



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY
**REENTRY
 ROUNDTABLE**
 PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING
 September 14, 2020
 12:30 – 2:00pm
 ZOOM
 MINUTES

Attendees: Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), David Clauss (American Youthworks), Helen Gaebler (UT Law School), Carl Hunter (Recovery People), Marissa Latta (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid) Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice Planning), Katy Jo Muncie (CAPDS), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Kaleigh Phelan (ECHO), Laurie Pherigo (Roundtable Advocacy Fellow), Joe Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission), Don Tracy (ACC), Louella Tate (Community representative), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill), Peter Valdez (City of Austin)

Guests: Kimberly Camp (Travis County Juvenile Probation), Laura Enderle (Austin Public Health), Kendra Garrett (Austin Justice Coalition), Jeff Lewis (Recovery Austin), Matt Smith (Aunt Bertha), Mary Moran (City of Austin Human Resources)

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

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – Mia Greer welcomed attendees and facilitated a round of introductions at 12:32 pm. She announced that September marks the end of Laurie Pherigo’s fellowship with the Reentry Roundtable and thanked her for her service. Laurie then reflected on her time working with the Roundtable, the personal and professional impact of her experience, and her plans for moving forward. She reflected on her favorite moments and recommendations for improving the next fellowship.

2. **Connecting Activity** – Attendees provided the following responses to the prompts below using Zoom’s chat feature:
 - **A strength that Laurie brought to the Roundtable was...**
 - Authenticity – *2 responses*
 - Passion – *2 responses*
 - Candidness – *2 responses*
 - Her enthusiasm for helping people
 - Honesty and being open
 - Positive attendance
 - Strong communication and relational skills
 - Perspective, much needed perspective
 - Her lived experience
 - Humor
 - Gratitude
 - **A moment over the past two years of Laurie’s fellowship that stands out to me is..**
 - RAP Speaks – *2 responses*
 - Hearing her story one on one
 - The idea for Johnnies!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - Her passion while speaking of the RAP Group
 - RAP
 - **A lasting impact that Laurie will have on the Roundtable is...**
 - Joy and her laugh
 - Care and concern for all
 - RAP Speaks
 - Her lived experience and groundbreaking RAP Groups
 - A model for future fellows in connecting and persevering
 - Sharing her lived experience and thoughtfulness
 - Her willingness to openly share with us ways to strengthen the fellowship going forward
 - **A career path I can see Laurie thriving in is...**
 - Advocacy – *three responses*
 - Peer support
 - Whatever she chooses

- Social worker or probation officer
- Anything with people!!!
- Providing empathetic support services to the justice involved community
- Counseling / advising, using her lived experience as her guide
- Floral arrangement, music, admin, government, anything she sets her mind to

- **A piece of career advice I have for Laurie is...**

- Don't change! your very genuine...
- Show up. Always show up. 90% of life is being there
- More organization
- Stay true to yourself, people will listen and be move
- Time management
- You're amazing and your future work will help others in immense ways
- She seems to already embody the idea that her past can be a strength
- Let your heart guide your head
- Ask questions and keep being open to learning new things.

- **Something that we need to think about for future Fellows is...**

- Mentorship – 3 responses
- Better integration into the PC - like Laurie's description of the need.
- A Stand Operating Procedure (SOP)
- More support and additional structure

- **A question I have about the Advocacy Fellowship is...**

3. Voting Items

- August 2020 Meeting Minutes** – Joe Ramirez moved to approve the August 2020 meeting minutes. Hank Perret seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- FY2021 Leadership Slate** – Helen Gaebler moved to approve the FY2021 leadership slate as follows: Jennifer Tucker as Chair, Don Tracy as Vice Chair, Mia Greer as Past Chair, and Carl Hunter as RAP Representative. Hank Perret seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Key Roundtable Updates

- FY2020 Deliverables** – Kelly provided a quick recap of the Roundtable's deliverables for this fiscal year ending this month. The final report with recommendations for improving reentry will be submitted to the City of Austin and Travis County tomorrow and will be publicly released as well.
- FY2021 Deliverables:**
 - Community Convening on Reentry** - A community conversation around reentry will take place during late November-mid December in lieu of hosting a reentry simulation. Austin Justice Coalition will partner with the Reentry Roundtable in hosting this event. Planning Council members will be invited to host breakout room discussions in partnership with a person with lived experience.

- How are people chosen?
- How can we best prepare, as an organization, for working with / supporting folks who are coming to us with huge variation in skills, background knowledge, etc.
- Is it a livable wage?
- Any certified training?
- Onboarding and training process

- **A big opportunity I see for the Advocacy Fellowship is...**

- Taking RAP to the next level
- Further integration into PC. and yes social media!
- Really engaging folks with lived experience to demand better societal support and push for true prison reform
- Building capacity and engagement with change in our community of folks with lived experience.
- To use more social media- allows for mass media, easier to get the program known
- Build in future endeavors for fellow
- This coming year, testifying on justice issues at leg

I think if the Advocacy Fellow works more with the Planning Council members as well as the executive committee, many new ideas and processes will be the result

- ii. **Reentry service landscape and service mapping** – The Planning Council would like to better understand the current landscape of reentry service providers (what kinds of services are provided, which agencies provide these services, do they have specific or exclusionary eligibility criteria, etc.). This will involve a comprehensive survey of providers and mapping/visualization of data.
- iii. **Reentry Web Application** - Aunt Bertha will partner with the Roundtable to satisfy this deliverable.
- c. **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Solutions for Health Equity Grant** – Mia shared that Community Coalition For Health will partner with the Reentry Roundtable on a grant proposal related to healthcare access for individuals reentering the community after incarceration with a special focus on people of color. This would be a \$300,000 grant over three years. The Roundtable will be submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI) on October 7. A draft will be shared next week. Planning Council members are invited to email Kelly or Laylee if they'd like to be involved in the LOI review.
 - i. **ACTION:** Laura Enderle shared that she would like to support the effort to increase healthcare for individuals reentering.
- d. **Year End Financial Update** – Kelly reviewed the Reentry Roundtable's end of year finances with attendees. She shared that additional funding should roll in soon. The Reentry Roundtable is under budget on some items due to not having in-person meetings over the past few months. She let attendees know that the Executive Committee approved the purchase of gift cards for focus group participants over the summer.
 - i. **ACTION:** Laylee will send out the financial update as follow up to the meeting.

5. Other

- a. Kelly thanked Helen and Mia for their service and leadership on the Roundtable's Executive Committee over the past year. Mia will be continuing as Past Chair in FY21 while Helen will be rolling off the Executive Committee. Kelly and Mia shared a special thank you for Helen Gaebler providing so many volunteer hours each year in support of the Roundtable.
- b. Kendra Garrett shared that the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program's Qualified Allocation Plan 2021 Draft was released for public comment on September 4th and is open until October 9th. They have added in criminal history language for supportive housing applications/developments. The language is bad and needs to be removed. Kendra encouraged attendees to send a public comment letter to TDHCA requesting the removal of this language. She also requested that attendees share with their local networks and networks in other Texas cities. The goal is to create a flood of public comment to have the restrictive language removed. Comments are due by October 9. The Roundtable discussed potentially submitting a public comment as a coalition.
- c. The next Planning Council meeting will be postponed from October 12 to October 19.
 - i. **ACTION:** Laylee will update the calendar notice for Planning Council members and send out a reminder.