



PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 8, 2019
12:30 – 2:00pm
Goodwill Community Center

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Reggie Smith (Community Representative), Sherri Cogbill (Texas Department of Criminal Justice), Michelle Collins (Integral Care), Helen Gaebler (UT Law), Mia Greer (community Coalition for Health), Darwin Hamilton (RAP Representative), Marissa Latta (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice Planning), Hank Perret (Leadership Austin Executive Fellow), Laurie Pherigo (Roundtable Advocacy Fellow), Kimberly Pierce (Travis County Justice Planning), Jennifer Sowinski (City of Austin Community Court), Kenneth Thompson (Texas Department of Family & Protective Services), Don Tracy (ACC), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Central Texas)

Guests: Kayla Barbosa (Juvenile Probation), Sherry Blythe (Integral Care), Myrick Clark (Goodwill Central Texas), Mick Normington (Lee College), Jesse De Los Santos (Goodwill Central Texas), Tiffany Taylor (TCSO), Amber Warne (Workforce Solution Capital Area), Gene Wills (Juvenile Probation)

Support: Kelly Nichols, Laylee Safa (WNA)

I. **Introductions (Michelle Collins)**

Michelle welcomed attendees and facilitated a round of introductions at 12:36 pm.

II. **Vote: March, April, May, & June 2019 Minutes (Michelle Collins)**

Correction: Remove "Other Lady" from June minutes. Helen Gaebler moved to approve the March, April, May, and June 2019 minutes. Don Tracy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. **Fellowship Update (Laurie Pherigo)**

Laurie shared that the Sue Ellen Allen of Reinventing Reentry is facilitating a reentry simulation at an upcoming conference in Austin and is recruiting justice-involved volunteers. Laurie is working on an in-depth legislative update for the next Planning Council meeting.

IV. **Seeking Input on Proposed FY19-20 Roundtable Funder Deliverables (Sherry Blyth, Integral Care; Kimberly Pierce, Travis County Justice Planning; Jennifer Sowinski, Downtown Austin Community Court; & RRT Executive Committee)**

The Roundtable Executive Committee has engaged in intensive conversations with Travis County Justice Planning, Downtown Austin Community Court, and Integral Care over the past six weeks related to FY2019-2020 deliverables. The three funders expressed a desire to align deliverables around assisting individuals being released from the state jail into homelessness. Kelly guided attendees through the most recent draft of the proposal and highlighted connections to the Roundtable's strategic plan. Sherry Blyth, Kimberly Pierce, and Jennifer Sowinski answered

questions from Planning Council members about the proposal and what the workplan will look in action.

Questions raised by attendees included:

- How will success be evaluated?
- How much data will be received from TDCJ to assist in this process? How frequently will it be provided?
- How will individuals be chosen to participate in the pilot?
- Who will provide case management? Who will serve as the point of contact for individuals reentering and participating in this pilot? Who will follow up with individuals after they receive their formal referrals from the workgroup?
- Could the Roundtable instead develop reentry-focused resources/trainings for case managers already engaged in this work?
- Who would accept responsibility for any risk involved in project?
- What organization will take over the work after the pilot ends?
- Could the Roundtable model this work after Community Resource Coordination Groups?
- Does the pilot include adequate funding and time for success?

Members stressed the importance of setting realistic goals that take into account member capacity. Planning Council members serve on the Roundtable voluntarily and have limited bandwidth due to commitments to their full-time work. Concerns were expressed relating to the narrow focus of the project and the danger of not having enough bandwidth to continue existing work around housing, employment, etc. Attendees suggested bringing Laura Sovine into the conversation to share her experiences related to projects like this.

The Roundtable could alternatively focus on building capacity for peer support through RAP and in prisons and jails. If the Roundtable invests in this way, individuals exiting incarceration would be better prepared for reentry and have a path towards employment as peer support specialists. Ten individuals could be trained in peer support for as little as \$400.

ACTION: WNA will send out an invitation to Planning Council members and guests for an additional input session on the proposed FY20 workplan.

V. **Discussion on Proposed Roundtable FY19-20 Work Plan**

Kelly guided attendees through the additional work the Roundtable will do during FY19-20 in addition to the pilot discussed previously. The Roundtable will continue to send monthly newsletters, circulate an annual report, and engage with employers through Hank Perret's Executive Fellowship. The Advocacy Fellowship program will continue as well.

VI. **Misc. Announcements and Roundtable**

Kelly announced that the August meeting of the Planning Council will focus on wrap up of the legislative session.

VII. **Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.**