



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

*Building Successful Strategies for
Reentry and Reintegration in Austin/Travis County, Texas*
www.reentryroundtable.org

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 10, 2023
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Zoom

Meeting packet: <https://app.box.com/s/yfc5hbgfg2ar7d8kbsseb2e01qr1e70z>

Members present: Charles Moody (Chair), Melissa Shearer (Vice Chair), Amanda Cassidy-Trejo (Advocacy Fellow), Sonja Burns (Community Representative), Misty Campbell (Austin Community College), Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Mia Greer (Community Coalition for Health), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice & Public Safety), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Paola Silvestre (Indeed), Alex Villarreal (Integral Care)

Guests: Mary Moran (On-Point Re-entry), Beverly Johnson (Helping Hands Through Connections), Christian Duran (Housing Department), Sommer Alexander (Lioness), Clara Ann Kromer (CommUnityCare), Karen Boyd (Integral Care), Jeff Bradley, Rocio Villalobos (Equity Office), Dr. Patricia Alford, Jamey May (City of Austin), Kristen Meurer, Quiana Fisher (ECHO)

- I. 12:30-12:45 p.m. – Welcome**
 - a. Guest Introductions
 - b. Connecting Activity: Rapid Coordination

This 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.

- From Helen Gaebler, hgaebler@law.utexas.edu: The University of Texas' Initiative for Law, Societies, and Justice, in conjunction with the Austin Justice Coalition, is holding a community listening session on April 28 from 4:30-6pm at 1605 38 ½ Street (AJC's Offices). Please join us and share your concerns regarding the current state of our local courts, policing, community safety, and the other criminal legal systems impacting our local communities. We are eager to hear what issues are of greatest concern and to learn from community partners and co-creators how best to utilize the Initiative's resources in seeking to address these concerns. Light refreshments will be served. Free parking is available behind the building and on neighborhood streets. Please reach out to Denise Miller at denise.miller@austin.utexas.edu if you have needs

requiring special accommodation. Please share the above with anyone you think might be interested in joining the conversation.

- From Mary Moran, mmoran@onpointreentry.org: On Point Reentry Consortium is partnering with Indeed for a series of employment workshops, with one-on-one coaching and desktop computers available. Please reach out to Mary to get involved.
- From Sommer Alexander, gogetters4god@gmail.com: HB 2300 by Rep. Alma Allen, known as 'New Wings,' will expand record-sealing eligibility to the many Texans who have completed their sentences but still carry the barriers and burdens of a criminal record. Please visit this link to see how you can support: <https://bit.ly/NewWingsActionAlert>
- From Rocio Villalobos, Rocio.Villalobos@austintexas.gov: The City of Austin Equity Office is supporting a new initiative to pilot an enhanced library card that can serve as a form of photo ID. This service would be entirely free and eligible to all City of Austin residents and will be piloted at three library sites. Here is an article with more information: <https://www.austinmonitor.com/stories/2022/07/city-working-toward-enhanced-library-cards-as-a-form-of-id/>
- From Kelly Nichols, kelly@woollardnicholstorres.com: Craig Moore (Jail to Jobs) has sent a BJA grant opportunity to Reentry Roundtable to consider applying for. You can view the grant here: https://bj.a.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171692?utm_campaign=fundingnewsandresources&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivey
Please reach out if you have thoughts about this opportunity and its fit for the Roundtable.

c. Advocacy Fellow Update – Amanda Cassidy-Trejo

- Amanda began her work on the 16th with Faces & Voices of Recovery as an Advocacy & Outreach Program Assistant
- She has 5 classes left for her Certification in Nonprofit Management & Leadership. She has been building out a hypothetical nonprofit and it has been fun and a valuable learning experience.
- We had our RAP Visioning session in March along with our regular monthly meeting and worked through the Identity Statement and the 3 main goals for RAP to create the final draft of the RAP Visioning report.
- RAP is hosting a Second Chance Symposium on Saturday, April 22nd from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. This event will be at the RARE Academy at 1212 E Anderson Lane Suite 300 #7.

II. 12:45-12:50 p.m. – Voting Items

- a. March 2023 Minutes
- There was not a quorum present at this meeting to approve the minutes.

III. 12:50-1:05 p.m. – Mid-year Financial Update – Kelly Nichols and Dr. Moody

Kelly provided an overview of the 2023 budget and current income and expenses. Strategies include: negotiating with current funders for additional funds with deliverables next year; gaining new funders and funding strategies; may establish a sustainability committee; and anyone is welcome to donate on the website as well.

IV. 1:05-1:35 p.m. – Presentation from City of Austin Housing Department – Chris Duran

a. [City of Austin Action Plan](#)

Christian Duran and Jamie May (City of Austin Housing Department) presented the City of Austin Action Plan and accepted questions and feedback from meeting attendees. The Roundtable Network was also encouraged to share comments using the public input portal: www.publicinput.com/housingneeds or at the public hearing at tomorrow's Community Development Commission at 6:30 PM which can be attended

virtually or in-person.

- The groups discussed reduced lookback periods for any property funded through the program. City's current lookback guidelines in Developer Assistance programs were based in part on the Roundtable's Criminal Background Screening Guide. Maximum lookback periods are 3-5 years for family properties and 1-3 years for single occupancy properties; there is also an appeal process. These lookback period guidelines were developed with property managers and these guidelines were implemented in 2021.
- Tenant Selection Policy and Criminal Background Screening document:
https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Housing_%26_Planning/RHDA%20Guidelines%20-%20Feb%201%2C%202021.pdf
- Community Needs Assessment public comment is due this Saturday April 15.
- There will also be a public comment period on the Action Plan from May 2-June 9.

V. 1:35-1:45 p.m. – Building Promise USA Program Updates – Carl Hunter

- Carl was not able to attend this meeting so the update was postponed.

VI. 1:45-2:00 p.m. – Member Updates & Announcements

- a. [Mobilize sign-up link](#) and [user guide](#)
- Diversion Focus Group Report Findings will be presented to Commissioners Court in May.
 - Melissa will be in Miami this week to tour a diversion center, and she will give an overview of the diversion centers she has visited in a future meeting.
 - Will follow up with our advocacy partners for guidance on reentry bills.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 8, 2022

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom