



A/TCRRT Planning Council Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2016
12 Noon to 1:30 PM
700 Lavaca, Room 111.2

Minutes

Voting Members Present: Sarah Worthington, Kenneth Thompson, Darwin Hamilton, Danny Smith, Jaime Rodriguez, Helen Gaebler, Laura Sovine, Sandra Eames, Charles Robinson

Staff: Lauren Johnson, Kelly Nichols

Visitors: Doug Smith, Cathy McLaugherty, Brenda Musgrove, John Lawyer

AGENDA

I. Introductions/Update on Advocacy Fellowship Selection Process

Sarah Worthington announced that Lauren Johnson has been selected as the inaugural Roundtable Advocacy Fellow and invited participants to introduce themselves and offer areas of expertise that Lauren can draw upon as the Fellow:

- Sarah: legal aid, foster youth
- Kelly: connections with other systems, coalitions
- Cathy McLaugherty: liaison with Travis County Justice Planning
- Darwin: connections with formerly incarcerated, presentations, spreadsheets
- Kenneth: CPS, community networks
- Jaime: liaison with federal agencies
- Sandra: current research, reentry grants
- Danny: Sheriff's office, health care/mental health
- Charles: probation-related issues
- Brenda Musgrove: TDCJ reentry division
- Helen: research (especially on housing and employment background checks)
- Laura: substance use treatment/recovery; reentry programming; historical RRT knowledge; connector; general support and venting
- Doug: adult criminal justice policy

II. Approval of January 2016 Minutes

Sarah will email the PC for a vote.

III. Presentation on Interim Legislative Session Charges Related to Reentry

Doug gave an overview of the interim legislative process designed to inform lawmakers so they will be ready to act in the next session. There are two opportunities this week: the House Committee on Corrections is studying two charges: 1) non-violent drug offenses and alternatives to incarceration; and 2) causes and programs designed to reduce recidivism including reentry

programs. Doug will be providing testimony at the hearings this week on behalf of TCJC and invited Roundtable members to participate as well. TCJC will be hosting an all-day budget seminar in March and will notify RRT members to participate in discussing decarceration strategies and how they will impact the budget. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee will also hold a hearing on March 30th.

Doug provided a handout that summarized other related charges in the interim session as well as how to register with Texas Legislature Online to receive alerts on legislative committee hearings. The PC indicated an interest in getting involved in the interim session, particularly in issues relating to recidivism, mug shots, bulk records, and the Driver Responsibility Program. The PC affirmed that they would like to have Lauren participate in the interim session and represent the PC. Lauren will attend the hearings this week and will create a summary of the hearings for the PC. Laura will draft a letter speaking to the recidivism issues to circulate to the PC.

IV. Reentry Advocacy Project (RAP) Retreat Debrief

Darwin gave an overview of the history of the XOC and the recent retreat. The group is rebranding as the Reentry Advocacy Project (RAP) and is looking forward to partnering with the Roundtable as it moves forward. Will be meeting in the UT Community Engagement Center forward. Darwin will be tapping PC members to attend and participate as guests in future RAP meetings. The RAP is also interested in engaging more deliberately in RRT work groups to provide a perspective from a person with lived experience.

V. Discussion: Guiding Principles for Organizational Support Letters (Sarah Worthington)

This discussion was tabled until next month.

VI. Vote on Letter of Support for Downtown Austin Community Court Grant Request – Center for Court Innovation (John Lawyer)

John Lawyer presented a grant opportunity specific to community courts through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and Center for Court Innovation that the DCC is applying for. Due February 19th. \$200,000 over two years. Advisory council being created to advise the grant. The intent of the grant funding is to utilize the funds for housing placement as it is the area of greatest need. Sarah has drafted a letter of support and will send out a vote to the PC.

VI. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable

Doug is volunteering as an Ambassador for Goodwill and invited the Roundtable to attend a tour of the High School and other programs on noon on Friday, March 4th. Sarah will send an invitation.

Helen: the law school is hosting Christy Lopez from the Justice Department and has been the lead investigator of police department investigations. Speaking at the UT Law School on February 9th from 12-1:30 and lunch is provided.

Kenneth: There is a formerly incarcerated individual running for County Commissioner's Court

Kelly: Melissa Orren had her baby, Dominic. He was born around 27 weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.