



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

*Building Successful Strategies for
Reentry and Reintegration in Austin/Travis County, Texas*

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

May 10, 2021
12:30 – 2 p.m.
ZOOM

Members Present: Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas), Don Tracy (Austin Community College), Carl Hunter (Building Promise USA), Carolyn Brown (Travis County Correctional Facility), David Clauss (American YouthWorks), Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Marissa Latta (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Charles Moody (The Rock ATX), Katy Jo Muncie (Capital Area Private Defender Service), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis Co. Justice Planning), Joe Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission), Melissa Shearer (Travis Co. Mental Health Public Defender), Louella Tate (Community Representative), Peter Valdez (City of Austin Community Court), Alex Villarreal (Integral Care)

Guests: Sonja Burns, Travis Coley, Heather Emerson, Kayla De La Portilla, Laura Enderle, Victoria Galvan, Juanita Garcia, Melissa Hargis, Diana Hernandez, Beverly Johnson, Dan Leal, Zachary Mahon, Susanne Mason, Mary Moran, Jorge Renaud, Ruby Robinson, Steven Wentreck, April Zamora

Support: Madeleine Jordan-Lord, Kelly Nichols (WNA)

- I. **12:30-12:40 p.m. – Welcome – Jennifer Tucker**
 - a. Guest Introductions & Welcome to Amanda Cassidy, Reentry Advocacy Fellow (5 min)
 - b. Meeting Preferences Poll (5 mins)
 - i. See end of Minutes for responses.

- II. **12:40-12:45 p.m. – Voting Items – Jennifer Tucker**
 - a. April 2021 Minutes
 - i. ACTION: A motion to approve minutes was made by Joe Ramirez and seconded by David Clauss. Minutes were approved by a voice vote with no abstentions.

- III. **12:45-1:05 p.m. – Reentry Update, April Zamora, TDCJ Reentry and Integration Division**
 - a. April discussed changes in releasing protocol due to Covid-19. She described virtual job fairs, mental health resources, and the Covid-19 testing process. April explained a push for pick-up by families and infrastructure for families through reentry hotlines. She also spoke about obtaining IDs at the time of release and connecting folks in reentry to fair chance employers.

- b. Recording:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/eQyNtONfoJSnt7dyfdijgcUfzrGgl5GtzrIVMLGUdZurbUF7UAzI7ORb7NB5AVM.XOKJINKSrKYum2Q2>
- c. Access Passcode: !?V=LEP4

IV. 1:05-1:10 p.m. – Financial Update

V. 1:10-1:50 p.m. – Update on Proposed Funder Deliverables

Executive Committee reported out on our proposed funder deliverables—which can be found in the meeting packet. The Planning Council then completed a Google Jamboard activity to workshop.

Dan Leal suggested that Interfaith Action and Simone Talma Flowers would be good partners for the deliverable on convening faith-based organizations. Dan Leal offered to connect us to them when we are ready. Charles Moody said that the reentry process is more than a job and a roof, it is also about reconnecting with family members and reconnecting with yourself. Katy Jo asked where these deliverables came from, and Kelly explained that these goals came from our notes this past year and from current events and movements in the Reentry community. County would like deliverables confirmed by the end of this month. Jorge Renaud asked for more details about the involvement of DA's in a diversion and reentry center. Melissa Shearer clarified that DA will facilitate funding, but will seek out nonprofits and people in the community to contract and do the client work.

VI. 1:50-2:00 p.m. – Member Updates and Announcements

Sonja Burns shared the following event: Townhall on Public Safety: People With Disabilities and Policing. It is open to the public and will be taking place on May 21, 2021 from 6:00-8:30pm on Zoom.

Charles Moody shared the following series: Covid Vaccines and our Community hosted by Central Health, Community Care Health Centers, and Community Coalition for Health. The next event will take place on Tuesday, May 18th from 7-8:30pm on Facebook Live.

Meeting Preferences Poll Responses

1. Do you prefer Planning Council meetings in the virtual format?
 - Yes! I prefer virtual much more. (10 Responses)
 - No. I would like to return to in-person meetings ASAP. (0 Responses)
 - I like both virtual and in-person. Would prefer a hybrid schedule. (11 Responses)
2. Which Roundtable activities would you like to do in-person?
 - Planning Council meetings (6 Responses)
 - Workgroup meetings (5 Responses)
 - Coffee chats (14 Responses)
 - Outreach and advocacy opportunities (14 Responses)
3. Which Roundtable activities would you like to continue to do virtually?
 - Planning Council meetings (19 Responses)
 - Work group meetings (15 Responses)
 - Coffee chats (1 Response)

- Outreach and advocacy opportunities (5 Responses)

4. Which of these Planning Council meeting schedules appeal to you?

- Every Planning Council meeting is virtual (6 Responses)
- 2 in-person meetings a year, remainder stay virtual (6 Responses)
- Quarterly in-person meetings, remainder stay virtual (8 Responses)
- Half in-person, half virtual (6 Responses)
- Every Planning Council meeting is in-person (0 responses)

5. Check the elements that have felt EASIER in the virtual format:

- Ease of Attending Meetings (21 Responses)
- Member Engagement (6 Responses)
- Guest Engagement (8 Responses)
- Small Group Conversations (6 Responses)
- Large Group Conversations (2 Responses)

6. Check the elements that have felt HARDER in the virtual format:

- Ease of Attending Meetings (0 responses)
- Member Engagement (4 Responses)
- Guest Engagement (4 Responses)
- Small Group Conversations (3 Responses)
- Large Group Conversations (10 Responses)