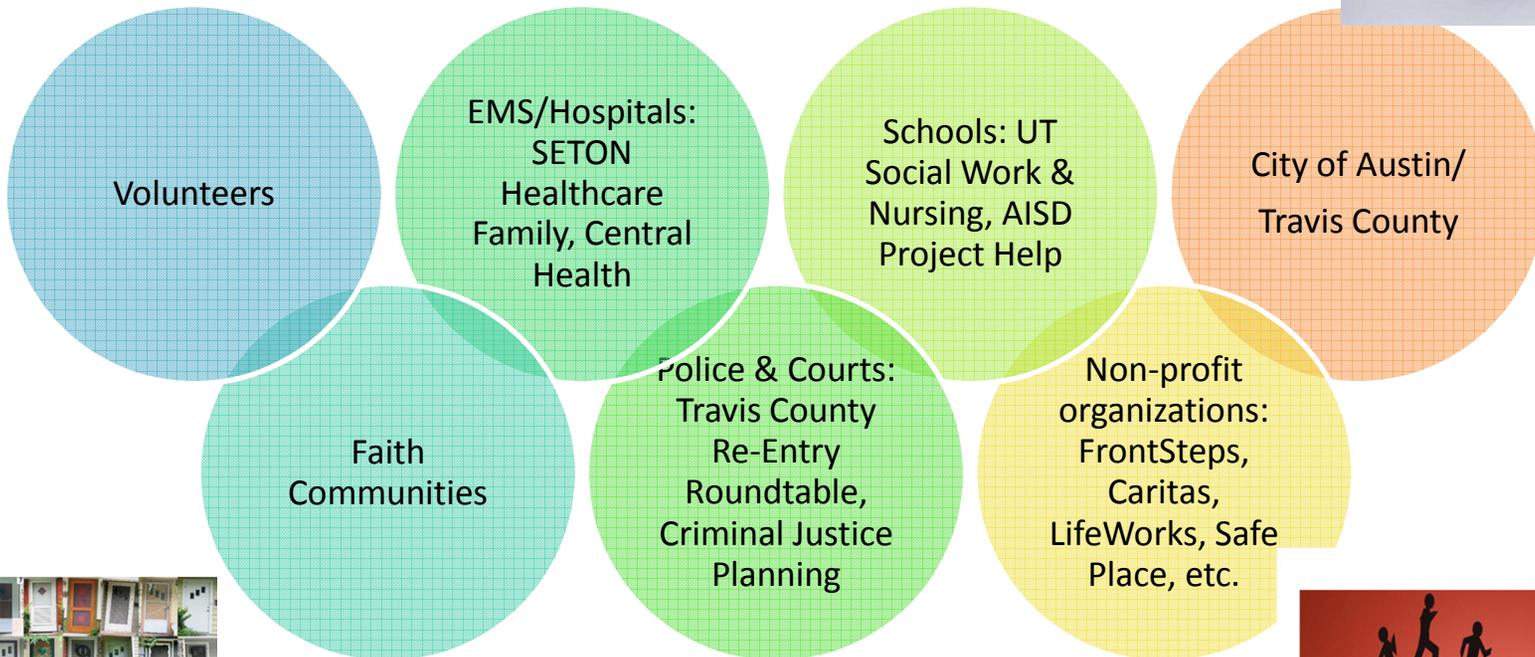
Creates shared definitions; increase knowledge of HEARTH Act, HUD Priorities, HMIS data standards and reports; make recommendations regarding IRT scoring criteria and HUD priorities

Data Work Group
Assesses the community's homeless related data; plans and executes the Annual Point in Time Count; collaborates, oversees, and improves the collection, analysis, and reporting of Homeless Management Information System.

Board of Directors
Executive Director, Ann Howard
Membership Council
100 Homes Campaign, led by Jessie Aric

Education and Outreach Workgroup

Shares the work of ECHO with the community through events like the Homeless Resource Fair, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Speaker's Bureau and an annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.



Volunteers

EMS/Hospitals:
SETON
Healthcare
Family, Central
Health

Schools: UT
Social Work &
Nursing, AISD
Project Help

City of Austin/
Travis County

Faith
Communities

Police & Courts:
Travis County
Re-Entry
Roundtable,
Criminal Justice
Planning

Non-profit
organizations:
FrontSteps,
Caritas,
LifeWorks, Safe
Place, etc.



