



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

December 13, 2021

12:30 – 2 p.m.

ZOOM

Meeting Packet: <https://app.box.com/s/kfj4okidiqdr2vom4o6obynkv00hngi>

Attending: Donald J. Tracy (Austin Community College, Chair), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Past Chair), David Clauss, LMSW (American YouthWorks), 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), Melissa Shearer, LBSW, JD (Travis Co. Mental Health Public Defender), Louella Tate, Ph.D. (Community Representative)

Guests: Sonja Burns, Melissa Hill, Glenn Hutchins, Beverly Johnson, Shelley MacAllister, Stephanie Martinez, Johna May, Mick Normington, Kaleigh Phelan, Desiree Robledo, Rondel Youngblood

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

I. 12:30-12:40 p.m. – Welcome

- a. Guest Introductions (5 mins) – Kelly Nichols
- b. Advocacy Fellow Update (3 mins) – Amanda Cassidy

Amanda shared that she participated in Beyond Diversity training this month. She also had the opportunity to contribute to the process of reviewing consulting support RFPs with the Roundtable Executive Committee. Amanda planned the December Planning Council meeting panel and was the point of contact for today's speakers on reentry experiences.

- c. Connecting activity (2 mins) – Madeleine Jordan-Lord

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

- a. November 2021 Minutes

The Planning Council did not have quorum in order to vote. Planning Council will approve November 2021 Minutes in the January Planning Council Meeting.

III. 12:45-1:55 p.m. – Speaker Panel on Reentry Experiences

- a. Storytelling Principles

Volunteers read the storytelling principles aloud and there was the opportunity to add or give feedback.

- b. Speakers shared their stories
 - i. Misty Campbell
 - ii. Melissa Hill
 - iii. Johna May

Chivas Watson also planned to share his story, but ultimately was not able to attend.

- c. Questions for speakers

- i. What strength did you rely on the most during your reentry journey?

The speakers shared the following responses: Faith, Empowering Women Out of Prison (EWOP), Church, Friends, God, Power of Prayer, Support of close friends, Generosity of strangers, Community with others in reentry.

- ii. What supports and resources were most helpful to you?

The speakers shared the following responses: Goodwill (x3), case managers, Dress for Success (x3),

Professional Women's Group, EWOP, Texas Reach Out Ministries (x2), Workforce Commission (x2), Oxford House, Travis County through utilities support, Reentry Advocacy Project (RAP). The speakers also expressed a need for long-time reentry mentors.

d. Chatterfall

Planning Council and guests shared answers in chat for the following prompts.

i. Share some words of gratitude or affirmation for today's speakers

- I am grateful that you all were willing to share a piece of yourselves with us!
- Thank you for the vulnerability shared today. A true honor to witness it all.
- Brave, strong
- Thanks so much for sharing your stories - it really means a lot
- thank you for sharing what must be difficult to tell others - you all are very strong!
- Never, ever, give up!
- Enlightening. Thank you so much.
- Resilient 😊
- I am so honored and grateful for all of your vulnerability and strength in sharing your story!
- Continued collaboration and appreciating the inspiration!
- I am so impressed by each of you. Thank you for having the courage to share your stories and best wishes on the next steps of your journeys.
- Thanks for sharing & caring
- Powerful
- Resilient
- Overcomers
- keep going.... one step, one day, at a time...

ii. What is on your mind after this meeting?

- Building relationships with the speakers
- I know how hard it is to tell your story, so thank you
- how to build a more empathetic "system"
- Greater access to support and treatment before incarceration
- Continue reaching out to help people from all walks of life
- Make connecting to helpful resources more easier and before people leave prison
- How we can make stronger connections and offer further support.
- A certificate of rehabilitation
- Happy to hear from new voices and leaders.

IV. 1:55-2 p.m. – Member Updates and Announcements

- a. Truth be Told will be holding virtual healing trauma workshops. TBT has an upcoming opportunity for formerly incarcerated women to take a virtual Healing Trauma class! Email office@truth-be-told.org if you're interested!
- b. Reminder that C2H's Covid Town Hall will take place tomorrow, Dec 14th from 5:30-7:00pm at 12224 Jourdan Crossing Blvd. Mia shared that this Town Hall will feature the following perspectives: a young person and an older person who do not want to get the vaccine, a young person and an older person who have had Covid-19, and a young person and an older person who have been vaccinated. C2H will facilitate a conversation between these speakers. There will also be a vaccination clinic the next day at Downtown Austin Community Court.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 10, 2021
12:30 – 2 p.m., Zoom

