



PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

October 12, 2020
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
ZOOM

MINUTES

Members Present: Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Central Texas), Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), Carl Hunter (Recovery People), Joe Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice Planning), Don Tracy (ACC), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Peter Valdez (City of Austin Community Court), David Clauss (American Youthworks), Kaleigh Phelan (ECHO), Carolyn Brown (Travis County Correctional Complex), Marissa Latta (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Marsha Morgenroth, Katy Jo Muncie (Capital Area Private Defender Service, Louella Tate

Guests: Sandra Ramirez, Madeline Sonntag, Kendle Rhodes, Lori Mellinger (Empowered Women of Purpose), Laurie Pherigo, Matt Smith, Kimberly Camp, Jessica Blumenstein (Texas State University BSW student intern at the Travis County Sheriff's Office), Jen Lee-Pearce (University of Iowa)

Support: Kelly Nichols, Laylee Safa (WNA)

I. 12:30-12:40 p.m. – Connecting Activity: Paired Conversations

Jennifer Tucker welcomed attendees and facilitated a round of introductions at 12:32 p.m. Attendees were moved into breakout groups to discuss their professional and/or personal motivation for participating in the Roundtable.

II. Vote on September 2020 Minutes -- David Clauss moved to approve the September 2020 minutes. Mia Greer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. 12:40-12:50 p.m. – Chair Remarks (Jennifer Tucker)

Jennifer reflected on her goals for the year as the new Roundtable Chair which include increasing member engagement; opening channels for feedback, communication, and relationship building; creating transparency and clarity around the Roundtable's work and accomplishments; and strengthening collaborative efforts to achieve the Roundtable's goals. She would like to start every meeting with setting intentions, circling back to strategic goals, and reviewing workplan progress. Since it has been a frequent question, she reiterated that the Roundtable does not provide direct service related to reentry.

IV. 12:50-1:00 p.m. – Overview of Reentry Roundtable Strategic Plan & FY20 Work Plan (Jennifer Tucker, Kelly Nichols)

- a. Jennifer reviewed the Roundtable's core values as defined in the RRT 2018-2022 Strategic plan. Kelly reviewed the strategic priorities and how they tie in with the Roundtable's past and upcoming work for FY21. These goals include educating the community regarding reentry; diversion and reentry navigation; eliminating collateral consequences; and strengthening organizational capacity to support the Roundtable's strategic goals.
- b. Kelly clarified WNA's work in supporting the Roundtable. This includes supporting and coordinating meetings of the Planning Council, Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, leadership check ins, and workgroups; onboarding new members; communications activities such as the monthly newsletter, website updates, social media posts, and drafting an annual report; supervising the Roundtable Advocacy Fellow; and supporting work toward satisfying contract deliverables. Jennifer clarified that while WNA does this work to support the Roundtable, the Executive Committee relies on Planning Council members to contribute ideas, get involved in workgroups, and help work towards the Roundtable's goals. She stressed that Planning Council meetings "belong" to the Planning Council and not WNA.
- c. Kelly provided an overview of this year's Roundtable workplan which includes:
 - i. **Fellowship** – Supporting RAP (Darwin has volunteered to take on facilitating RAP until next fellow is brought on); selecting a new fellow; revamping onboarding, orientation, and training of fellow; securing mentorship for fellow; ongoing support and supervision of fellow.

- ii. **Deliverables** – This year’s City of Austin and Travis County contract deliverables are mostly aligned and include: hosting a virtual community conversation in partnership with Austin Justice Coalition; a reentry service survey of providers and mapping; creation of website or application in partnership with Aunt Bertha.
- iii. **Communications** – This includes website, monthly newsletter, social media, and annual report. This year the Executive Committee would like to do an impact report.
- iv. **Other** – The Roundtable has partnered with Community Coalition for Health in submitting a Letter of Intent for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Solutions for Health Equity Grant. The hope is to focus on addressing the healthcare needs of communities of color and folks with criminal backgrounds in Travis County. The Roundtable may want to coordinate a working group to look at best practices related to about reentry centers since local stakeholders have expressed interest in setting up a reentry center in Travis County. The Roundtable would like to work on building relationships with City and Council and Travis County Commissioners this year. Additionally, the reentry simulation will be a critical engagement activity once COVID-19 ends.
- v. **Short term work groups** – Kelly spoke about the Roundtable’s short-term advocacy. An example of this is the recent letter submitted by the Roundtable regarding the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs 2021 Qualified Allocation Plan.
 - 1. **ACTION:** WNA will share the letter with Planning Council members.