ECHO Membership is community-wide



Partners

Criminal Justice:

- Downtown Austin Community Court
- TDCJ Parole
- TDCJ Reentry Specialist
- TDCJ-TCOOMMI
- TDCJ-Travis State Jail
- Travis County Adult Probation
- Travis County Criminal Justice Planning
- Travis County District Attorney's Office
- Travis County Jail

Service Providers:

- Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC)
- Caritas of Austin
- Commitment to Change
- Front Steps
- Goodwill
- Salvation Army
- SafePlace
- SoberHood/Texas Recovery House Network
- Travis County Health & Human Services & Veteran Services
- Veteran's Affairs Office

Other Stakeholders:

- A/TC Reentry Roundtable (A/TCRRT)
- City of Austin Health and Human Services
- Downtown Austin Alliance
- Ending Community Homeless Organization (ECHO)
- Indicator Improvement Project
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Austin (NAMI Austin)
- Travis State Jail Advisory Committee



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ann Howard

HMIS DIRECTOR
Garrett Olin

PROGRAM MANAGER
Jessie Aric

HMIS

100 Homes Campaign

ECHO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 President, Ed McHorse (Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody)
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 Corky Hilliard (Hilliard Resources)
 Tim League (Alamo Drafthouse)
 Alan Isaacson (Seton)
 Perry Lorenz (Real Estate Developer)
 Elyse Yates (I&O Communications)
 Gloria Terry (Texas Council on Family Violence)

ECHO MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL
 Chair, Sherri Fleming (TCHHSVS)
 Vice Chair, Greg Gibson (ATCIC)
 Tim Bailey
 Julia Spann (Safe Place)
 Susan McDowell (LifeWorks)
 Betsy Spencer (NHCD)
 Lisa Garcia (HACA)
 Work Group Chairs (4)

INDEPENDENT REVIEW TEAM

DATA WORK GROUP
Chair, Ben King (Seton)

HOUSING WORK GROUP
Co-Chairs, Darla Gay (Travis County DA's Office) & Jo Kathryn Quinn (Caritas)

COC WORK GROUP
Co-Chairs, Tim Miles (Foundation Communities) & Kameron Fowler (Front Steps)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH WORK GROUP
Chair, Meghann Ziler (Trinity Center)

HMIS Subcommittee
Chair, Daniel Gore (Texas Homeless Network)

PIT Count & Survey

Veterans Task Group
Co-Chairs, Christa Noland (Green Doors) & Michael Roth (HACA)

Employment & Income Task Group
Co-Chairs, Trey Nichols (Foundation for the Homeless) & Steve Kaiven (Goodwill)

Prevention /Housing Stability
Chair, Coni Stogner (Safe Place)

Homeless Resource Fair
Co-Chairs, Taylor Seyer (DACC) & Charles Walker

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week
Chair, Liz Ihry

Speakers Bureau
Chair, Jennifer Denton (Front Steps)

Linking This Conversation to Your Work:

2004

- Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Austin/Travis County Texas (*ECHO*)

2005

- A/TC Reentry Roundtable Year One Work Plan
- Travis County Mental Health Jail Diversion Plan (*ATCIC/Mental Health Jail Diversion Committee*)

2009

- Travis County Jail Population Management Initiative Project Charter--Phase 1 of Justice Reinvestment at the Local Level Initiative (*Travis County Criminal Justice Planning*)

Linking To Our Work, *con't*:

2010

- A/TC Corporation for Supportive Housing Texas Reentry Initiative (*Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable*)
- The Plan to End Community Homelessness in Austin/Travis County (*ECHO*)
- Travis County Mental Health Jail Diversion Plan-- Update (*ATCIC/Mental Health Jail Diversion Committee*)
- City of Austin Permanent Supportive Housing Strategy
- Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (*USICH 2010*)

2011

- State Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness—*Draft* (Texas Interagency Council on Homelessness)

Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Austin/Travis County, Texas (ECHO 2004)

