



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

October 11, 2021

12:30 – 2 p.m.

ZOOM

Meeting Packet: <https://app.box.com/s/1iaylgzjifkkoipmxnd6f818tnw130fr>

Attending: Donald J. Tracy (Austin Community College), Pastor Charles Moody (The Rock ATX), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas), David Clauss (American YouthWorks), Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis Co. Justice Planning), Marsha Morgenroth (TCCJS Probation Department), Melissa Shearer (Travis Co. Mental Health Public Defender), Louella Tate (Community Representative), Pete Valdez (City of Austin Community Court)

Guests: Pamela Bryant (Walking by Faith Prison Ministry), Sonja Burns, Misty Campbell (ACC), Samantha Dienno (Integral Care), Devin Driver, Laura Enderle (Austin Public Health), Rochion Gregg, Corwin Hunter, Glenn Hutchins, Beverly Johnson, Kaleigh Phelan, Wendi Power, James Levy (Socrates Software), Cynthia Simmons

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

I. 12:30-12:40 p.m. – Welcome – Don Tracy

- a. Guest Introductions (5 mins)
 - i. [Guest Google Form](#)
- b. Advocacy Fellow Update (5 mins)
 - i. Amanda Cassidy was not able to attend the meeting today to give the Advocacy Fellow update.

II. 12:40-12:45 p.m. – Voting Items – Don Tracy

- a. September 2021 Minutes
 - i. A motion to approve the September 2021 Minutes was made by David Clauss and seconded by Charles Moody. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

III. 12:45-1:00 p.m. – FY21 Accomplishments – Don Tracy

- a. Donald Tracy shared his reflections from the Reentry Services Landscape report. Only a quarter of respondents had formalized relationships with criminal justice institutions. Donald spoke about these relationships and how they improve his programs at ACC. Don spoke about other gaps he noticed in reentry services: gaps of ESL programs, gaps of spiritual support, gaps in clothing support. Donald encouraged the Planning Council to read the Reentry Service Landscape report:

<https://www.reentryroundtable.org/roundtable-publications/>

- b. The Planning Council conducted a Chatterfall activity. You can find the results at the end of these minutes.

IV. 1:00-1:05 p.m. – End of Year Financial Update – Kelly Nichols

- a. You can view FY21 Financial overview [here](#).

V. 1:05-1:45 p.m. – FY22 Deliverables and Work Plan

- a. Kelly gave an overview of FY22 Deliverables. Then, Planning Council and guests choose a breakout room to discuss either Deliverable #1 Community of Practice model or Deliverable #2 Reentry & Diversion Center.
- b. Corwin shared from the Deliverable #2 group. He loved to see a lot of care around this issue, and a growing capacity with partnerships. Corwin spoke about using a racial equity lens and toolset and learn the landscape before implementation. This will help understand the potential for unintended consequences. Hopeful for the direction we are heading and the care of the Roundtable community.
- c. Madeleine shared about the conversation in the Deliverable #1 group. The Community of Practice is a needed network to encourage communication between reentry service providers. The group spoke about the principles of building trust and a reputation for real outcomes. Need to be an effective tool and strong network before we can build trust in the community.
- d. Madeleine will follow up on Mobilize to engage Planning Council members on what deliverables they would like to work on. Guests are also encouraged to contact info@reentryroundtable.org to become involved in this work.

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

- a. Misty Campbell shared about her work at Lockhart Correctional Facility and her personal history of incarceration. Need to be deliberate of telling the stories of those who are justice involved and opening our platforms.
- b. Kelly gave a presentation to BHAG on Friday.
- c. Annual Report will be released shortly.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by David Clauss and seconded by Charles Moody. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

CHATTERFALL

WHAT FIRST INSPIRED ME IN THIS WORK IS...

