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Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

December 2019

Announcing the Updated FY19-20 Roundtable Executive Committee

We are pleased to announce the updated FY19-20 Roundtable Executive Committee. Due to Michelle Collins' resignation as Chair, the Planning Council voted to approve an updated slate at the November meeting:



Planning Council Chair

Mia Greer, RN, BSN, CLIA

[Community Coalition for Health](#)



Vice Chair

Jennifer Tucker

[Goodwill Industries of Central Texas](#)



Planning Council Past Chair

Helen Gaebler, JD
[UT School of Law](#)



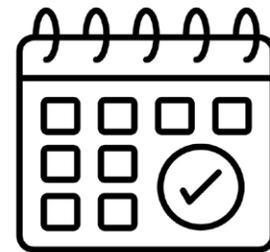
RAP Representative

Carl F. Hunter II, M.Div
[Recovery People](#)

We are grateful to these members for the commitment to serve the Roundtable in a leadership capacity this year.

December Planning Council Meeting

Please join us at our December Planning Council Meeting for a festive holiday potluck as well as a shift and share exercise. This will be a casual, fun way for Planning Council members to learn more about innovative reentry-related work being done in our community.



Participants will include:

- Rachel Hampton, [Goodwill Industries of Central Texas](#)
- Carl Hunter, [Building Promise USA](#)
- Kaleigh Phelan, [Ending Community Homelessness Coalition \(ECHO\)](#)

When: Monday, December 9 from 12:30-2 PM

Where: Goodwill Community Center

[1015 Norwood Park Blvd Austin, TX 78753](#)

Reentry Advocacy Project

Who: Are you or is someone you are close to directly impacted by the criminal justice system? If so, please join the [Reentry Advocacy Project](#) (RAP) for a monthly



conversation with other folks with lived experience with incarceration and reentry.

What: A project of the Roundtable, RAP engages formerly incarcerated men and women to advocate for the development and implementation of policies and practices that directly and positively impact the reentry population and their families, as well as provide guidance to the Roundtable. RAP is a place where you can get support and advice to address reentry challenges and barriers.

When: RAP generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6–7:30 p.m. with pizza and informal networking starting at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Mt. Zion Baptist Church Zion Action Recovery Center at [2951 E 14th St.](#)

You can stay up-to-date with RAP meeting times and other events by following them on [Facebook](#).

Events & Opportunities

Walking by Faith's "Pillow Talk"

When: Friday, December 13 from 5-11 p.m.

Where: [13001 Center Lake Drive Austin, TX 78753](#)

Cost: \$10-15

You're invited to [Walking by Faith's "Pillow Talk."](#) an evening of storytelling, comedy, music, and more that will focus on storytelling from men and woman with lived experienced in the criminal justice system. Their stories are testimonies of the breaking of the chains that once held them in bondage.



The event will feature guest speakers from Dallas, Austin and Houston, including the following members of the Reentry Roundtable:

- Mia Greer, current Roundtable Chair
- Reggie Smith, past Roundtable Chair
- Laurie Pherigo, current Roundtable Fellow
- Annette Price, former Roundtable Fellow

Additional speakers include Bobby Wheeler, Diane Williams, Harriet Young, Rosemarie Garcia, Maliza Perez, AnothylHill, Tyra Clark, Jose Flores, and Dominic Selvera.

Planning Council and RAP member Darvin Hamilton will be doing a signing of his book *25 Years Later: A Sentence from Crime to Redemption, Resilience, Advocacy and*

Leadership.

Walking by Faith will support [Pillows for Prisoners](#) to get hygiene packages together for men and women in prison.

[Get Tickets](#)

Webinar: Using Data to Identify and Serve People Who Frequently Utilize Health, Human Services, and Justice Systems (Part 2)



Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019

Time: 2-3:15 p.m. ET

Cost: Free

[Register here](#)

Counties across the country have committed to creating data-driven, systems-level plans to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in their jails.

As part of these efforts, many communities are focusing on the small number of people who frequently cycle in and out of emergency rooms, shelters, crisis services, and the justice system, a population that disproportionately contributes to the high utilization of these resources. People who come into frequent contact with these systems have some of the highest mental health and substance addiction treatment needs and utilize significant county resources, often without positive outcomes due to a lack of collaboration between the various systems.

In Part 2 of a series on collecting and using data, [Stepping Up](#) and the [Data-Driven Justice initiative](#) will host a webinar that features counties that have implemented policies and practices that identify frequent utilizers of these systems and use this information to connect people with appropriate treatment and services.

[Register](#)

Funding Opportunity: Public Welfare Foundation



The [Public Welfare Foundation](#) is currently accepting letters of intent for projects that support [the Foundation's core values](#) of racial equity, economic well-being, and fundamental fairness for all. The Foundation looks for strategic points where its funds can make a significant difference and improve lives through policy and system reform that result in transformative change.

The [program guidelines](#) provide further details about the grant. Letters of intent are accepted on a rolling basis. If, after review, a full proposal is invited, applicants will be assigned a deadline for the proposal submission.

Learn More

Want to learn about additional events around the country? We recommend looking up the [Council of State Governments Justice Center](#) and [Vera Institute of Justice](#).

News & Resources

New Report: Equipping Individuals for Life Beyond Bars



NEW AMERICA

New America recently released a report entitled [Equipping Individuals for Life Beyond Bars: The Promise of Higher Education & Job Training in Closing the Gap in Skills for Incarcerated Adults](#).

This report finds that although there is a gap between incarcerated adults and the general public in both literacy and numeracy skills, completion of a postsecondary credential and participation in job training ameliorates the gap. Those who participate in and/or complete these correctional programs have comparable literacy and numeracy scores to the general public. Furthermore, regardless of time to reentry, all incarcerated adults show interest in, participate in, and complete these programs at similar rates.

Read More

ICYMI: Report on Reducing Barriers to Family Connections

Earlier this year, The Urban Institute released [Model Practices for Parents in Prisons and Jails: Reducing Barriers to Family Connections](#), a comprehensive guide to inform correctional administrators in their efforts to reduce barriers to contact and communication between parents who are incarcerated and their children.



Informed by leading experts in the field and individuals directly affected by parental incarceration, the guide describes many low-cost, high-impact practices and provides administrators with evidence on the effectiveness of recommended practices and helpful tips and resources for successful implementation.

Examples of family-friendly practices include conducting family-inclusive reentry planning, designing welcoming visitor lobbies, providing parenting and parent-child relationship programming, allowing for contact visiting, coaching parents on telephone calls with their

kids, and hosting family activity days.

[Read the Report](#)

Experience-Based Co-Design: A Novel Approach to Helping People Returning from Prison

In 2019, RAND Corporation published [Co-Design of Services for Health and Reentry \(CO-SHARE\): An Experience-Based Co-Design \(EBCD\) Pilot Study with Individuals Returning to Community from Jail and Service Providers in Los Angeles County](#).



This report describes a pilot study, the Co-Design of Services for Health and Reentry (CO-SHARE), that used an innovative, evidence-based method known as Experience-Based Co-Design (EBCD) for returning individuals and service providers to collaboratively identify priority needs and recommendations for improving health and reentry services in Los Angeles County.

CO-SHARE is the first pilot study of EBCD in the United States. Results of the project focused on both the feasibility of applying EBCD in a community-wide service system in the United States and the recommendations concerning promising solutions and key design principles generated by study participants for improving services for the reentry population in Los Angeles County.

To learn more, please [click here](#) to read an article about the study shared on *Rand Review*. Alternatively, you may click the button below to read the full report from RAND.

[Read the Full Report](#)



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