



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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

September 13, 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), 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), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis Co. Justice Planning), Joe Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission), Melissa Shearer (Travis Co. Mental Health Public Defender), Louella Tate (Community Representative)

Guests: Devin Driver (Empowering Women Out of Prison), Rochion Gregg (City of Austin - Office of Civil Rights), Sonja Burns (Advocate), Kenny Eck (Patient Sortal Inc), Cynthia Simmons, Kaleigh Phelan, Beverly Johnson, Mick Normington (Lee College prison education), Wendi Power (Batya Foundation), James Levy, Terra Tucker

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

I. 12:30-12:50 p.m. – Welcome – Jennifer Tucker

a. Guest Introductions (5 mins)

i. [Guest Google Form](#)

b. Connecting Activity (10 mins)

Connecting activity was a Chatterfall. Answers can be found at the end of the minutes document.

c. Advocacy Fellow Update (5 mins)

Amanda Cassidy updated the Planning Council on her work since the last meeting. This included supporting the Reentry Services Landscape report and website, participating in Intercept 4 Reentry Work Group Meetings, and participating in the Hogg Academy.

d. Council Award—David Clauss

Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable honored David Clauss (American YouthWorks) as the quarterly Council Award honoree. David was instrumental in the Reentry Service Landscape survey and report. Thank you, David!

II. 12:50-1:15 p.m. – Voting Items – Jennifer Tucker

a. August 2021 Minutes

i. ACTION: A motion to approve August 2021 Minutes was made by Don Tracy and seconded by Louella Tate. Minutes were approved by a voice vote with no

abstentions.

b. FY22 Officer Elections

Position	Name
Chair	Don Tracy
Vice Chair	Pastor Charles Moody
Past Chair	Jen Tucker
RAP Representative	Joe Ramirez

- i. ACTION: A motion to approve FY22 Leadership Slate for Officer Elections was made by Mia Greer and seconded by Louella Tate. Leadership slate was approved by a voice vote with no abstentions.

III. 1:15-1:35 p.m. – Presentation from Rochion Gregg (Fair Chance Hiring Investigator, City of Austin Office of Civil Rights)

Rochion Gregg gave an informative presentation on Fair Chance Hiring from the perspective of employers. You can connect with the City of Austin Civil Rights office through [email](#), phone (512-974-3251), or their website: civilrightsoffice@austintexas.gov. You can also learn more through their [Fair Chance Hiring Workshop series](#). The next workshop will be held on Sept 22nd from 1:00-2:30pm.

IV. 1:35-1:45 p.m. – Other Business

- a. Nominating Committee Interest
 - i. The Roundtable is looking for a couple more interested members to join the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee meets quarterly to recruit potential new members for the Planning Council. Please email Madeleine if you would like more information.
 - ii. Interested members: Joe Ramirez, Charles Moody, Don Tracy
- b. RFP Release for Coalition Support
 - i. The Executive Committee has written a RFP for Coalition Support to release at the beginning of October. More information to come.

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

- a. Amanda Cassidy and Carl Hunter: Gave an update about the Reentry Vaccine Initiative. The Hogg Foundation has contributed \$2500 towards giftcards to get people vaccinated in the reentry community.
- b. Don Tracy: ACC is hosting a series of vaccination clinics. Dates on website. <https://www.austincc.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations>
- c. Sonja Burns: Survey re: peer and family services within the ASH service area <https://www.menti.com/ryq2b2dcgh/0>
- d. Joe Ramirez: The 4th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health will be held October 14-15, 2021, at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center. <https://web.cvent.com/event/795f3a30-d686-4ab1-ae5e-f6a913031b6d/summary>
- e. Laura Enderle: To align with the recommendation in the City of Austin's Strategic

Direction 2023, Austin Public Health will begin soliciting social services funds by issue area this year. The planned schedule has been shared with the City of Austin's Health and Human Service subcommittee in May of 2020 and with currently funded agencies in December of 2020. Austin Public Health (APH) will be compete Behavioral Health Issue Area funds in November 2021. As a valued community partner and expert in this space, we invite you to participate in an information gathering process to help refine the upcoming solicitation and ensure that community priorities drive APH priorities in the coming years. Please join us at the following virtual listening sessions to share your feedback and help guide APH in serving local youth Please see below for the Zoom link for our community input meeting on Tuesday, September 14th from 2-3pm. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83619460036> Please reach out to Myk Stocks myk.stocks@austintexas.gov with questions.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 11, 2021

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

Chatterfall Activity

"My current mindset is best described as..."

- Monday...
- Anxious but primarily excited!
- Hopeful
- Scattered
- Scrambled
- Weekend Mode
- Happy and blessed!
- Excited and hopeful
- Challenged
- Pensive
- Hopeful
- Intense
- Motivated
- Busy but thankful to be here
- Hopeful but challenged
- All over the place but hopeful

Name something that excites you about the changing seasons

- first cool fall breeze
- Transitioning more into my dream career
- Pumpkin Spice Latte
- The fall colors
- Cooler weather!
- Apple cider on a cold fall day

- Cooler weather
- Holiday season
- Cheaper electric bill!
- College football – sorry non-sports folks...
- Pumpkin spice
- Cooler weather
- Weather.. It is sign that life is still moving although times are tough.
- And football!
- Not sweating the second I step outside anymore

What is one thing related to reentry you hope to accomplish this Fall?

- Get our fundraising plan off the ground so we can get going on our housing project
- better access to housing and services
- distribution of reentry care packages
- successfully resume in person services
- new funding sources that will enable us to provide more educational opportunities to the ladies we serve at Lockhart Correctional
- positivity (GO TEXAS TECH)!!!
- The completion of the FICPFM Fellowship training
- Get more involved!
- Access to healthcare
- Expanding partnerships
- Education. Learn and Network. Help.
- Easier access to higher paying jobs - figuring out scholarships for training!!
- Visit with more employers who are willing to hire my students
- Pushing the vision of the Round Table further
- Establishing some roots with the existing network and expand
- expanding liveable wages

Someone I'd love to hear present at a future planning Council meeting is...

- I'm honestly not sure
- Amanda Cassidy – RAP Advocate
- A City Council member
- Someone just returning to the community – their experiences with reentry
- Caritas and their new housing project
- Person with recent lived experience reentering from the Travis County Correctional Complex
- System impacted advocate
- Austin OCR
- Dr. Brandon Warren, re-entry specialist for ex-offenders for Lee College
- Jennifer Toon from on the rec yard
- Someone from a different community that utilizes best practices
- Lee College is doing some great stuff

A lasting impact that this year's Executive Committee (Jen, Don, Carl & Mia) will have on the Roundtable is...

- reentry report
- Teamwork & unity
- Inspiration to do better!

- Mia's straightforwardness and Carl's optima
- new priorities and expanded partnerships
- Continue inspiration to help out others
- PARTNERSHIPS
- Optimism
- Greater vision of what is possible

What is one word that describes your vision for FY22 Reentry Roundtable leadership?

- Movement
- Fresh perspective
- Engaged
- Visionary
- Movement
- Inspired
- New insights
- Evolving
- Collaborative efforts, open to dissent, and intersectional approaches
- New wine
- Dedicated
- Community engagement
- Forward thinking regarding reentry