



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 12, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

700 Lavaca Street

Planning Council Members: Donald Tracy, Dr. Charles Moody, Sonja Burns, David Clauss, Juanita Garcia, Mia Greer, Cathy McLaugherty, Melissa Shearer, Alex Villarreal, Carl F. Hunter II, Paola Silvestre, Cynthia Simons

Guests: Misty Campbell (ACC), Julie Guirguis (Integral Care)

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

I. 12:30-12:50 p.m. – Welcome & Relationship Building

- a. Partnered prompt: What are you most excited about in the 2022-26 Reentry Roundtable Strategic Plan?
 - b. Guest Introductions
 - c. Connecting activity: Rapid Coordination
- 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.
 - Carl shared that Building Promise will have another HIRE series, as the first hiring session went so well. All employers present at the event pay \$17/hr or higher and conducted interviews on that day or scheduled for the next day. Dress for Success was able to connect guests with clothes and makeup as well. They gave away 61 computers with hotspots. Since Austin is so expensive, many won't be able to actually live here – so they are going to update their website to be a hub for resources. Building Promise also has a new building. The address is 6633 Hwy 290E Suite 104.
 - Amanda is looking for a veteran who is justice-involved who is interested in participating in the November RAP Meeting as they will be recognizing and celebrating Veteran's Day.
 - Dr. Moody shared that Community Coalition for Health's Health & Wellness Fair will be September 19 and invited organizations to have tables/booths at the event. Mia will send the sign-up form along to everyone. Please contact Mia if you are interested.
 - Dr. Moody is also working with TOCA (Tesla Outreach Community Atlas) to speak with Tesla about hiring justice-involved individuals. They have a meeting next week to discuss the types of jobs available and will advocate hiring across all positions. Misty was recently involved with Texas Workforce Commission at the GRACE Conference with 178 employers. They tried to get Tesla to come but they would not because they are not state-wide second chance employer – their second chance employment only applies in Austin. Tesla is looking to open a factory in other parts of Texas so becoming a state-wide second chance employer would allow for more job opportunities across the state of Texas. Misty shared that Union Pacific will now hire justice impacted individuals, and Toyota in the San Antonio area is supporting justice involved women with transportation and childcare so they can work.
 - d. Advocacy Fellow Update – Amanda Cassidy-Trejo

- i. Amanda shared that she has been working on the details of the strategic plan, is taking a certification for nonprofit leaders in management class through ACC, is halfway through her peer support intern hours, and is heading to Atlanta for a justice related conference in October.

II. 12:50-1:45 p.m. – Voting Items

a. August 2022 Minutes

- **ACTION: Mia Greer motioned to approve the August 2022 Minutes. David Clauss seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.**

b. 2022-26 Reentry Roundtable Strategic Plan

- Meeting participants were invited to share something they are proud of, or look forward to, with the strategic plan and which goals and strategies they are particularly interested in. The group discussed 5-year goals and strategies will continue to be fleshed out and implemented in the yearly deliverable work plans. Two edits were requested to the Strategic Plan—correction to add Cathy McClaugherty to the list of attendees for the first planning session, and to amend mentions of “evidence-based practices” to include “trauma-informed, culturally competent, evidence-based practices.” There was agreement that these changes should be made.
 - **ACTION: Melissa Shearer motioned to approve the 2022-26 Reentry Roundtable Strategic Plan as presented. Charles Moody seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.**

c. Executive Committee Officer Elections

i. FY22-23 Leadership Slate:

1. Chair: Dr. Charles Moody
2. Vice Chair: Melissa Shearer
3. Past Chair: Donald Tracy
4. RAP Representative: Cynthia Simons

- The leadership slate introduced themselves and shared a few words about why they want to be on the Executive Committee. They each shared which 5-year goal they are most energized to work on. For Charles, it is leadership and career development. For Melissa, it is advocacy. For Don, it is capacity building. For Cynthia, it is capacity building and peer network. The incoming Executive Committee took a picture together at the end of the meeting.
 - **ACTION: David motioned to approve the Executive Committee Officer Elections. Mia Greer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.**

III. 1:45-2:00 p.m – Group Discussion

- Prompt: Where does your energy gravitate to in the Strategic Plan? What 5-year goal, or specific strategy, would you like to dig into?
- Carl Hunter suggested that the Roundtable Planning Council access the strengths of each Planning Council member and their organization to take a strengths-based approach to work group assignments and implementing this year’s workplan. Dr. Moody affirmed that he would like the Executive Committee to take the StrengthsFinder assessment this year, and that we should discuss expanding that offering to the rest of Planning Council membership.
- Paola Silvestre said that her energy lies in any strategy related to employment, engaging employers and reentry workforce. She also wants to dig into the implementation plan and flesh out the action items attached to each goal.
- Amanda Cassidy-Trejo thinks the Roundtable needs to focus its energy on the governance structure goal for the first year, because the structure will determine how each other goal is accomplished.
- Sonja Burns brought up that there should be statewide advocacy strategy by the Roundtable. This evolved into a larger discussion about advocacy opportunities, and how the governance structure of the Roundtable should be positioned to best support the advocacy goals. Mia mentioned that it can be easier for Roundtable members to advocate as representatives of their own organizations or as individuals than it can be to advocate as a

representative of Reentry Roundtable, and that the Planning Council will need to discuss these dynamics further as it moves forward with its advocacy goals.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 10, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m. on Zoom