



Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

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

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING

AGENDA

October 9, 2023

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting packet: <https://app.box.com/s/gk6sve3yp1c7c2u0dhfzz0y1dlhxybjg>

Executive Committee: Charles Moody (Chair), Melissa Shearer (Vice Chair), Donald Tracy (Past Chair), Misty Campbell (Past Chair Proxy)

Reentry Advocacy Fellow: Barbara Ornelas

In Attendance: Jennifer Harrington (Oxford House), Mia Greer (C2H), Julie Guirguis (Integral Care), Misty Campbell (ACC), Rachel Lanter (Oxford House), Juanita Garcia (Public Defender), Robert Lilly (Grassroots Leadership), Kaleigh Phelan (CAPDS), Kyle Walker (ECHO), Sonja Burns (Community Advocate), Patricia Alford (Bastrop County Cares), Paola Silvestre (Indeed), Robert Kingham (Downtown Austin Community Court), Karen Boyd (Integral Care)

Support: Madeleine Jordan-Lord and Kelly Nichols (WNT)

I. 12:30-1:00 p.m. – Welcome

- a. Guest Introductions (10 min)
- b. Advocacy Fellow Update – Barbara Ornelas (5 min)
- Barbara will send her update on Mobilize following the meeting.
- c. Connecting Activity: Small Group Breakouts (15 min)
 - i. What is a real-time opportunity or challenge related to reentry that is currently coming up in your life or work?

II. 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Overview & Discussion of Roundtable FY24 Activities

- a. Review of RRT Strategic Plan Goals [[Link to overview slides](#)]
- Leadership and Career Development: Increase opportunities for professional skill-building and mentorship for persons with justice system involvement
- Peer Network: Anyone released from jail or prison has access to a robust peer support network
- Capacity Building: Provide technical assistance to support the expansion and improvement of local reentry services

- Advocacy: Encourage local civic and community leaders to take action to reduce the negative impacts of unsuccessful reentry on the community
- Governance Structure: Redesign Roundtable governance structure to improve leadership accountability, clarify expectations, and create a pipeline of leaders with lived experience in decision-making roles

b. Discussion (for each goal):

LEADERSHIP & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

IF THIS GOAL WAS ACHIEVED, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD NOTICE THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN OUR COMMUNITY?

- *A site booklet with access pathways*
- *Higher rates of pay*
- *greater visibility and influence in policy making across the community*
- *More folks with lived experience in decision making spaces and informing policy and systems work.*
- *More individuals have access to jobs with living wages*
- *Increased pay - shrinking wealth gap*
- *The perspective of people with lived experiencing would be the biggest factor in policy decisions around reentry*
- *There would be many visible people with Justice involvement rolling high, living their full potential, impacting the country who were launched out of Austin, TX and the RR*
- *More folks with lived experience in decision making spaces and informing policy and systems work.*
- *Involving those with lives experiences*

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT NEEDS AND/OR OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT THE ROUNDTABLE SHOULD BE ALIGNING WITH TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL?

- *Affordable housing*
- *Reentry and recovery housing options*
- *Access to houy*
- *Housing*
- *Low barrier affordable housing*
- *Mentally AI health support*
- *Housing for the full continuum of mental health and disability presentations*
- *There is a need for better collaboration between organizations that fill the reentry space*
- *programming ran by those who are justice involved*
- *Creating tangiyresources*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A WORK GROUP RELATED TO THIS GOAL THIS YEAR?

- *Robert Lilly*
- *Paola Silvestre: Quick question here, there are a lot of great guides for employers written by people with lived experience, I wonder if is a good use of resources to rewrite one when they are so many*

Themes: More money, more influence on policy, more housing

PEER NETWORK

IF THIS GOAL WAS ACHIEVED, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD NOTICE THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN OUR COMMUNITY?

- *Personal Expansion/growth*
- *There would be gatherings, independent of organizations that meet to express solidarity with the work*
- *Fraternalities, clubs and meeting spaces that identified along the peer model lines*

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT NEEDS AND/OR OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT THE ROUNDTABLE SHOULD BE ALIGNING WITH TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL?

- *Align with workforce health department and nonprofits as well as local foundations*
- *We are missing a big opportunity by not, more intentionally reaching back into the prisons to spread the message of the model and its efficacy for self-and group advancement*

CAPACITY BUILDING

IF THIS GOAL WAS ACHIEVED, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD NOTICE THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN OUR COMMUNITY?

- *Wrap-around services*
- *Exiting incarceration to housing and peer supports more housing options that are safe and appropriate*
- *upon release all need would be available, immediately*
- *With active benefits and SUD supports*
- *People educated and aware*

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT NEEDS AND/OR OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT THE ROUNDTABLE SHOULD BE ALIGNING WITH TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL?

- *need is the community of practice*
- *builders for housing*
- *Mental health diversion center connection*
- *support hubs*
- *Reentry and recovery housing*
- *Faith based organization*
- *211*
- *well trained, supported and paid staff for services and homes for people mental health and idd needs*
- *Are we keeping track of the numbers of people coming home from prison? Do we have accurate data that we possess that drives our arguments and vision? In other words do we know where our populations exist and how they are currently being affected by the existing systems?*
- *Multi sector collaboration*

ADVOCACY

IF THIS GOAL WAS ACHIEVED, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD NOTICE THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN OUR COMMUNITY?

- *automatic expunctions*
- *Support from councilmembers and commissioners*
- *We would hear more leaders and civic partners openly taking the lead in reentry discussions*

- Probation and Parole officers would come out of their offices and go to jobs for check ins.
- truth telling
- We could get meetings
- Advocacy on the city council agenda to offer updates and other stakeholders
- A well functioning diversion center with wrap around services and robust exit plans

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT NEEDS AND/OR OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT THE ROUNDTABLE SHOULD BE ALIGNING WITH TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL?

- Aligning with Via Hope to get peers into jails!!
- partner with those who already offering services
- Meetings with Legislators

WITH THE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A WORK GROUP THIS YEAR?

Kaleigh Phelan: Advocacy

Patricia Alford: Any thing that addresses updating resources or advocacy

Mia Greer: peer network

Robert Kingham: Capacity Building

Juanita Garcia: Advocacy

Melissa Shearer: Advocacy, peer network

Robert Lilly: Leadership development and capacity building

Kyle Walker: advocacy

Misty Campbell: Capacity building

III. 1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. – Update on Governance Transition & 2023 Reentry Roundtable Membership Drive

- a. Overview of Membership Transition
 - i. What is a connection you've made through the Reentry Roundtable network that has strengthened the reentry community in Austin?
 - b. Nominating Committee and Policy & Procedures Work Group
- Barbara and Madeleine will be in touch with more information about the membership drive in the coming weeks. If you have a story about your involvement in Reentry Roundtable you would be willing to share, please reach out to info@reentryroundtable.org.

IV. 1:45-2:00 p.m. – Rapid Coordination & Member Announcements

- C2H Health and Wellness Fair, November 18th

NEXT MEETING

November 13, 2023

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

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