



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY  
**REENTRY  
ROUNDTABLE**  
PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

November 18, 2019  
12:30 – 2:00pm  
Goodwill Community Center

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Rachel Hampton (Goodwill Central Texas), Carl Hunter (Recovery People), Marissa Latta (Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice Planning), Hank Perret (Leadership Austin Executive Fellow), Laurie Pherigo (Reentry Roundtable Advocacy Fellow), Sandra Smith (Via Hope), Jennifer Sowinski (Downtown Austin Community Court), Don Tracy (ACC), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Central Texas), Bree Williams (ECHO)

**Guests:** Jose Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission), Matt Smith (Aunt Bertha), Brittany Zoch (Travis County Juvenile Probation)

**Support:** Kelly Nichols, KiYa Moghaddam, Laylee Safa (WNA)

**I. Introductions & Discussion** – Helen Gaebler welcomed attendees and facilitated a round of introductions at 12:44pm.

### II. Planning Council Votes:

- a. **October 2019 Minutes**
- b. **Updated 2019-20 Leadership Slate**
  - **Chair – Mia Greer**
  - **Vice Chair – Jennifer Tucker**
  - **Past Chair – Helen Gaebler**
  - **RAP Representative – Carl Hunter**
- c. **Member Nomination: Jose Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission)** – Marissa Latta introduced Joe Ramirez who works for the Texas Veterans Commission as state coordinator for their homeless and justice-involved veterans initiative. He has lived experience in both homeless and justice-involved veterans issues.
- d. **ACTION:** Due to lack of quorum, Planning Council members will be asked to submit an e-vote on the minutes, updated leadership slate, and new member nomination.

### III. Updates:

- a. **Google Groups for Planning Council Member Communication (KiYa Moghaddam)**  
- KiYa let attendees know that the Roundtable has transitioned to GSuite. Moving forward, there will be a Google Group for Planning Council members to use to

communicate with the group as a whole. Similar Google Groups will be set up for each workgroup. Members do not need a Google account or Gmail address to use this. The website has changed from .net to .org. Reentry Roundtable emails will now be [info@reentryroundtable.org](mailto:info@reentryroundtable.org) and [laurie@reentryroundtable.org](mailto:laurie@reentryroundtable.org).

- b. FY2020 Deliverables & Behavioral Health Pilot (Helen Gaebler)** – Helen touched on the work her students are engaged in for the behavioral health pilot. They are focused on service mapping, research on successful national and local collaborations assisting with release from incarceration, and more. This information will be shared at the second pilot steering committee.

**IV. Discussion: Reentry Advocacy Project (KiYa Moghaddam and Laurie Pherigo)** – Laurie led attendees in a discussion about RAP, its connection to the Roundtable, and current challenges in leading the group. Attendees then broke into groups to discuss ways to encourage increased participation by justice-involved individuals in RAP. Ideas generated included:

- a.** Targeted marking that clearly states the who, what, where, why
- b.** Consult RAP participants on the value they get out of RAP meetings and use that information to inform the planning and marketing of future meetings.
- c.** Discussed collaboration with other peer support groups for justice-involved individuals (such as the weekly reentry support group run by Javier Soto at Communities for Recovery)
- d.** Move meetings to a location that is more easily accessible via public transit
- e.** Consider removing “advocacy” from the group’s name if the goal is peer support and reentry education
- f.** Explore opportunities for mentorship through RAP
- g.** Keeping tally of the total number of participants each month
- h.** Incorporate trainings or speakers at some meetings
- i.** Consider offering a certificate of participation or attendance

**V. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable**

- a.** The minutes from the first behavioral health pilot steering committee will be shared with Planning Council members.
- b.** The 2020 Planning Council meeting location has not yet been decided. It will be announced at next month’s meeting.
- c.** Kelly suggested that the Planning Council could meet quarterly via Zoom.
- d.** David Insley discussed his work as staff attorney from Texas Legal Services. The Parenting Order Legal Line Access and Visitation Hotline would be a great resource to share.

**VI. Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.**