



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable
*Building Successful Strategies for
Reentry and Reintegration in Austin/Travis County, Texas*
August 8, 2022 Planning Council Meeting Minutes

Members: Donald Tracy, Dr. Charles Moody, Sonja Burns, Jennifer Carter, Juanita Garcia, Peter Valdez, Carl Hunter, Hank Perret, Melissa Shearer, Alex Villarreal

Attendees: Kevin Lee (Urban Alchemy), Misty Campbell (ACC), Happye Dyer (Community Health Insurance Program), AtmaJodha Singh (Conviction Yoga), Beverly Johnson, LaKeidru Blaylock, Amanda Cassidy (Fellow), Lori Mellinger, Kaleigh Phelan (CAPDS), Paola Silvestre (Indeed), Shelley McAllister (UniteUs), Vanessa Perez, Quiana Fisher (ECHO), Gabriella McDonald, Crystal Voelpel, Lulu Portilla (Texas Fair Defense Project), Cynthia Simons (Texas Center for Justice & Equity), Rondel Youngblood, Jennifer Pinkley

Support: Corie Lonidier, Kelly Nichols (WNA)

I. 12:30-12:45 p.m. – Welcome

- A. Guest Introductions
 - a. Don led a round of guest introductions.
- B. Connecting activity: Chatterfall on Core Beliefs
 - a. Kelly shared the [Roundtable Core Beliefs \(Draft\)](#) and asked guests to drop in the chat:
 - i. What's missing?
 - ii. Any of them you disagree with?
 - iii. Which core belief resonates most with you?
 - 1. [See Chatterfall responses here](#)
- C. Advocacy Fellow Update – Amanda Cassidy-Trejo
 - a. Amanda shared details about work she has done in the reentry sphere since the Committee last met. On a personal note, Amanda also got married since the last meeting.

II. 12:45-1:00 p.m. – Voting Items

- A. May 2022 Minutes
- B. June 2022 Minutes
 - a. **ACTION:** Hank Perret motioned to approve the May and June 2022 Minutes. Alex Villarreal seconded and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.
- C. Planning Council Nominations
 - a. Kaleigh Phelan, Capital Area Private Defender Service
 - b. Paola Silvestre Porras, Indeed
 - c. Cynthia Simons, Texas Center for Justice and Equity
 - i. **ACTION:** Dr. Charles Moody motioned to approve the nominations for Kaleigh, Paola, and Cynthia. Melissa Shearer seconded and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

III. 1:00-1:55 p.m. – Strategic Planning Updates & Discussion

- A. Kelly provided a brief Strategic Planning recap for and an overview of [the Jamboard](#) created for the discussion. Attendees walked through all 14 slides, providing comments and input on the prompts. Related to creating a network, Chivas recommended looking closely at the work that is being done in East San Antonio as they've had real forward movement in their reentry initiatives. **ACTION:** With support from WNA, Reentry Roundtable will utilize this input to continue work on the Strategic Plan.

IV.1:55-2:00 p.m. –Member Updates & Announcements

- A. The RRT recognized Peter Valdez for the Quarterly Above and Beyond award. Peter has been on the planning council since 2009, and also serves as liaison between RRT and City of Austin Funding. Kelly shared Peter has requested that RRT donate to Building Promise USA as his award. RRT will make that donation.
- B. Kelly shared that the September Planning Council Meeting will be in-person at 700 Lavaca. A poll will be sent to Planning Council members to confirm attendance in order to ensure quorum and the correct number of parking validations.
- C. Chivas Watson shared that workinggroup512 will be holding a second community listening session at St. David's Episcopal Church in partnership with Travis County in August. This session will be focused on individuals who are currently using drugs, recently released from jail, and those experiencing homelessness. Notes will be transcribed and shared with the Commissioner's Court the week following. Chivas encouraged guests to invite individuals to this event. The Roundtable will share details about this event when they are received.
- D. Sonja shared that the Travis County Commissioners will be taking up [an item at the August 9th meeting to receive an update](#) from Dr. Steve Strakowski regarding the ongoing work of the Mental Health Steering Committee led by Dr. Strakowski and staff at the University of Texas at Austin - Dell Medical School. Sonja added that the Commissioners need to hear from the community about what is actually needed from those who are directly impacted, and those who provide assistance for those who are impacted.
- E. Happye Dyer shared that those released will qualify to apply for insurance as long as they meet income requirements (150% under federal poverty level) no matter when they were released. This window used to be 60 days. If the individual has \$0 income they will base it off of the most recent income. They have 90 days to find employment, which can be extended.
- F. Don Tracy shared that there will be an official graduation for ACC Continuing Education Division at the at the Gregory Coleman Unit (formerly the Lockhart Correctional Facility) on August 13 from 5-7pm. The keynote speaker will be Comm. Julian Alvarez, the Commissioner Representing Labor at the Texas Workforce Commission. If you would like to attend, please contact Don at dtracy@austincc.edu

2:00 p.m. Jennifer Carter motioned to adjourn. Hank Perret seconded and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 12, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

In Person: 700 Lavaca Street