



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

August 9, 2021
12:30 – 2 p.m.
ZOOM

Attending: Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas), Don Tracy (Austin Community College), Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), Carl F. Hunter II (Building Promise USA), Carolyn Brown (Travis County Correctional Facility), David Clauss (American YouthWorks), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), 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: Maya Beit-Arie (ECHO), sonja burns (Advocate), Pamela Bryant, Kenny Eck (Founder & CEO), Heather Emerson (Prep to Your Door), Laura Enderle (Austin Public Health), Juanita Garcia (Travis Co Public Defender), Glenn Hutchins (Social Worker), Beverly Johnson, London Lawrence (Community Liaison), Ramah Leith (Goodwill Central Texas), Craig Moore, Sharon Ricks, Matt Smith (Aunt Bertha), Deepak Sridhar (Cities 4 Peace), TERRA TUCKER (Alliance for Safety and Justice), Ashleigh Walton (CAPDS)

Support: Amanda Cassidy (Advocacy Fellow), Madeleine Jordan-Lord (WNA), and Kelly Nichols (WNA)

- I. 12:30-12:45 p.m. – Welcome – Jennifer Tucker**
 - a. Guest Introductions (7 mins)
 - i. Guest Google Form
 - b. Connecting Activity (5 mins)
 - i. What is something new that you've recently learned and are excited to share?
 - c. Advocacy Fellow Update (3 mins)

- II. 12:45-12:50 p.m. – Voting Items – Jennifer Tucker**
 - a. June 2021 Minutes
 - i. ACTION: A motion to approve June 2021 Minutes was made by Louella Tate and seconded by Don Tracy. Minutes were approved by a voice vote with no abstentions.

- III. 12:50-1:20 p.m. – Reentry Service Mapping Work Group Presentation – Kelly Nichols**
 - a. Powerpoint presentation can be found at this [link](#).
 - b. Kelly gave an overview of the Reentry Service Mapping Workgroup's survey project purpose and process. Kelly presented a summary of survey responses, survey findings and recommendations. Held a large group discussion around the survey findings. Planning Council members were invited to join the next work group meeting.
 - c. Planning Council discussed how this project is one of Reentry Roundtables biggest

accomplishments. Planning Council is excited to share with their networks, and for this work to inform policy changes in the future. Systems map will help prioritize for the next strategic plan.

IV. 1:20-1:30 p.m. – Aunt Bertha Partnership Update – Matt Smith

- Matt explained that Aunt Bertha is a social services referral program which powers a site called FindHelp.org. Anyone can access it for free and connect to services for free. Matt shared his screen and showed the groups a few of the programs uploaded from the Reentry Services survey.

V. 1:30-1:45 p.m. – City of Austin Reentry Services Grant Proposal Draft

- a. Planning Council discussed City of Austin Reentry Services grants for Hub and Spoke awards, and finding Reentry Roundtable's place in this initiative. A strong reentry coalition to support is a really important part of one-stop shop reentry centers. Planning Council discussed having a feedback loop so the entire Roundtable will have a systemic way of Planning Council knowing all these activities. The agreement with grantees should plainly state the expectations for communicating with the Reentry Roundtable. Planning Council members have a lot of expertise to share with grantees.

VI. 1:45-2 p.m. – Member Updates and Announcements

- The Planning Council Coffee Chat meetup is taking place on Monday August 23rd at 8am. This is an informal meetup and will take place outside at Easy Tiger North (6406 N I-35 Frontage Rd). Thank you!
- Maya Beit-Arie introduced herself as the Coalition and Capacity Building Manager at ECHO. Her role is to build new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships. She announced that ECHO is currently in the process of holding a local competition for federal Continuum of Care funding. You can view trainings and more information about that opportunity here: <https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/continuum-of-care/>
- Jen Tucker announced that Goodwill Central Texas has received a large one-year housing stability grant. Funds will become available on September 1st. Jen will keep the Planning Council updated.
- Ramah Leith announced that the Fatherhood Works program at Goodwill Central Texas is currently enrolling fathers and father figures who meet the following eligibility criteria: Reside in Williamson, Hays, Travis, or Bastrop Counties; meet income restrictions; are age 18+; and have a child up to 24 years old. Learn more here: <https://www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/education-job-training/fatherhood-works>
- Carl Hunter announced that he met with Commissioners Alvarez and Demerson at the Texas Workforce Commission to develop workforce development initiatives. Carl hopes to partner with RAP as a recruitment partner, focusing specifically on the tech industry.
- Pastor Moody announced: If you are interested in participating in focus groups discussing the unique needs of African American Men in Healthcare please contact Charles Moody III at 512-426-4738 or at charlesmoody3@c2h.us. We are working with the African American Youth Harvest Foundation and Integral Care to establish the foundation for a clinic that focuses on the specific healthcare and mental health needs of African American Men.
- Carl Hunter reminded the group about the scholarship opportunities for Reentry Peer Specialists offered through ViaHope. Learn more here: <https://www.wgu.edu/partners/viahope.html>