



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

ZOOM

Packet link: <https://app.box.com/s/8msibzom93cwjwhtoco04vf49f5jomao>

Attending: Donald J. Tracy (Austin Community College, Chair), Charles Moody (The Rock ATX, Vice Chair), Erin Kingsbury (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Past Chair Proxy), Joe Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission, RAP Representative), Carolyn Brown (Travis County Correctional Facility), Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), Carl F. Hunter II (Building Promise USA), Marissa Latta (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis Co. Justice Planning), Melissa Shearer (Travis Co. Mental Health Public Defender), Peter Valdez (City of Austin Community Court), Alex Villarreal (Integral Care)

Guests: Christopher Bernhardt (Central Texas Manufacturing Partnership), Sonja Burns (Community Advocate), Misty Campbell (Austin Community College), Beverly Johnson (Helping Hands Through Connects), Simone Price (CEO Works), Shelley MacAllister (UniteUs), Desiree Robledo (Law Student), Rondell Youngblood (UniteUs)

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

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

- a. Guest Introductions (5 mins) – Don Tracy
 - i. [Guest Google Form](#)
 - b. Advocacy Fellow Update (3 mins) – Amanda Cassidy
 - c. Why are we here today? (2 mins) – Don Tracy
- In our work to advocate on behalf of those with justice-involvement who are returning to our communities, it is important to connect with policymakers. Today we want to talk about outreach to elected officials and strategies we can use to communicate about the strategic goals of the Roundtable and our upcoming projects.

II. 12:40-12:55 p.m. – Voting Items – Don Tracy

- a. November & December 2021 Minutes
 - i. A motion to approve the November and December Planning Council minutes was made by Hank Perret and seconded by Charles Moody. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- b. Approve Contracts for 2022 Consultant & Strategic Planning Support - Woollard Nichols & Associates
 - i. A motion to approve the Consultant Management contract for WNA was made by Hank Perret and seconded by Helen Gaebler. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.
 - ii. A motion to approve the Strategic Planning contract for WNA and MEASURE was made by Hank Perret and seconded by Helen Gaebler. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.
 - iii. A motion to approve the Focus Group Deliverable contract for WNA and C2H was made by Hank Perret and seconded by Joe Ramirez. The motion was approved

unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

- c. Letter of Support – Helen Gaebler
 - i. W.E.B. DuBois grant proposal. It is a 5 year, 1 mil dollar grant proposal as a continuation of the work of Helen Gaebler and Becky Pettit's work at UT Austin to assist with Building Promise USA's contract with the City of Austin as the reentry services Hub. Their project will look at the role of peer support in successful reentry.
 - ii. Melissa added that her office now has Peer Support specialists working with them through the Via Hope program and it has been a wonderful addition and morale booster.
 - iii. A motion to approve providing a Letter of Support was made by Charles Moody and seconded by Erin Kingsbury. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

III. 12:55-1:00 p.m. – Council Awardee – Don Tracy & Kelly Nichols

- a. Helen Gaebler was chosen as the Above and Beyond awardee this quarter, for her continued engagement in creating reentry partnerships. This year, Helen led a reentry class in the UT Law School which conducted projects in support of the Civil Rights strategic agenda deliverable. Reentry Roundtable sent Tiff Treats to Helen in recognition for this award.

IV. 1:00-1:20 p.m. – FY22 Funder Deliverables Updates & Work Plan

- a. Kelly shared the detailed deliverables document with the Planning Council and took questions from the group.

V. 1:20-1:55 p.m. – Outreach & Advocacy Strategy discussion

- a. Commissioners Court clip
- b. Breakout room discussion
 - i. What are you hearing in the Commissioners comments and questions about the Roundtable?
 - Heard a lack of understanding around what the Roundtable does
 - Travillion asking about the relationship between diversion and reentry
 - Asks for direct impact, ask for metrics
 - Want to know more about the environment, want more on roundtable's role
 - Commissioners are data-oriented
 - ii. What are your thoughts on how we can connect with and keep policymakers updated in the coming year?
 - If you have communicated by written report only, need more strategies
 - Get in front of Commissioners Court once a quarter, talk about the tangible things we have done
 - Outreach in conjunction with RAP to communicate the whole picture
 - Have direct service providers come in partnership with Kelly and a RAP member, show a slice of the constituencies
 - Follow up with a conversation because emails get buried
 - Sign-up system with PC
 - Align strategic plan with city and county goals and expectations
 - Reach out to commissioners **and to staff**

- Participate in more informal Thursday work sessions
- Bring those with lived experience to tell their stories.
- Ask what they are specifically interested in
- Tie the broad work that Reentry Roundtable does to the actionable impact to direct service providers
- Share highlights, testimonials, success stories
- Ask if they have a project that they could use our help on, collaborate
- The commissioners have so much on their plate, so how do we best position ourselves as their allies
- Amanda offered to speak to Commissioners Court as someone with lived experience.

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

- a. Mobilize announcement
- b. Amanda's Fellowship Update: Attended Hogg academy meeting, watched Commissioners Court and conducted annual report distribution, and supported RAP meeting on Travis Co Supportive Housing collaborative.
- c. Sonja asked if anyone has connections with Equity Task Force?
- d. C2H partnership with AAYH foundation and City of Austin on men of color, age 18-65 health survey: <https://forms.gle/ydDjRBXAv7EafhC2A>

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Amanda Cassidy and seconded by Charles Moody. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 14, 2022
 12:30 – 2 p.m.
 Zoom