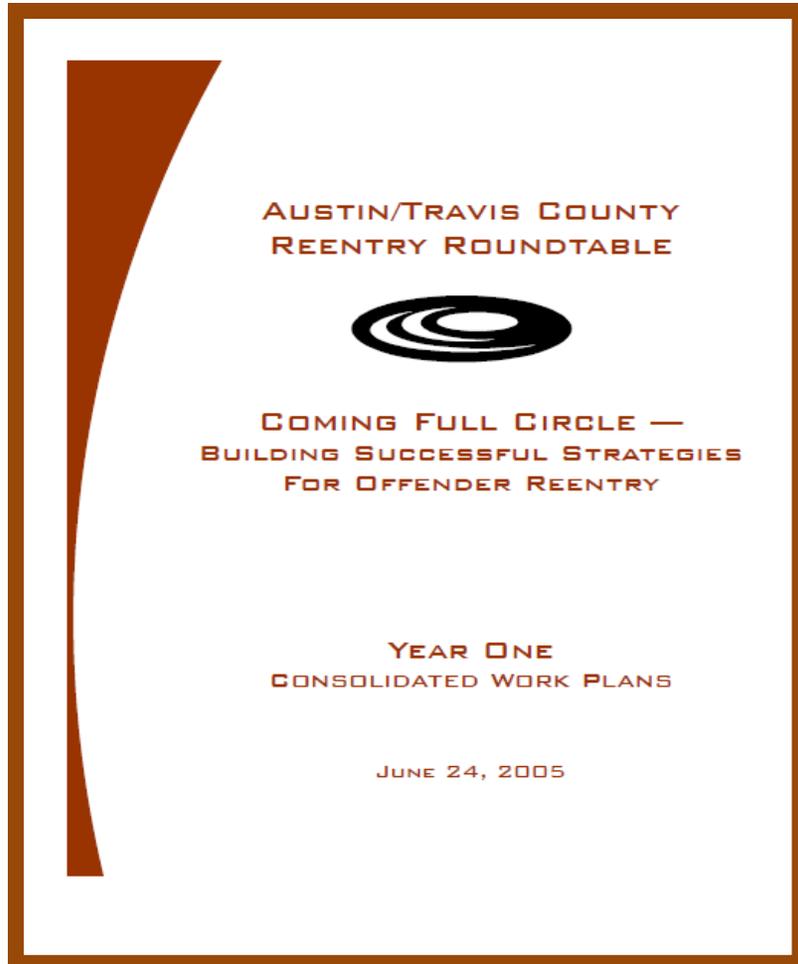
Related Goal:

Improve discharge planning for persons exiting public institutions:

- *Prevent homelessness by ensuring that **no one** is discharged from a publicly funded institution on to the streets or into shelter.*



A/TC Reentry Roundtable Plan: (2005)



- **Transition Preparation Committee Goal:**

“...to holistically prepare the offender, the victim and the community for successful reentry by assessing needs and providing necessary resources.”

Committee: Transition Preparation

The goal of the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Transition Preparation Committee is to holistically prepare the offender, the victim and the community for successful reentry by assessing needs and providing necessary resources.

February 2006

Goal 2: All offenders leaving a place of confinement or treatment returning to Travis County shall receive a Community Reentry Package upon release that contains the following items/resources from that facility:

- ◆ Driver's License or State Identification card; Social Security Card
- ◆ 30-day supply of prescription medications
- ◆ Clothing adequate for job interviews, etc.
- ◆ Resume
- ◆ Transportation/Bus Passes/Map
- ◆ 2-1-1 Cards
- ◆ Food vouchers
- ◆ Basic hygiene supplies
- ◆ Information on legal status/sex offender registration
- ◆ Travis County resource guide
- ◆ Information on housing assistance programs

Goal 3: All places of confinement/treatment that release offenders to Travis County will have a full-time position that provides individualized case management services to ensure that a network of community support exists for each offender upon exit from confinement/treatment facilities, including the following:

- ◆ Mentors/Positive Role Models
- ◆ Family Support/Faith-Based Support
- ◆ Health Care Resources
- ◆ Counseling and Treatment Resources/Sponsors
- ◆ Family Preparation for Transition
- ◆ Employment Counseling
- ◆ Clear Process for Restitution

Travis County Jail Population Management Initiative Project Charter (2009)

Vision:

Develop a strategy to evaluate, monitor, support and enhance effective, ongoing jail population management practices & policies of key stakeholders in Travis County.

