



Planning Council Meeting

January 9th, 2017 from 12:00pm to 1:30pm

700 Lavaca, Room 1.112

Attendees: Sarah Worthington (TRLA), Rebecca Farrell (Truth be Told), Darla Gay (Travis County District Attorney's Office), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Lisa Howard (TDCJ), Karen Keith (Community Representative), Jorge Renaud (Community Representative), Jaime Rodriguez (U.S. Bureau of Prisons), Reggie Smith (RAP Member), Mia Sneed (TX HHSC), Laura Sovine (Austin Recovery), Kenneth Thompson (TX DFPS)

Guests: Angie Blackwell (Travis County Sheriff's Office – Danny Smith unofficial proxy), Johna May (Goodwill Staffing), Cathy McClaugherty (Travis County Justice Planning), Meghan Regis (Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities)

Support: Caity Barillas (WNA), Lauren Johnson (Fellow), Kelly Nichols (WNA)

I. **Introductions (Sarah Worthington)**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm. Sarah Worthington welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions.

II. **Approval of December 2016 Minutes (Sara Worthington)**

ACTION: Kenneth moved to approve the amended December 2016 minutes, Lisa Howard seconded, and attendees unanimously passed the motion. **Amendments:** Section 3- 4th bullet from the bottom needs to read "Attendees discussed probation revocation and its impact on fees." Section 6 should read "The Department of Criminal Justice is requesting \$12 million for TCOOMI. They are requesting additional reentry specialists."

III. **Vote on New Member (Kenneth Thompson)**

ACTION: Kenneth Thompson moved to approve Michelle Collins as a new Planning Council member in place of Sherry Blyth, Lisa Howard seconded, and attendees unanimously passed the motion. **Action Item:** WNA will send Michelle Collins the new member packet and the membership survey.

IV. **Presentation: Amp360**

This item was tabled because the presenters were not present.

V. **Discussion: Reentry Simulation (Lauren Johnson)**

Lauren Johnson shared two videos about The Reentry Simulation Project and spoke briefly about the opportunity to facilitate people to participate in the simulation. She shared that for more information attendees could visit thinktank-inc.org. Attendees discussed that this simulation has the ability to make individuals view incarceration in a different way and may be worth the Planning Council's time investment.

VI. **Discussion: FY17 Legislative Deliverables and Work Plan (Kelly Nichols)**

Kelly Nichols led attendees in a discussion about the FY17 legislative deliverables and work plan. Kelly first asked groups to discuss two questions, (1) what they would like to see the Planning Council accomplish during the 85th legislative session and (2) what they would like the advocacy fellows to do to support the group:

- **Group 1** (Sarah Worthington, Laura Sovine, Rebecca Farrell, Lisa Howard)
 - Question 1: The group shared that they would like the Planning Council to provide the objective information, based on best practices and research, to legislators and the public to support effective reentry.
 - Question 2: The group would like the Advocacy Fellows to give weekly updates about re-entry related bills; a tool to build and confirm consensus on specific bills; fact sheets on specific bills to disseminate to legislators, internal networks, and the public; fellows should work as ambassadors of the Roundtable, sharing their experiences and putting faces with the challenges of reentry.
- **Group 2** (Lauren Johnson, Karen Keith, Meghan Regis)
 - Question 1: The group shared that they would like the Planning Council to advocate for policies that positively effect reentry. They would like the Planning Council to ask to agree that certain bills will affect reentry positively instead of asking members to vote on a bill.
 - Question 2: The group would like the Advocacy Fellow to be able to walk the halls of the Capital and visit the offices of the legislators.
- **Group 3** (Johna May, Jorge Renaud, Mia Sneed)
 - Question 1: The group would like the Planning Council to take the initiative to speak up when they have the chance. There are many voices in the room that need to be heard on the Capital steps. A strong connection needs to remain between those who can speak out and those who must abstain due to their positions. There is internal work that needs to be done to make sure that voices are always heard externally.
 - Question 2: The group shared that they would like the Advocacy Fellow to give testimony and be seen publicly. It is very important that there is a face to put with the names. There needs to be organizing taking place so that the right people are seeing the right testimony.
- **Group 4** (Jaime Rodriguez, Kenneth Thompson, Darwin Hamilton)
 - Question 1: The group would like the Planning Council to keep attendees informed about bills and their progress, communicate session updates, provide experts to give support and information about bills.
 - Question 2: The group shared that they would like the Advocacy Fellow to be the most effective advocate in the room with an arsenal of experts at their back, ready to give testimony at any given time.

VII. **Misc. Announcements and Roundtable**

Kelly Nichols announced that the Roundtable had received \$10,000 for two years in additional funding from the Shield-Ayres Foundation to support adding a second Fellow to the Advocacy Fellowship. The Executive Committee voted to move forward with the second fellowship and the deadline for applications is January 11th. Jorge Renaud announced that he is resigning from the Planning Council. ECHO needs volunteers for the Homeless Count. Travis County Justice Planning is hosting the annual Reentry Summit on January 18th.

Action Item: Proxy Forms will be sent out by WNA. The meeting was adjourned at 1:28pm.

**Next Meeting:
February 13th, 2017
Noon - 1:30pm
700 Lavaca, Room 1.112**