



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 11, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Donald Tracy (Chair, Austin Community College), Charles Moody (The Rock ATX), Jennifer Tucker (Past Chair, Goodwill Central Texas), Carolyn Brown (Travis County Correctional Facility), Sonja Burns (Community Representative), Helen Gaebler (William Wayne Justice Center), Juanita Garcia (Travis County Public Defender), Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), Carl Hunter (Building Promise USA), Melissa Shearer (Travis County Mental Health Public Defender), Marsha Morgenroth (Travis County Pretrial and Adult Probation), Cathy McClagherty (Travis County Justice & Public Safety), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Alex Villarreal (Integral Care)

Guests: Christopher Bernhardt, Leila Blatt, Lakeidru Blaylock, Happye Dyer, Rachel Hampton, Janis Henderson, Beverly Johnson, David Johnson, Shelley MacAllister, Mary Moran, Kaleigh Phelan, Vanessa Perez, Paola Silvestre, Crystal Voelpel, Brandon White

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

Meeting packet: <https://app.box.com/s/7ohvp913i9zw2500nfu85vindolpdqfq>

I. 12:30-12:45 p.m. – Welcome – Don Tracy

- a. Guest Introductions – Don Tracy
- b. Advocacy Fellow Update – Amanda Cassidy

Amanda Cassidy shared her Fellowship Annual Report in the meeting packet and spoke about her activities from this past month. She served as co-facilitator with Mia Greer for the diversion focus groups.

- c. Why are we here today? – Don Tracy
- d. Connecting activity: Meeting Preferences
- e. “Above and Beyond” Awardee

Mia Greer was this quarter’s honoree for the “Above and Beyond” award for her commitment to reentry advocacy. In particular this quarter, Mia was deeply involved in the focus groups on women’s reentry and diversion through focus group co-design, outreach, and facilitation.

II. 12:45-1:10 p.m. – TDCJ Reentry Update – April Zamora

April Zamora was not able to attend this meeting.

III. 1:10-1:20 p.m. – Voting Items – Don Tracy

- a. March 2022 Minutes

A motion to approve the March 2022 meeting minutes was made by Charles Moody and seconded by Helen Gaebler. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

IV. 1:20-1:35 p.m. – Mid Year Deliverable & Financial Update – Kelly Nichols

Kelly shared the mid year deliverable and financial update. Both can be found in the meeting packet.

V. 1:35-1:50 p.m. – Discuss BPUSA Hub Role – Carl Hunter

Carl Hunter shared his Building Promise USA Executive Director report. It can be found in the meeting packet. Carl's report detailed the following goals and actions:

- Establish office and staff
- Establish internal protocols and procedures for service delivery
- Facilitate MOU's and data sharing agreements with spoke organizations and other organizations that are collaborating in the pilot project
- Design seamless referral plan in collaboration with spoke organizations and those organizations that make up the reentry continuum of care
- Establish reporting processes for each organization
- Establish research plan with data collection partner
- Identify and apply for grants and/or create strategic relationship that helps to leverage current grant funding

VI. 1:50-2 p.m. – Member Updates and Announcements

- Reentry Roundtable Faith-based Leaders Convening will be held on April 28th from 8:30 am - 11:30 am at The Rock ATX (12224 Jourdan Crossing Blvd Austin, TX 78753). Please share this event page with any faith leaders in your networks: <https://www.reentryroundtable.org/event/faith-based-leaders-convening/>
- Darwin announced that Grassroots Leadership has moved into a new space and is holding grand opening event on May 21st at 6pm. [Please register here.](#)
- Carl Hunter and Paola Silvestre looking for partners in the reentry conference and hiring event. Contact them to connect: carl.hunterbpusa@gmail.com; psilvestre@indeed.com
- If anyone wants health resources for Justice Involved Individuals, Happye Dyer can send information: hdyer@chiprogram.com
- Don Tracy shared about reentry organizations he learned about at the lifelong learning festival he attended in Ireland. Connect with Don if you are interested in hearing more: dtracy@austincc.edu
- Shelley MacAllister invited everyone she hasn't spoken with about Unite Us to reach out to her: shelley.macallister@uniteus.com, 512-826-2867
- Chris Bernhardt shared an upcoming Manufacturing Job Fair - April 20th - Please share with your networks - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/manufacturing-showcase-tickets-313514128197>

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 9, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

Connecting Activity Responses:

- WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS?
 - More people are able to participate virtually
 - Removes transportation barriers
 - Ability to schedule back-to-back meetings...no downtime in between
 - Not having to deal with traffic
 - Ease of access; no parking or traffic concerns
 - The ease of scheduling
 - Convenience

- Easy access
- Accessible
- What about a hybrid?
- Convenient
- This is my first one. I like to be able to connect, and share resources
- I can wear t-shirts and sweatpants!
- Convenience—particularly when back to back meetings
- Very convenient
- Seeing that I'm in Houston it provides the opportunity for me to connect and be engaged with what's going on in Travis County and it's helpful for my clients that are there
- Opportunity to engage as I'm no longer in ATX
- WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT IN-PERSON ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS?
 - Seeing everyone
 - The connectability factor
 - In person meetings create a special connection
 - Connection
 - Connection, human interaction
 - Can't turn off your face
 - Breaking up the monotony of my day with a change of scenery/venue
 - I have never been to an in person meeting unfortunately
 - Easier to make connections in person
 - Different energy/ability to connect with people in person.
 - Casual networking/update conversations pre/post mtgs.
 - I have never been in person
 - Connection
 - Interactions with folks
 - Would love a hybrid version. I haven't been to an in-person roundtable meeting yet 😊
 - was kind of fun to be downtown at least 1x month
 - Never been in person
- WHAT IN-PERSON ROUNDTABLE ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN?
 - I miss the in person connection
 - was just in face to face meetings all last week with folks that have been meeting virtually, and it is a completely different vibe
 - Brainstorming sessions!
 - Anything with food!!! Shift and shares
 - Food & Problem Solving
 - may be a quarterly coffee or potluck
 - "food" hahaha
 - Food
 - Planning/priority setting/problem solving
 - Definitely food....and coffee
 - Esp the end of year potluck mmm
 - Brainstorm
 - Agree with brainstorming
 - brainstorming YES
 - agree re: casual conversation/brainstorming
- WHAT ROUNDTABLE ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP VIRTUAL?
 - I prefer the meetings virtually, connection in person

- Monthly meetings
- The meetings
- Monthly meetings (at least some)
- Monthly meetings
- Monthly meetings
- The meeting
- Meet monthly quarterly, in person
- Monthly meeting
- I like a hybrid approach...not sure what that would look like, which activities in person vs virtual
- work groups/monthly meetings
- Monthly meeting in person. Quarterly in person.
- we should be deliberate about periodic, maybe once a quarter, face to face meetings...
- We could meet at the Indeed office at the Domain
- the in-person experience with butcher paper on the wall and dry erase boards

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