Mission:

The Travis County Jail Population -

- is reduced by implementing proactive law enforcement strategies as an alternative to arrest, consistent with public safety and justice.
- is reduced by maximizing options to divert appropriate arrestees to alternative interventions.
- consists of individuals who should truly be incarcerated and are properly charged.
- moves through the Court System efficiently, consistent with public safety and justice.
- will be effectively prepared for re-entry by assessing for needs and risks and linking them to services/programs within the jail and in the community.
- will consist of reduced numbers of repeat offenders.

Goals:

Arrest to Booking

- Operation Plan for sobriety center budget proposal
- Cite and release expansion

Booking to Case Disposition

- Define and implement better data collection and reporting of jail population characteristics

Case Disposition to Re-entry

- Develop & implement Intake Assessment & Pre-Release processes
- Improve information & data sharing systems with key service agencies
- Strengthen follow-up & referral protocols

Related Goal/Strategy:

- **Case Disposition to Reentry:**
 - *Strengthen referral protocols*
 - *Improve info & data sharing systems with key service agencies*
 - *Identify & develop programs to prepare offenders for re-entry*

A/TC Corporation for Supportive Housing Texas Reentry Initiative (2010)

**AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY
CORPORATION FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
TEXAS RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE
JANUARY, 2010**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Goals:

- Establish/strengthen housing planning partnerships related to re-entry, homelessness, and disabled persons and housing
- Determine scope of the issue related to the need for permanent supportive housing for a re-entry population
- Develop recommendations for permanent supportive housing strategies for persons leaving correctional settings returning to Austin/Travis County, TX

In order to respond to a Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) planning grant to help research and identify strategies for permanent supportive housing for a re-entry population in our community, the Austin/Travis County CSH Texas Re-entry Task Force was created and launched in April 2009. The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable was identified as the lead agency, three levels of partnerships were identified (Full, Support, and Advisory) which had different roles and responsibilities, a steering committee was formed to guide the project, a consultant was hired to facilitate the process, and three work groups were formed to address the objectives. Throughout the course of the project, 133 individuals participated representing forty-two different organizations.

KEY FINDINGS

Housing Planning:

- Eleven housing planning groups were identified in Travis County that included 110 different organizations but very few, small community based housing providers. None of these planning groups specifically focuses on special populations such as re-entry.
- There is a lack of permanent supportive housing for the homeless in Travis County. The 2009 Continuum of Care identified 392 units of which only 57 are designated for the chronically homeless.

Target Population:

- Research identified a conservative estimate of 1,100 individuals in Travis County who met the definition of homelessness, involved with the criminal justice system, and had a disability in 2008.

**ATC CSH Texas Re-entry Project
Support & Advisory Partners:**

- AIDS Services of Austin
- A New Entry
- ATC Mental Health Jail Diversion Committee
- Catholic Diocese
- City of Austin Health and Human Services
- Downtown Austin Community Court
- Crime Prevention Institute
- Front Steps
- Green Doors
- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aide
- The Arc of the Capital Area
- Travis County Adult Probation
- Travis County Health and Human Services & Veteran Services

