



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 14, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Alex Villarreal (Integral Care), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis Co. Justice & Public Safety), Charles A. Moody Jr. (Community Coalition for Health), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), David Clauss (American YouthWorks), Donald Tracy (Austin Community College), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas), Joe A. Ramirez (Texas Veterans Commission), Juanita Garcia (Travis Co. Public Defender), Melissa Shearer (Travis Co. Mental Health Public Defender), Peter Valdez (City of Austin Community Court)

Guests: Alan Walls (Grant Associates), Beverly Johnson, Carol Johnson (COA Office of Civil Rights), Chris Bernhardt (Grant Associates), Crystal Voepel, Desiree, Janis Henderson, Kaleigh Phelan, LaKeidru Blaylock, Leila Blatt (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Matt Smith, Mick Normington, Misty Campbell, Paola Silvestre (Indeed), Rondel Youngblood (Unite Us), Shelley McAllister (Unite Us)

Support: Madeleine Jordan-Lord, Corie Lonidier (WNA)

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

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

Amanda was not able to attend today's meeting and did not give a fellowship update.

- c. Why are we here today? (2 mins) – Don Tracy

Today's meeting is all about connection amongst the members and guests engaged in Reentry Roundtable. We hope that today's meeting demonstrates the network impact of this group and that we find new ways to collaborate and support one another. We will start with a connecting activity from Rapid Coordination, where you will be invited to share something that they need help with. Then the floor will be open to everyone to ask a couple of clarifying questions, and to offer to connect after the meeting. We will also hold a Shift & Share, which is an activity that the Planning Council has chosen to repeat in these meetings each quarter to highlight new programs, projects, and innovations tied to reentry. This is a chance to learn from folks in the Roundtable network about the work they are doing in their own organizations.

- d. Connecting activity: Rapid Coordination (10 mins) – Madeleine Jordan-Lord

The activity begins by inviting participants to briefly share (1 minute or less) something they need help with or a potential collaboration they'd like to explore with others. After the person shares what they need, the rest of the meeting attendees will be invited to raise their hands if they believe they can help by sharing information, having a follow-up conversation, or providing resources.

- Alex: In collecting data for the ANEW jail-intake program, Integral Care has found that they have a disproportionately low number of clients that are non-English speaking compared to the rest of the agency. There may be clients who are not having the opportunities to be released or referred

to the jail diversion programs, so we have put that information out there to community partners but it is a struggle to figure out the next step.

- Melissa is encountering same issue
- Cathy suggests there could be immigration holds from jail and it might be helpful to speak directly with the Sheriff
- Misty confirmed from her programs at ACC that immigration holds have had an impact
- Alan Walls: Working with Grant Associates clients in New York City, who have incurred charges in other states and jurisdictions. In New York, there is a set of fair chance hiring ordinances tied to employer recruitment. Alan asked to learn more about fair chance hiring ordinances in other areas, and gain more knowledge about relationships between states and these policies.
 - i. Darwin would like to follow up
 - ii. Joe Ramirez, Cathy McClaugherty, David Clauss, and Mick Normington offered information about Texas

II. 12:50-12:55 p.m. – Voting Items – Don Tracy

a. February 2022 Minutes

A motion to approve the February 2022 Minutes was made by David Clauss and seconded by Charles Moody. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

III. 12:55-1:55 p.m. – Shift & Share

Each attendee was placed in a breakout room with one of our speakers who will give a 10 minute presentation with 5 minutes for conversation and Q&A. The speaker was rotated to the next breakout room after 15 minutes, with this structure repeated until each participant could hear each of the speakers. The speakers were:

- Christopher Bernhart (Senior Vice President of Training, Grant Associates) and Alan Walls (Career Advisor, Grant Associates/Brooklyn Workforce1 Center)
- Leila Blatt (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid)
- Carol Johnson (Director, Office of Civil Rights)
- Shelley MacAllister (Unite Us)

Please contact Madeleine Jordan-Lord, madeleine@woollardnichols.com, if you would like to be connected to any of the speakers following the meeting.

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

- a. David Clauss met last week with new group called Youth Justice Network, organized around Project Engage, tied diversion and dismissal for young adult offenders. Reach out to David if you would like to learn more.
- b. A motion to adjourn made by Charles Moody and seconded by Joe Ramirez. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 11, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom