



## Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

*Building Successful Strategies for  
Reentry and Reintegration in Austin/Travis County, Texas*  
[www.reentryroundtable.org](http://www.reentryroundtable.org)

### PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 14, 2023  
12:30-2:00 p.m.  
Zoom

**Attending:** Charles Moody (Community Coalition for Health, Chair), Melissa Shearer (Travis County Mental Health Public Defender, Vice Chair), Misty Campell (Austin Community College, Past Chair Proxy), Cynthia Simons (Texas Center for Justice and Equity, RAP Representative), Barbara Ornelas (Reentry Advocacy Fellow), Sonja Burns (Community Representative), Jennifer Carter (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas), David Clauss (American YouthWorks), Helen Gaebler (UT School of Law), Juanita Garcia (Travis County Public Defender), Robert Kingham (Downtown Austin Community Court), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice and Public Safety), Kaleigh Phelan (Capital Area Private Defender Service), Marsha Morgenroth (Travis County Adult Probation), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Paola Silvestre (Indeed), Alex Villarreal (Integral Care)

**Guests:** Shelley MacAllister (UniteUs), Nadine Scamp (Santa Maria Hostel), Clara Ann, Grace Georges (Inclusion and Resilience for Bastrop County), Harriet Mitchell (RecoveryATX), Kate Roberts (Travis County), Ebonie Trice (Mission Accomplished), Julie Guirguis (Integral Care), Mary Moran (On Point Reentry), Jesse Rojano, Robert Lilly (Grassroots Leadership), Sean Oliver (Life Anew), Rachel Schuyler, Craig Moore (Jail to Jobs), Kyle Walker (ECHO), Beverly Johnson

**Support:** Madeleine Jordan-Lord and Kelly Nichols (Woollard Nichols Torres Consulting)

#### I. 12:30-12:45 p.m. – Welcome

- a. Connecting Activity
- Meeting attendees answered the following prompts on Jamboard:
  - Looking at the Reentry Roundtable strategic plan goals, where do you feel the most energy and excitement?
  - What do the strategic plan goals bring to mind about your work? Do you have opportunities for collaboration to share this network?
    - Creating an asset map
    - Investing in the leadership development of people with lived experience with the justice system
    - Digital Equity World Care Conversations: Host an event for a targeted population
    - Policy and advocacy on the state level
    - Stronger collaborations among reentry agencies. Building a stronger reentry

- community for our justice impacted individuals
  - American YouthWorks is working with partners to create alternatives to incarceration for court-involved young adults
  - Peer support network
  - Capacity Building
  - Advocacy
  - Advocacy for responsive community mental health services
  - Sharing best practices to help with alignment and implementation
  - Continue to grow Unite Us network in the Travis County area so there's a robust group of direct service orgs providing care coordination. This also gives our group actionable data.
- b. Guest Introductions
- c. Advocacy Fellow Update – Barbara Ornelas
- Barbara has been in conversations on the Digital Equity World Café Conversations Project and would like to host a Reentry Roundtable focus group. Reach out to her if you are interested: [info@reentryroundtable.org](mailto:info@reentryroundtable.org).
- She has many upcoming professional development opportunities, and has also started her weekly sessions with her mentor, Lauren Johnson.
- She invited everyone on the call to join the September 6<sup>th</sup> Reentry Advocacy Project meeting. The topic is mental health conversations.

## II. 12:40-12:45 p.m. – Voting Items

- a. June 2023 Minutes
- A motion to approve the June 2023 Minutes was made by David Clauss and seconded by Helen Gaebler. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

## III. 12:45-1:00 p.m. – Discuss Revisions to Reentry Roundtable Bylaws

- Kelly presented the draft revised Reentry Roundtable Bylaws. [Overview slides can be viewed here.](#)
- Members asked questions about consent-based decision-making:
  - How do we accommodate folks who have to abstain from certain votes due to their employer rules?
    - There would still be an option to abstain from voting in instances where there is a conflict of interest.
  - Would concerns have to be articulated, not just a zero vote and then concerns discussed?
    - Yes, the Coordinating Committee would present a proposal and if there are 0, 1, or 2 votes, the member would have to present why they believe the proposal is not aligned with Reentry Roundtable's mission and outline their concerns.
  - Is the idea that we would vote on more things than we do now? Now we pretty much need a quorum vote only for official items - minutes, budget, legislative or letters of support items, etc.
    - The Coordinating Committee frames key opportunities as proposals and presents them to Roundtable members for collective decision making on significant matters. We would not anticipate having a call for consensus on minutes (although we will still document meeting summaries) but yes on an annual budget, legislative priorities, letters of support, and other key initiatives.

## IV. 1:00-1:40 p.m. – Exploration of a Reentry Roundtable Leadership Program

- Madeleine and Barbara shared key themes from stakeholder interviews and Executive Committee

discussion about the opportunities for a Reentry Roundtable leadership program.

- Small groups discussed the following prompt: What are the must do's and must not do's to achieve our purpose of creating a dedicated local leadership development program for individuals in reentry?
- Must do's:
  - Needs to be led by system impacted folks
  - Clear guidelines and eligibility as to not discriminate
  - Be mindful of participants' needs to earn an income – be thoughtful about when participants meet, their other obligations and that they might need compensation
  - If the goal is to provide professional development and mentorship a leadership class might not be the right solution
  - What are the gaps in current opportunities?
  - Could create a speaker's bureau as part of the leadership program
  - Clear objectives and reason for the program being developed
  - Get really clear on our WHY for this program and what the anticipated outcomes are
  - Define "leadership"
  - Incorporate scholarships into the structure
  - Important that it is a requirement to have lived experience of reentry, so folks know that isn't a barrier and know it is a space for them
  - Look at national models when designing the program
  - Allow participants to be employed fulltime outside of the program and find times that work with those schedules
  - Important for Roundtable leadership to commit to program and maintain their integrity for participants
  - Screening committee for reviewing applications should be led by someone with lived experience
  - Include a commitment statement for cohort and make clear the time & participation commitment from the beginning
  - Design must come from the perspective from folks with lived experience
  - Spread information about the cohort widely, so everyone has an equal opportunity to apply
  - Application process to make sure participants will be a good fit for the program
  - Be upfront about the cost of participation, or--if stipends are available--the amount per stipend. Provide as much financial information up front so participants can make their decision
  - share information about the time of day sessions will be taking place, and what supports are available in their participation
- Must not do's:
  - Don't duplicate other efforts already underway

**V. 1:40-1:50 p.m. – Update on Travis County Justice and Public Safety Reorganization**

- Travis County will do a nationwide search for both County Executive roles. Kate will share the job descriptions with the Roundtable as soon as they are publicly available. There will be a community panel on the job search.
- Are folks with lived experience eligible to apply for the County Executive positions?
  - Nothing in the job descriptions preclude someone who is system-impacted to apply, but

Kate will double check and let us know.

- When do you think they will be posted?
  - Very soon. Within the next couple of weeks.
- How would the Reentry Resources position interact with the City of Austin Hub & Spoke grantees?
  - Kate will ask Vicki Ashley and follow up.

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

- 10 paid student intern positions are opening up through UT Law. Reach out to Helen to learn more and Madeleine will share on Mobilize.
- Robert Lilly: Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> monthly Texas Advocates for Justice at Grassroots Leadership. There will be a dinner, movie, and conversation.
- Melissa: Is there any movement in the 85 to stay alive campaign?
  - Robert Lilly shared about the vigil at the governors mansion, and suggested anyone reach out to Texas Advocates for Justice for more information.

**NEXT MEETING**

September 11, 2023

12:30 – 2 p.m.

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