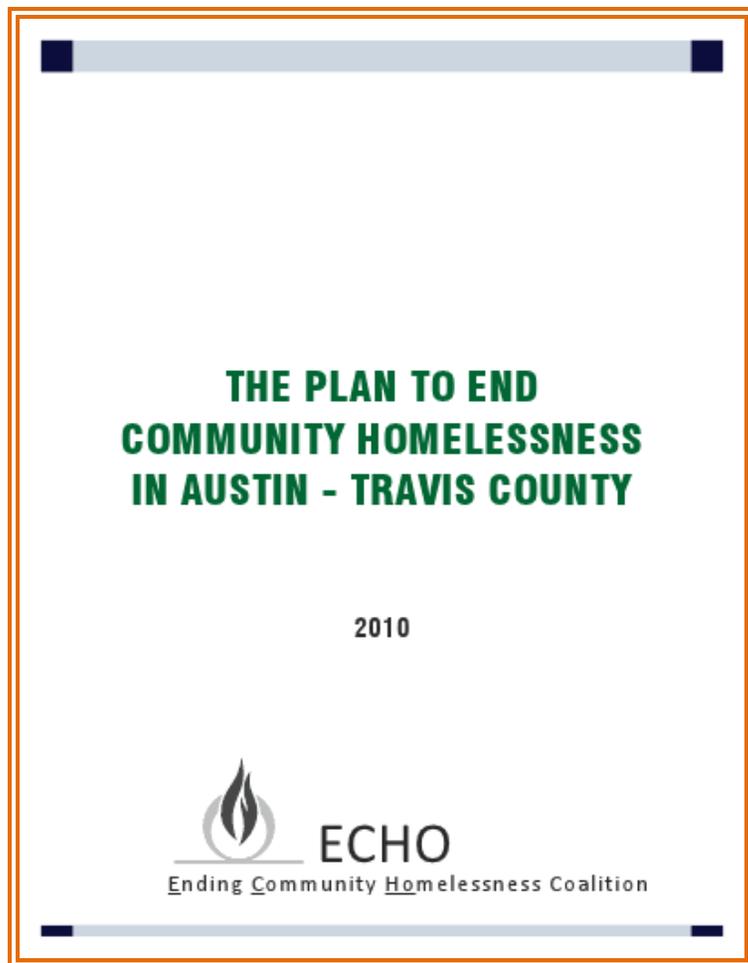
Project Supported by: **CSH**

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Recommendations included:

- *Develop 100 units of psh for frequent users of the cj system who are high users of other systems*
- *Build effective partnerships to address housing stability*
- *Maximize existing programs*

The Plan to End Community Homelessness in Austin-Travis County (ECHO 2010)



Prevention Goal 3:

Enhance partnerships to address prevention strategies:

*Implement discharge policies and procedures in areas of health care, foster care, mental health, and **corrections** that are consistent with Continuum of Care application.*

Austin/Travis County Mental Health Jail Diversion Plan (2005; 2010 updated)



**Austin Travis County
Integral Care**

Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Services

JAIL DIVERSION PLAN

Submitted March 1, 2010

- **Issue Identified:**

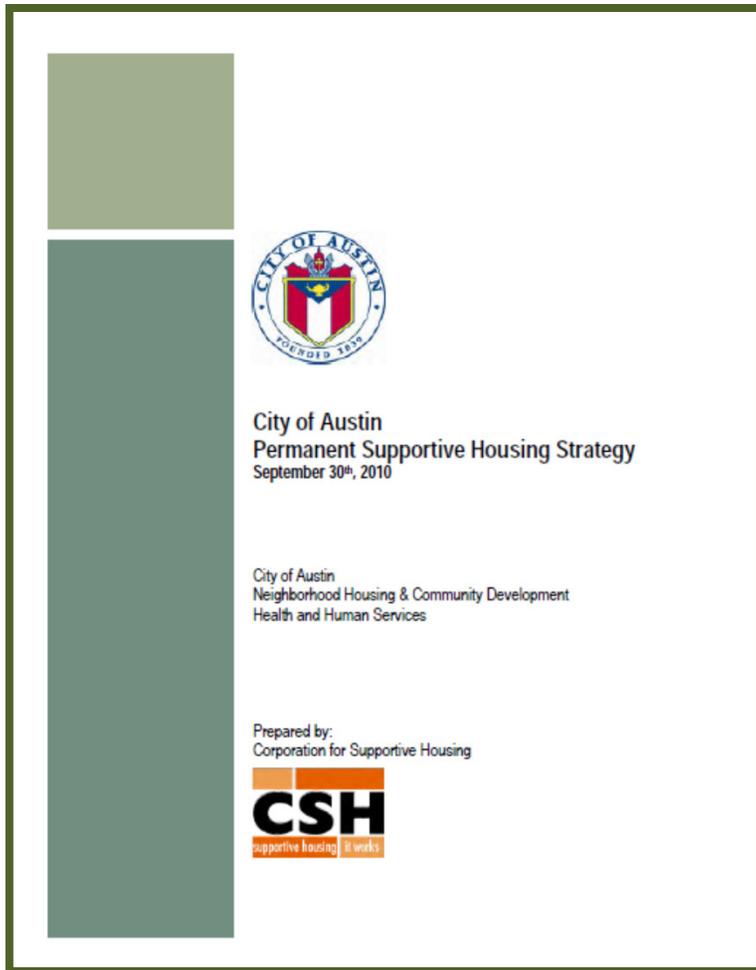
The lack of adequate housing services for people with mental illness in the criminal justice system makes pre-arrest and re-entry diversion strategies difficult to implement.

