



## Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

### PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

November 8, 2021

12:30 – 2 p.m.

ZOOM

Meeting Packet: <https://app.box.com/s/m1oz9lmtfugo8n757iu6akosrb4gp3nv>

**Attending:** Donald J. Tracy (Austin Community College, Chair), Pastor Charles Moody (The Rock ATX, Vice Chair), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Past Chair), Joe Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission, RAP Representative), Carolyn Brown, LMSW (Travis County Correctional Facility), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice Planning), Helen Gaebler, JD (UT School of Law), Mia Greer, RN, BSN, CLIA (Community Coalition for Health), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative) Carl F. Hunter II, M.Div (Building Promise USA), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Marsha Morgenroth (Travis County Pretrial & Adult Probation), Melissa Shearer, LBSW, JD (Travis Co. Mental Health Public Defender), Louella Tate, Ph.D. (Community Representative), Peter Valdez, LMSW (City of Austin Community Court), Peter Valdez (Downtown Austin Community Court), Alex Villarreal (Integral Care)

**Guests:** Dale Brown, Sonja Burns, Misty Campbell, Daniel Chupe-O'Hanlon, Sherri Cogbill, Michelle Davis, Krystal Escobedo, Juanita Garcia, Beverly Johnson, James Levy, Shelley MacAllister, Mick Normington, Vanessa Perez, Kaleigh Phelan, Wendi Power, Cynthia Simons, Reginald Smith, Terra Tucker, Steven Wentrcek, Rondell Youngblood

**Support:** Amanda Cassidy, Madeleine Jordan-Lord, and Andrea Torres

#### I. 12:30-12:50 p.m. – Welcome – Don Tracy

- a. Guest Introductions (5 mins)
  - i. [Guest Google Form](#)
- b. Why are we here today? (5-10 mins)
  - Strategic plan goals covered today: (1) Engage the community to better understand the impacts of incarceration and successful reentry on Travis County and (2) Promote solutions that assist individuals involved in the justice system to navigate their situation by limiting incarceration if possible and supporting their reentry if necessary
- c. Advocacy Fellow Update (10 mins)
  - Amanda shared her reflections from the November RAP meeting: One participant stated "The results of the survey are a reflection of a lack of efficiency", yet another mentioned that while some providers offer services they would not go as far as hiring. The question was asked if there are missed opportunities within the lack of partnerships with justice institutions, it is possible that the lack of partnerships could be as a result of the location of prisons and bandwidth of organizations. In regards to finding #6: It appears there is a lack of evidence-based practices – several respondents indicated this is a critical need and that providers are often lacking the language (especially person-centered language) to engage effectively with people reentering. One participant shared that within their scope of work they encountered an organization that did not know they were classified as a reentry organization because they did not utilize the language. Participants felt there is a need for more opportunities for folks with lived experience to engage

with service providers.

**II. 12:50-1:00 p.m. – Voting Items – Don Tracy**

a. October 2021 Minutes

- A motion to approve the October 2021 Minutes was made by Jennifer Tucker and seconded by Charles Moody. The minutes were approved by a voice vote. Darwin Hamilton abstained due to absence in the last meeting.

**III. 1:00-1:20 p.m. – Reentry Update – Sherri Cogbill, TDCJ Reentry and Integration Division**

- The Planning Council welcomed a reentry update from Sherri Cogbill, the Reentry and Integration Division deputy director for Texas Department of Criminal Justice. TDCJ will attend Planning Council meetings quarterly to share these updates.
- Sherri gave an overview look at how TDCJ structures its reentry program. It is a three phase process. Phase 1: Ordering ID documents. Phase 2: Risk and needs assessment. Phase 3: Community case management. Sherri spoke about a few key accomplishments: TDCJ has expanded its veterans programs by opening a new veterans dorm, TDCJ has implemented a trauma-informed curriculum in the Strive women's reentry dorm, and TDCJ has implemented statewide releasing which allows case managers on units are able to work with their clients up to the point of release and for higher rates of family pickup.
- The Planning Council asked questions to Sherri for the remainder of her time. You can view the recording here:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/GwPaqgGQ6iBTiE3Hwl7\\_eZ7MKj0dPmvjrmjYc35z6X05657-ccCHuE\\_byMHdskIP.qbU-YwJyJLICgJB?startTime=1636395203000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/GwPaqgGQ6iBTiE3Hwl7_eZ7MKj0dPmvjrmjYc35z6X05657-ccCHuE_byMHdskIP.qbU-YwJyJLICgJB?startTime=1636395203000)

**IV. 1:20-1:45 p.m. – Presentation on Reentry Services Grant Program – City of Austin Equity Office**

- The Planning Council invited the City of Austin Equity Office to today's meeting. Brion Oaks, Kellee Coleman, and Brandon Kroos gave context to their work at the Equity Office and the creation and implementation process for the [Reentry Services Grant Program](#). Building Promise USA has been granted the "Hub" award with the goal of providing wrap-around, holistic services to individuals. The Roundtable is excited to support the Hub and Spoke grantees with our role as a community builder and connector.
- The Equity Office explained their process of looking to what reentry services already exist in the City and how leverage those resources in the Hub & Spoke model as well. They also want to look at barriers—what is preventing people from accessing those services? They explained that they are learning throughout the beginning stages of this grant program and taking the approach of starting with people most directly impacted.
- There are free trainings with the Equity Office available to members of the Roundtable. If you are interested in Undoing Racism, email [brandon.kroos@austintexas.gov](mailto:brandon.kroos@austintexas.gov).

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

- If you are interested in attending a training--such as Undoing Racism--offered by the Equity Office, please email Brandon Kroos at [brandon.kroos@austintexas.gov](mailto:brandon.kroos@austintexas.gov)
- A/TCRRT has released its RFP for consultant support. Please view and share the RFP via the website: <https://www.reentryroundtable.org/rfp-release-selection-of-consultant-by-the-austin-travis-county-reentry-roundtable/>
- Reminder to please read and share this year's Annual Report with your networks! <https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-RRR-Annual-Report.pdf>

- Reentry Vaccine Initiative: Two upcoming Covid-19 vaccine clinics, November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- From Shelley MacAllister: Here's my email if you'd like to learn more about UniteUs - [shelley.macallister@uniteus.com](mailto:shelley.macallister@uniteus.com) and here's a flyer- <https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/1945678/UniteUs.com%20Website%20Files/How%20Unite%20Us%20Supports%20Justice-Involved%20Populations.pdf>
- From Alex Villarreal: Quick update-- ANEW Clinic (previously housed at TRLA) is now located at 502 E Highland Mall Ste #200, Austin, TX 78752 (Travis County Building)

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mia Greer and seconded by Louella Tate. The motion was approved by voice vote with no abstentions.

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, December 13, 2021

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom