



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY
**REENTRY
ROUNDTABLE**
PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, June 8, 2020
12:30 – 2:00pm
ZOOM

Members Present: Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), Carolyn Brown (Travis County Correctional Facility), David Claus (American Youthworks), Darla Gay (Travis Co. District Attorney's Office), Carl Hunter (Recovery People), Katy Jo Muncie (Capital Area Private Defender Service), Marissa Latta (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Cathy McLaugherty (Travis Co. Justice Planning), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Kaleigh Phelan (ECHO), Laurie Pherigo (Roundtable Advocacy Fellow), Jose Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission), Sandra Smith (Via Hope), Don Tracy (Austin Community College), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Central Texas), Pete Valdez (City of Austin, Community Court), Bree Williams (ECHO)

Guests: Shaun Auckland (Travis County Sustainability Program), Keyla Barbosa (Travis County Juvenile Probation), Susanne Mason, Lisa Mitchell, Matt Smith (Aunt Bertha), Neal Whetstone (Office of Council Member Harper-Madison)

Support: Kelly Nichols, Laylee Safa, Margaret Shetler (WNA)

I. Welcome & Introductions (5 mins)

Mia Greer welcomed attendees and facilitated a round of introductions at 12:35 PM.

II. Small Group Reflection (15 mins) – Attendees moved to breakout rooms to respond in small groups to the following question: What are you thinking, feeling or doing about racial injustice in the current moment?

III. Vote to Approve May 2020 Meeting Minutes (5 mins)

Hank Perret moved to approve the May 2020 meeting minutes. Don Tracy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Key Roundtable Updates (20 mins)

a. Discussion: FY2020 Travis County Deliverables – Kelly Nichols updated attendees on plans to satisfy deliverables over the next few months. To support and inform this work, attendees provided the following responses to the prompts below using Zoom's chat feature:

i. AN ACTION OR PRACTICE HELPING THE ROUNDTABLE MOVE FORWARD IS...

1. Networking

2. Community involvement
3. Subcommittees to take on responsibility of different things
4. Data collection

ii. AN UNCERTAINTY THE ROUNDTABLE MUST CREATIVELY ADAPT TO IS...

1. COVID-19 (*3 identical responses*)
2. Identify one or more justice centers and pilot small projects around some of the great ideas generated by the group
loss of funding from Travis County
3. Limited data
4. Our ever-changing environment
5. Loss of funding from Travis County
6. Evolving support
7. Community Outreach and participation
8. Virtual meetings
9. Limited data
10. Resistance to change from TC, TDCJ, etc.

iii. A QUESTION THAT IS EMERGING FOR ME ABOUT THE ROUNDTABLE IS...

1. Resistance from organizations lacking transparency
2. How I can support it. I am not employed by an affiliate organization.
3. Are we just going in circles?
4. What are our next deliverables and will they be funded?
5. What are our actionable objectives? How do we plan to achieve them?
6. Will I ever see y'all again...?
7. How can we be more actionable?
8. Why doesn't the roundtable have more support?
9. How can we DO something?

iv. A QUESTION I'D LIKE TO ASK CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS ABOUT REENTRY IS...

1. Why aren't they more proactive?
2. What is your end game?
3. What are they trying to accomplish?
4. Why do you always lie and say you are addressing it when you are not?
5. What are you doing to help prepare those getting out of prison?
6. Do you do anything to prepare those reentering?
7. Why isn't there more of a focus on homelessness prevention?
8. How can you GUARANTEE that individuals who are released have their vital documents?
9. Why aren't they demanding funds needed to prepare people for reentry?
10. Do you feel you should be focused on reentry?
11. Why isn't there data collected at the county level on exits into homelessness?

12. What prevents them from doing more for justice-involved people?
- v. **SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND FROM FOLKS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IS...**
1. How can we better connect to reentry services?
 2. What is your biggest obstacle?
 3. What would be most helpful to you when preparing for reentry and upon reentry?
 4. What is the number one thing you worry about when you are about to be facing reentry?
 5. What do you need most when released?
 6. What makes it easier for you to return and heal?
 7. How can we better support transition to home and work?
 8. What was something that helped?
- vi. **A BIG OPPORTUNITY I SEE FOR THE ROUNDTABLE IS...**
1. Are we advocating for the right resources?
 2. Collective impact ...if we use it correctly
 3. The Reentry Simulation, the focus groups
 4. More support services
 5. Creating projects that enable demonstration of new models for reentry
 6. Focus on the finding holes in the justice system we can fill
 7. Ability to impact the amount of energy institutions place on reentry
 8. Working to define what appropriating police dept funds could look like
 9. Changing the reentry process for people re-entering into Travis County. Connecting them to services, etc.
 10. Facilitate partnerships between corrections and reentry service providers for smoother transitions
 11. Collecting data around successful reentry programs and modeling for our institutions
- vii. **SOMETHING THE ROUNDTABLE SHOULD STOP DOING (OR DIVEST) IS...**
1. Stop reliance on Travis County funding, identify alternative sources of funding (*4 identical responses*)
 2. Shift focus to action items
 3. In person meetings?
 4. Relying on same sources of funding
- viii. **AN OLD IDEA WORTH REVISITING IS...**
1. Becoming a 501c3
 2. Frontline providers meetings to problem-solve specific issues
- ix. **A BOLD IDEA I RECOMMEND IS...**
1. Community mentors for those released (*3 identical responses*)
 2. Housing (*3 identical responses*)
 3. Support for sex offenders and violent criminals too (*2 responses*)
 4. Creating a ceremony to welcome back people returning from prison

5. Finding funding that would allow us to move
 6. Reentry navigators
 7. Explore practicing transformative justice
- x. **Request for participation in interviews with institutional stakeholders in groups of two or three:**
1. Antoine Lane
 2. Helen Gaebler
 3. Laurie Pherigo
 4. Lisa Mitchell
 5. Hank Perret

- b. **Reentry Simulation Update** – Laurie shared that the Roundtable is unable to hold an in-person simulation this fiscal year because of COVID-19. Laurie proposed an alternative event that could be held virtually with hopes that the in-person simulation could be held in 2021. The Roundtable will need to follow up with the City of Austin Equity Office to find out if this plan is acceptable.

V. Breakout Groups: (45 mins)

- a. **Reentry Data & Analysis Workgroup**
- b. **Reentry Simulation Workgroup**

VI. Other:

- a. Neal Whetstone updated attendees on the housing resolution put forth by Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.