- **Strategies:**

- Continue to work on the development of a single point of entry for Travis County Jail Diversion efforts with well coordinated processes
- Encourage and support the development of a coordinated information system
- Expand and formalize post release planning and community supervision

City of Austin

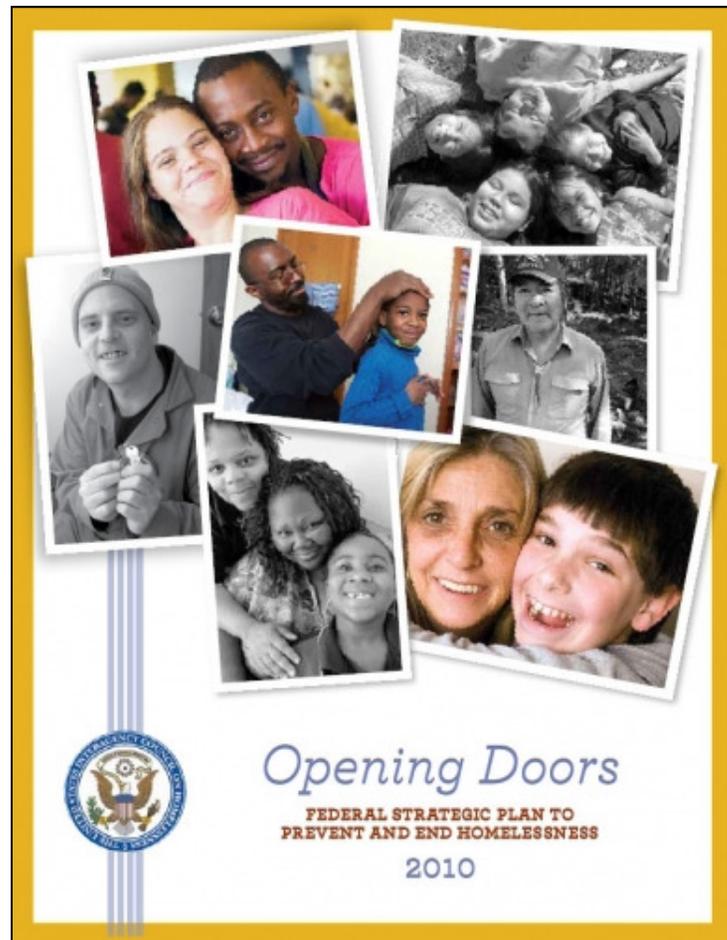
Permanent Supportive Housing Strategy (2010)



Target sub-populations for PSH:

- *225 frequent users of public systems*
- *At least 300 persons with severe & persistent mental illness*
- *At least 150 persons with co-occurring disorders*

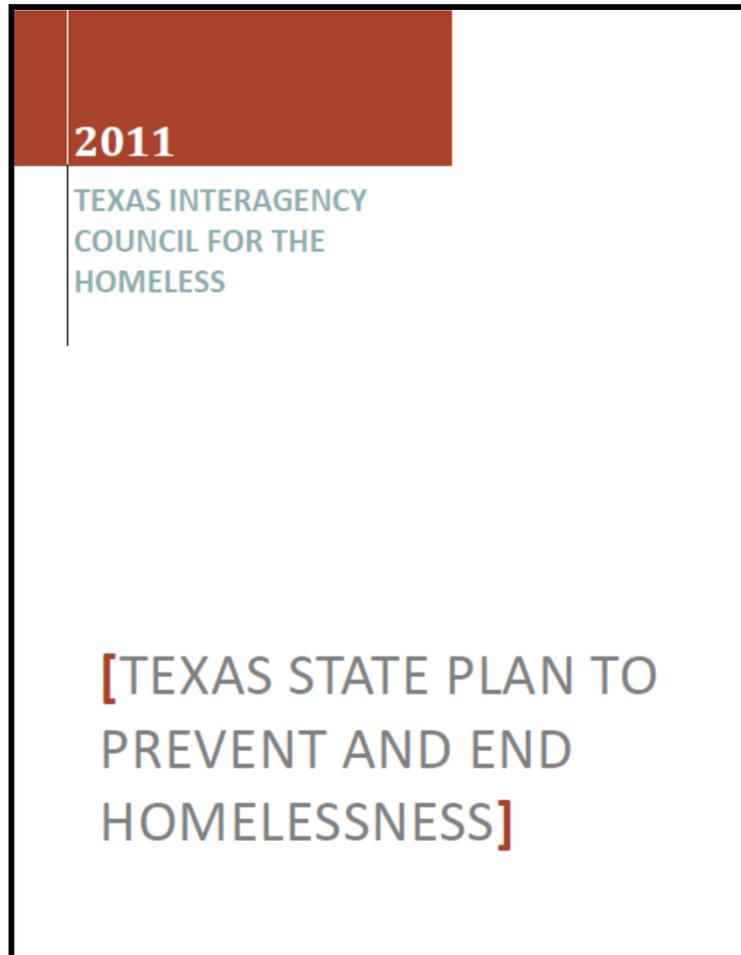
Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (USICH 2010)