V. 1:00-1:45 p.m. – Shift & Share Activity

a. Service Mapping Project – Led by Don Tracy, Carl Hunter, Kelly Nichols

i. Questions/Comments:

- 1. How can the list that we’re creating for the website piece not be static? (need to create feedback loops to keep updating the information; the Aunt Bertha platform supports this)
- 2. Seems like what we really need is a more narrow, manageable list of services that people can access and then make warm connections from the criminal justice institution directly to the service provider.
- 3. Does Aunt Bertha work with system navigators? Yes – they often take this approach and can create specialized websites for this purpose.
- 4. Could envision this similar to the flags that Aunt Bertha creates for “2-Gen” services
- 5. Does the geographic scope of this project need to broaden to a regional or statewide? Response: people are going to return to where they were adjudicated upon release so Travis County makes sense as the focus.

ii. What elements will be necessary for success on the project?

- 1. Aunt Bertha provide overview of its platform functionality to ground the conversation
- 2. Success for individuals is dependent on the individual – need a person-centered approach; an individualized approach for navigation.
- 3. That where peer support can play a key role in the process
- 4. Please review Travis County’s Asset Mapping report and Reentry Guide as you embark on this process in order not to duplicate efforts
- 5. Will need to streamline the triage process, similar to coordinated entry process for homeless
- 6. Can we incentivize service partners to do the right thing? Reward or highlight those organizations who are effectively serving the reentry population?
- 7. Having system uniformity is an important goal (e.g. aligning criminal background criteria in housing programs) to make this work.
- 8. This work must be done in conjunction with addressing collateral consequences
- 9. Educate service providers that there are already safeguards in place to prevent people with specific crimes (e.g. persons with sex offenses not being able to work with kids)
- 10. We shouldn’t forget that the community engagement aspects of this work are critical – need to change stigma/perception of persons with criminal backgrounds in order to change organizational policies

b. Strategies to Increase Member Engagement – Led by Jennifer Tucker, Mia Greer, Laylee Safa –

i. Observations:

- 1. Members expressed a need for relationship building with one another and as well as with other community organizations.
- 2. Many attendees at Planning Council meetings are guests so they often lack the context/background information for meeting discussions
- 3. Members would like tangible “homework” between meetings

4. Members would like to feel a sense of accomplishment with each meeting
- ii. **Member recommendations:**
1. Market the Roundtable's work and successes more widely
 2. Create a medallion that member organizations could put on their website to show that they work with the Roundtable
 3. Promote Planning Council meeting guest attendance to UT students in relevant departments to familiarize them with reentry issues
 4. Have Planning Council members meetings of other community organization working around criminal justice issues to lay the foundation for collaboration with other key players
 5. Request that members sign up to take on responsibility for specific tasks between meetings, hold them accountable for that work, ask them to report out at Planning Council meetings
 6. Revitalize the Nominating Committee
 7. Make meetings more interactive
 8. Get more involved with RAP by potentially having one Planning Council member attend each RAP meeting
 9. Expand focus to more explicitly include supporting families of individuals with criminal justice involvement
 10. Increase the number of individuals with lived experience on the Planning Council
 11. Renew Roundtable partnership with Texas Incarcerated Families Association
 12. Rotate duties so everyone feels included and has a sense of ownership
 13. Create more opportunities for members to share updates and news related to reentry

VI. 1:45-2:00 p.m. – Debrief from Shift & Share Activity

- i. Jen thanked attendees for their participation in the shift and share activity.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.