- ⇒ Difficulty finding housing for person in recovery with children due to criminal history
- ⇒ Telling my story
- ⇒ My work with Mia Greer
- ⇒ The kids (youth) I got to know, their resilience
- ⇒ My father...
- ⇒ My son's horrible experience
- ⇒ My family
- ⇒ I started mentoring woman getting out of incarceration and ended up with a foster kids of one of my mentees that changed my life
- ⇒ Returning citizens should have second chances
- ⇒ Helping vulnerable disadvantaged people have a '2nd chance'

- ⇒ Getting arrested
- ⇒ Prison
- ⇒ Both personally and professionally affected by incarcerated individuals
- ⇒ The story of Harriet Tubman and seeing the oppression that existed in the CJ system
- ⇒ My family has been working in reentry for a decade of so
- ⇒ My own experience with mental health services and my internship at ASH

A BIG OPPORTUNITY I SEE FOR US IS...

- ⇒ I want to help these women with safe housing and successful transition back to their kids
- ⇒ Being a living testimony
- ⇒ More collaboration, to Don Tracy's point
- ⇒ A reentry center in Travis county
- ⇒ Informing large scale initiatives
- ⇒ Nurture reform
- ⇒ Connecting & coordinating across our membership and beyond
- ⇒ Greater coordination between service providers and correctional institutions
- ⇒ Easier transitioning
- ⇒ Stable housing and employment
- ⇒ Collaboration
- ⇒ Showcasing in Travis county what can be done by working together across all streams of corrections and community support
- ⇒ Expanding interconnectedness between agencies and providers
- ⇒ I am working on raising funds to build a tiny home village for women transitioning where they will get a 360 approach to help them

AN ACTION OR PRACTICE HELPING US MOVE FORWARD IS...

- ⇒ Deliberate conversations
- ⇒ Connecting all the service providers
- ⇒ Collaborative work and partnerships
- ⇒ Having access to people across the sectors
- ⇒ Commitment
- ⇒ Collaboration that is action orientated and goal centered
- ⇒ Collaboration
- ⇒ Empowering those with lived experience
- ⇒ Communication and collective commitments
- ⇒ The Roundtable!
- ⇒ These calls, checking in with one another

A COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION WE ARE NOT HAVING IS...

- ⇒ Elected officials?
- ⇒ Racial impacts to reentry of color
- ⇒ Member involvement & engagement
- ⇒ The high disparity for women's reentry
- ⇒ Wealth disparities in Austin and its impact on reentry
- ⇒ How race impacts everything we do
- ⇒ Racial trauma
- ⇒ Dealing with the stigma of incarceration
- ⇒ Housing for returning citizens
- ⇒ Why people don't think we deserve housing
- ⇒ Big audacious goals about housing

- ⇒ Housing for reentry
- ⇒ Racial inequalities

A PROJECT THAT GIVES ME CONFIDENCE WE ARE TRANSFORMING IS...

- ⇒ Reentry Services Center
- ⇒ Reentry center
- ⇒ Equity & inclusions effort
- ⇒ Embracing open and engaged conversation
- ⇒ I'm not sure how confident I am yet...
- ⇒ The network for reentry resources
- ⇒ Better effort to completing our goal
- ⇒ Establishing a community of practice

A QUESTION THAT IS EMERGING FOR ME IS...

- ⇒ How we better collaborate
- ⇒ What are WE really doing and is it working?
- ⇒ Branching out what we do as a group
- ⇒ How to engage faith based organizations in the county
- ⇒ Practice of impact for moving public thinking around stigma and narrative of reentry
- ⇒ How can we support families in reentry and promote generational healing
- ⇒ How do we support development of individualized reentry plans at scale?
- ⇒ How do we maintain accessibility
- ⇒ Are there any grants available for capital build out of safe housing?
- ⇒ What were the RAP folks comments on the landscape report?
- ⇒ Ho as a global technology provider and local company, we can help make an impact in Travis county
- ⇒ How can we make sure that everyone reentering can meet their basic needs and have meaningful access to treatment and services