



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 12, 2023

12:30-2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting Packet: <https://app.box.com/s/8mk72xn012w0l91173yoey1mctwnvy35>

Members: Melissa Shearer (Vice Chair, Travis County Mental Health Public Defender), Misty Campbell (Past Chair Proxy, Austin Community College), Cynthia Simons (RAP Representative, Texas Center for Justice & Equity), Jennifer Carter (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas), David Clauss (American YouthWorks), Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Juanita Garcia (Travis Co. Public Defender), Carl F. Hunter II (Building Promise USA), Robert Kingham (City of Austin Community Court), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis Co. Justice & Public Safety), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Paola Silvestre (Indeed), Alex Villarreal (Integral Care)

Reentry Advocacy Fellow: Barbara Ornelas

Guests: Mary Moran (On Point Reentry Consortium), Sandra Eames (Austin Community College), Mindi Lowin (Empowering Women Out of Prison), Jesse Rojano (Walsh Construction), Karen Boyd (Integral Care), Jeremy Jones (Building Promise USA), Nadine Scamp (Santa Maria), Theo Adams-Hernandez (Building Promise USA), Layla Fry (Meadows Mental Health Diversion Institute), Kimberly Camp (Travis County Sheriff's Office), Maggie Luna (Texas Center for Justice and Equity), Robert Lilly (Directly Impacted Community Member), Julie Guirguis (Integral Care), Nathaniel Whitfield (Travis County Juvenile Probation)

I. 12:30-12:40 p.m. – Welcome

- a. Guest Introductions
- b. Advocacy Fellow Update – Barbara Ornelas

Barbara shared that she has hit the ground running with her advocacy fellowship and has participated in community events and professional development. She attended Leadership Austin's Civic Activation Conference last week and is currently finishing her application for the Leadership Austin Emerge Program. She is also participating in the Hogg Fellowship program as a guest fellow. This is a longstanding partnership the Hogg Foundation has had with the Reentry Roundtable. Barbara facilitated her first RAP meeting last Wednesday, where the group talked about Pride and Juneteenth community events and offered peer support. Barbara will participate in Toastmasters next week.

II. 12:40-12:45 p.m. – Voting Items

- a. March 2023 Minutes

A motion to approve the March 2023 Minutes was made by Helen Gaebler and seconded by Alex Villarreal.

The motion was approved unanimously by voice with no abstentions.

b. April 2023 Minutes

A motion to approve April 2023 Minutes was made by Hank Perret and seconded by David Clauss. The motion was approved unanimously by voice with no abstentions.

c. May 2023 Minutes

A motion to approve May 2023 Minutes was made by Hank Perret and seconded by David Clauss. The motion was approved unanimously by voice with no abstentions.

III. 12:45-1:05 p.m. – Impromptu Networking

Participants entered breakout groups to discuss the topic “What big challenge do you bring to this gathering? What do you hope to get from and give to this community?”

IV. 1:05-1:50 p.m. – Member Program Updates & Rapid Coordination

a. Sandra Eames and Nadine Scamp -- Austin Community College and Santa Maria Hostel
Nadine joined us from Santa Maria Hostel Recovery services in Houston, Texas. Santa Maria is one of the only places in the state where women can bring their children with them while they receive treatment. They work closely with TDCJ and local medical providers to make sure services meet the needs of participants.

They have seen an increase of participants coming from Austin in the last few years since Austin Recovery closed their family program. Santa Maria is now exploring the option of opening a location in Austin to keep folks connected to their community. They are looking to identify space and start up funding to make that happen. There will be monthly meetings to plan, and anyone from the Roundtable network is invited to participate. They would like to have the residential program established by late 2024. Please reach out to Nadine to learn more and get involved: nscamp@santamariahostel.org. Here is the link for Santa Maria online screening: <https://santamariahostel.interview.welny.com/run/main/#/1>.

b. Carl Hunter, Theo Adams-Hernandez, and Jeremy Jones -- Building Promise USA
Building Promise was chosen in 2021 by the City of Austin to be the coordinating agency for reentry services in Austin, and the BPUSA team has been growing and expanding infrastructure to be that single point of access for folks who are exiting jail and prison. They have hired a program manager, Theo Adams-Hernandez, and have become a certified Peer Support Specialist apprenticeship site. So far, they have provided support to 94 clients.

Right now, they are working on workforce development programs (RESPI and HIRE) as well as significant updates to their website and technology. They also plan to launch a diversion program in 2024. They have launched TEXConnect on their website, which is powered by findhelp, to manage referrals and connect clients to resources. Anyone may complete the intake form on their website and a peer support specialist will respond. Their office is also open for drop-ins and to use the computer lab. Building Promise is located at 6633 East Hwy 290, Suite 104, in a location with nearly 20 other Black-led nonprofit organizations. Contact Carl Hunter (carl.hunterbpusa@gmail.com), Theo Adams-Hernandez (theo.ah@buildingpromiseusa.com), or Jeremy Jones (jjones@buildingpromiseusa.com) for more information.

- c. Open Space: After the two group presentations, the floor opened for anyone on the meeting to share a question, challenge, update, or new initiative.
- Robert Lilly spoke about the need for family resources, particularly guiding resources for supporting family members with complex mental health needs. He spoke about his experience

with his family member is currently incarcerated in TDCJ. Misty Campbell and Maggie Luna suggested that Robert speak with April Zamora and Chris Carter, and they will connect with him after the meeting to support that process. Robert's contact information is robertlilly70@gmail.com and 512-915-6422.

- Jesse Rojano shared that he is a recruiter with Walsh construction, which is a second chance employer who does not discriminate based on system-involvement. He offered to connect with anyone to talk more about their employment opportunities: Jesse Rojano, Archer Western Const. <https://www.walshgroup.com/> jrojanowalshgroup.com 972-322-1121.
- Misty Campbell, Reentry Specialist at Austin Community College, announced that she will now start reentry before release through Building Promise's referral system.
- Paola Silvestre shared that Indeed has partnered with Skillpoint Alliance to provide financial support to the folks that go through their manufacturing training program. Indeed is providing a \$400 per week stipend while completing the training. Contact Skillpoint Alliance for more information: Skillpoint Alliance Manufacturing training for justice-impacted individuals; Shatavia Wafer swafer@skillpointalliance.org.
- Robert Kingham announced that City Council has approved an exploration of DACC jurisdiction expansion, and they will be engaging stakeholders soon for community feedback. DACC's current jurisdictional boundaries are the downtown core area; MLK to river; 35 on east to Lamar on West and also include West Campus and a little bit of East Austin.
- Cathy McClaugherty reminded the group about the Travis County resolution to create a mental health diversion center in our community. There will be a town hall on July 25 to hear from community (details forthcoming). Please feel free to contact Cathy with questions: cathy.mcclaugherty@traviscountytx.gov.
- Barbara Ornelas shared about a Juneteenth mixer on Friday, June 16 4pm-7pm at 7910 Cameron Rd, ATX 78754. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=630942032399940&set=a.231684962325651>
- Robert Lilly shared an upcoming conference: Transforming Minds, Inspiring Hope, and Changing the Narrative: The Art of Healing through Peer Support. June 27-28 am YRC Conference Young People in Recovery
28 pm RSS and Be Well Conference.

V. 1:50-2:00 p.m. – Member Updates & Announcements

- a. We have some sad news to share today. The Roundtable recently learned that Joe Ramirez passed away last year. Joe served on the Executive Committee as RAP Representative last year and we are greatly appreciative of his contributions to the Roundtable, particularly his perspective on growing the Reentry Advocacy Project and Advocacy Fellowship. [Here is his obituary.](#)

NEXT MEETING

NO MEETING IN JULY

August 14, 2023
12:30 – 2 p.m.

Stay informed on upcoming meeting agendas and network resources by [joining Reentry Roundtable's Mobilize online community.](#)