



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 11, 2023
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Zoom

Members Present: Dr. Charles Moody (Community Coalition for Health, Chair), Melissa Shearer (Travis County Mental Health Public Defender, Vice Chair), Misty Campbell (Austin Community College, Past Chair Proxy), Sonja Burns (Community Representative), Helen Gaebler, JD (UT School of Law), Juanita Garcia (Travis Co. Public Defender), Mia Greer, RN, BSN, CLIA (Community Coalition for Health), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis Co. Justice & Public Safety), Marsha Morgenroth (Travis County Adult Probation), Hank Perret (Community Representative), Paola Silvestre (Indeed), Barbara Ornelas (Reentry Advocacy Fellow)

Guests: James Levy, Robert Lilly, Sean Oliver, Tyronne Jolly, Karen Boyd, Ebonie Trice, Susanne Mason, Mary Moran, Grace Georges, Ricardo Zavala, Craig Moore, Julie Guirguis, Kimberly Camp, Jennifer Sowinski, Faith Nyekan

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

Meeting Packet: <https://app.box.com/s/qoecx2yn8sphcn73b3ldr7dm8l7cor2n>

I. 12:30-12:40 p.m. – Welcome

- a. Guest Introductions
 - b. Advocacy Fellow Update – Barbara Ornelas
- Barbara shared the topic of the October RAP Meeting—overcoming fears of space, place, and face—and invited anyone from the Roundtable network to attend and to share the meeting details.
 - Barbara gave an update on her professional development opportunities and funding as part of her Advocacy Fellowship. She will be part of the upcoming Leadership Austin Essential cohort. She is also participating in the Hogg Foundation Academy and will be attending their policy immersion week in DC. Funds raised through Reentry Roundtable have been applied to these opportunities.
 - The Executive Committee reminded attendees to please continue to donate and share the fundraising campaign for leadership and professional development opportunities for persons directly impacted by the criminal legal system. Charles shared the link to donate: <https://www.reentryroundtable.org/donate/>.

II. 12:40-1:00 p.m. – Voting Items

a. August 2023 Minutes

A motion to approve the August 2023 Minutes was made by Hank Perret and seconded by Mia Greer. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

a. 2023 Revised Reentry Roundtable Bylaws

- Planning Council members discussed the proposed Coordinating Committee composition in the bylaws draft. Rather than listing that there must be 8 Coordinating Committee members with direct criminal legal system lived experience, Helen Gaebler suggested that composition requirement be listed as a percentage of 50% to account for instances where there may be vacancies on the committee.

A motion to amend the bylaws draft to include a statement that in the case of an odd number of Coordinating Committee members the number of system-impacted individuals on the Coordinating Committee would be rounded up was made by Melissa Shearer and seconded by Misty Campbell. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

- For bylaws changes, 2/3 of Planning Council membership are required to vote in approval. There was not the attendance needed at this meeting to complete the vote. The Executive Committee decided to conduct an electronic vote following the meeting.

I. 1:00-1:15 p.m. – FY24 Funder Deliverables Update

- The Executive Committee and Kelly presented the 2024 Funder Deliverables. These are Reentry Roundtable projects that will be submitted to Travis County, City of Austin, and Integral Care.
- Robert Lilly asked if Reentry Roundtable had contributed to the TDCJ Resource Guide in the past and if there are any efforts for the Roundtable to collect updated, shareable information on local reentry services.
 - Kelly answered that the Roundtable did not create the TDCJ Resource Guide, but did complete the Reentry Service Landscape project in 2021 to catalog local services. Since then, new programs have emerged, so there is a need to conduct a new member survey for updated information.
 - Robert reflected that the Community of Practice project will also help share updated information on reentry services.
 - Helen Gaebler also offered to connect with Robert on current efforts with Lioness on reentry planning resource guides
 - The groups discussed how outdated information can be really harmful for folks in reentry particularly with reentry services that no longer exist or who will not respond.

II. 1:20 p.m.-1:55 p.m. – Consent-Based Voting Scenarios

Melissa Shearer led the group through a practice scenario for consent-based voting. Attendees were asked to submit a 0-5 vote in the meeting chat on the hypothetical scenario of Reentry Roundtable hosting a reentry job fair.

The group practiced addressing concerns in the consent-based voting format, abstaining and conflicts of

interest, and voting in chat. After the practice, Charles Moody suggested that we continue to practice scenarios with membership. The group also discussed how a voting proposal template would be helpful to make sure all needed information is collected and shared with members prior to voting. This will be an ongoing transition process over the next few months.

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

Ricardo Zavala is hosting a youth summit in Dove Springs and is looking for speakers with lived experience with the criminal justice system. This event will be in person on September 30th. Please reach out to Ricardo if you are interested: dovespringsproud@yahoo.com.

Travis County is hosting a Town Hall tonight on the Mental Health Diversion Center Pilot. Details have been shared on Mobilize.

Carl Hunter, Craig Moore, and Robert Lilly will be panelists for September's #TogetherWeWillHeal Forum. The topic is the School to Prison Pipeline. The discussion will be on September 20th at 1:30pm on Zoom: <https://ctaafsc.com/togetherwewillheal-series/>

UT Austin's Initiative for Law, Societies, and Justice is hosting a 50 Years of Mass Incarceration Event in partnership with the Sentencing Project. It will be held on Friday, September 28th from 4-6 and Saturday, September 29th from 5-7pm. For more information: <https://sites.utexas.edu/justice/>

NEXT MEETING

October 9, 2023

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

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