



## PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 13, 2020

12:30 – 2:00pm

ZOOM

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Central Texas), David Clauss (American YouthWorks), Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Darla Gay (Travis County DA's Office), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Rachel Hampton (Goodwill Central Texas), Carl Hunter (Recovery People), Antoine Lane (Austin Police Department), Marissa Latta (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice Planning), Marsha Morgenroth (Travis County Adult Probation), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Laurie Pherigo (Roundtable Advocacy Fellow), Sandra Smith (Via Hope), Louella Tate (Community Representative), Don Tracy (ACC), Peter Valdez (Downtown Austin Community Court), Katy Jo Muncie (Capital Area Private Defenders Service), Kaleigh Phelan (ECHO), Carolyn Brown (TSCO)

**Guests:** Keyla Barbosa (Travis County Juvenile Probation), Allison Brandt (American YouthWorks), Laura Enderle (Austin Public Health), Kendra Garrett (Austin Justice Coalition), Margarita Luna (Texas Criminal Justice Coalition), Danny Smith (Travis County Sheriff's Office), Matt Smith (Aunt Bertha), Neal Whetstone (City of Austin), Britni Zoch (Travis County Juvenile Probation)

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

### I. Welcome & Introductions

Jennifer Tucker welcomed attendees at 12:30pm. Kelly Nichols provided a Zoom overview for meeting attendees.

### II. Voting Items:

- a. **March 2020 Meeting Minutes** – Louella Tate moved to approve the March 2020 meeting minutes as written. David Clauss seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Member Nominations:** As co-chairs of the Nominating Committee, Marissa Latta and Jennifer Tucker moved to recommend the nomination of the following individuals to the Planning Council:

- i. **Carolyn Brown, Travis County Sheriff's Office** – Louella seconded, and motion passed unanimously.
- ii. **Katy Jo Muncie, Capital Area Private Defenders Service** - Helen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- iii. **Hank Perret, Community Representative** - Louella seconded, and motion passed unanimously.
- iv. **Kaleigh Phelan, ECHO** –David seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### III. Key Roundtable Updates:

- a. **Funding Contracts** – Kelly shared that three weeks ago an item was put forth on the Travis County Commissioners Court meeting agenda to terminate the Roundtable's contract with the Travis County. Commissioner Travillion asked that the item be pulled and asked for a meeting later that week. Helen and Kelly participated in a meeting with Roger Jeffries, Commissioner Travillion, and Commissioner Shea during which an agreement was made on a set of deliverables. The Roundtable will complete the three deliverables that were suggested back in February plus one additional deliverable to develop a concept paper that will inform a plan for more coordination of reentry services in the community. There are only six months to complete these deliverables, but they align well with the existing work of the Roundtable. The contract has not yet been finalized but is working its way through purchasing. Roger Jeffries will be the main point of contact for the Roundtable moving forward. The Roundtable has been given assurance that there will be no further efforts this fiscal year to terminate the Roundtable's contract with Travis County. Once this contract process is wrapped up, the process of planning for the next fiscal year's contract will begin.
- b. **Reentry Data & Analysis Workgroup** – Kelly discussed the responses received for the Roundtable's public information requests. The workgroup will meet mid-April to review the draft report in advance of the May 1<sup>st</sup> deliverable deadline.
- c. **Reentry Simulation Workgroup** – Laurie Pherigo shared that the simulation will likely be postponed at least 30 days (from June to July) due to COVID-19. Kelly shared that the Roundtable has a year from the execution of the City's contract to do the simulation.
- d. **RAP-LBJ School Partnership** – Carl Hunter shared that the focus group will be held virtually.
- e. **Leadership Austin Executive Fellowship** – Hank Perret shared that his Executive Fellowship through Leadership Austin has now ended. He updated attendees on past and future presentations on fair chance hiring and spoke about connecting Athena with Windham School District.

#### **IV. Panel Discussion: Impact of COVID-19 on Incarceration & Reentry**

- a. KiYa Moghaddam facilitated a panel discussion with Maggie Luna (Peer Policy Fellow for the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition), Neal Whetsone (Policy Aid for City Council Member Natasha Harper Madison), and Danny Smith (Director of Inmate Mental Health of Travis County Sheriff's Office). Questions asked the following questions offered in a recent Council on State Governments Justice Center article, "*Seven Questions About Reentry Amid COVID Confusion*":
  - i. Are there procedures in place in advance of release to ensure that the person being released is free of COVID-19, and are they implemented in a timely manner to avoid delayed release?
  - ii. Does the person being released have the basic supplies they need—food, hand sanitizer, etc.—to ensure they remain healthy once they're home?
  - iii. Does the person being released have a safe home to return to that is also virus-free? If not, what alternative community-based housing options may be utilized?
  - iv. What medical or behavioral health medications and services does the person being released require immediately and potentially during a two-week quarantine? Do arrangements need to be made for them to access some of those services virtually?
  - v. Have we prepared the person being released with the technological literacy and equipment to receive and benefit from virtual, rather than in-person, supports?
  - vi. If the person being released is being released to parole or other supervision, how are we asking them to interact with their parole officer in a time of social distancing?
  - vii. If the local economy has collapsed, are we providing the person being released with access to public benefits to support themselves and their loved ones?

#### **V. Meeting adjourned at 2pm.**