Objective 9:

Improving health and stability, by linking health care with homeless assistance programs and housing, advancing stability for youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice, and improving discharge planning for people who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice systems.

Texas State Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (Draft 2011)



Prevention Goal: Objective 4:

Increase the capacity of state institutions to prevent instances of homelessness and shelter use upon discharge from facilities

Texas State Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, con't

PREVENTION | OBJECTIVE 4: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF STATE INSTITUTIONS TO PREVENT INSTANCES OF HOMELESSNESS AND SHELTER USE UPON DISCHARGE FROM FACILITIES.

	Strategy	Target Date	Responsible Actor
3.4.1	Involve all state institutions in TICH's discussion of homelessness prevention	Ongoing	TICH
3.4.2	Develop comprehensive discharge plans for state and non-state institutions	2015	TICH; TDCJ; TYC; hospitals; county jail systems; mental health facilities
3.4.3	Encourage institutions to assess the housing status of individuals taken into their facilities and systems	January 2013	TICH
3.4.4	Encourage institutions to use information on previous housing status and other homelessness risk factors to target specialized resources to individuals most at risk of homelessness upon release	January 2013 during agency representative roundtable; ongoing	TICH
3.4.5	Identify opportunities for partnerships between institutions and state agencies to provide targeted services	Ongoing	TICH Prevention Subcommittee
3.4.6	Establish an MOU between TYC and Department of Public Safety to provide state IDs to youth leaving TYC	January 2013	TYC; DPS

**Discussion/Consensus Building:
Goal (s) of Initiative:**

**Proposed Goal of
Transition Planning for Homeless Persons
Leaving Local Jails Initiative:**

Develop recommendations for enhancing transition planning for homeless persons leaving the Travis County Jail and Texas Department of Criminal Justice—Travis Unit (Travis State Jail)

Discussion/Consensus Building: Proposed Work Processes

- **Initial partner meeting:**
 - Reach consensus on goals, work processes, and timeline
 - Discuss best practice review process
 - Review list of current transition planning programs/processes
- **Strategic planning work session:**
 - Learn what current transition planning is now occurring
 - Learn about best practices
 - Identify recommendations for enhancing our current transition planning processes for homeless persons
- **Follow up partner meeting:**
 - Small group after work session synthesize/wordsmith recommendations create final proposed recommendations
 - Partners reach consensus on recommendations
 - Partners include recommendations on next steps

Discussion/Consensus Building: Timelines

Jan.-Feb. 2012 Engage stakeholders/Launch best practice review

March 2012 First partner meeting

May 2012 Strategic planning work session

June 2012 Finalize recommendations (including next steps)

July 2012 Finalize summary report of initiative

Current Transition Planning Projects/Programs at Our Local Jails:



Travis County Jail:

- Goodwill Peer Support Program
- Travis County Mental Health Public Defender's Office
- Veteran's Affairs Transitional Housing Program



TDCJ--Travis State Jail:

- Commitment to Change
- Goodwill Peer Support Program
- TDCJ Reentry Specialist
- Travis County Inside Out Program
- Turning Point Drug Education Program

Discussion: Best Practice Review

Dr. David Kirk
Carmen Gutierrez



UT at Austin
Sociology Department

Next Steps:

- **Strategic planning work session:**
 - One 6 hr session or two 3 hr sessions?
 - Possible dates or process for setting date
- **Gathering information about current transition planning initiatives**
- **Other**





For More Information:



About this initiative:

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Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable (A/TCRRT):

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www.reentryroundtable.net