



A/TCRRT Planning Council Meeting  
Monday, March 14, 2016  
12 Noon to 1:30 PM  
700 Lavaca, Room 111.2

## Minutes

**Voting Members Present:** Sarah Worthington, Helen Gaebler, Laura Sovine, Lisa Howard, Jorge Renaud, Jaime Rodriguez, Danny Smith, Mia Sneed, DeWayne Street, Kenneth Thompson, Pete Valdez, Bree Williams

**Staff:** Lauren Johnson, Kelly Nichols, Lily Wein, Caity Barillas

**Visitors:** Doug Smith, Kimberly Pierce, Cathy McLaugherty, Brenda Musgrove, Emily Rogers, Greg Sparks, Teresa Moran, Suzanne Mason, Chris Fortune

### I. **Introductions**

Sarah began with a round of introductions and members shared one of their heroes. Sarah explained that Helen will be leading the Roundtable's advocacy discussions at the meetings due to new restrictions on advocacy activities and discussions on TRLA time.

### II. **Approval of January 2016 Minutes**

Sarah moved to approve the January meeting minutes; Kenneth seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### III. **Planning Council Membership & Vote: Doug Smith and Kimberly Pierce (Kenneth Thompson)**

Kenneth nominated Doug Smith and Kimberly Pierce to serve on the Planning Council. Mia seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### IV. **Quarterly Financial Report (Sarah Worthington)**

Sarah shared a quarterly financial update.

### V. **Presentation: Disproportionality and Health Outcomes (Mia Sneed)**

Mia offered a presentation focusing on the work of the Center for Disproportionality and Disparity. In 2011, the Center was created through a legislative mandate to address disproportionality and disparities throughout the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and includes three divisions: Equity and Inclusion; the Office of Border Affairs; and the Office of Minority Health. The Center's work is focused on equity and uses a framework to disaggregate all data by race and ethnicity to promote working through a racial and ethnic lens. Mia presented research on the reentry population compiled by the Center, including an examination of mental health diagnoses by race and ethnicity.

Mia told the committee that a grant was released for community and governmental organizations in mid-February to provide services around education, housing, and training around race and ethnicity in the jails. It was stated that the Center will support the grantees in implementing the training. The Center also offers trainings throughout the state for service providers, and does systems work across systems such as education, juvenile justice, etc. Attendees discussed potential organizations that may be interested in applying for the grant: Goodwill, LifeWorks, and Travis County.

VI. **Presentation: Travis County Justice Planning Program Evaluation (Emily Rogers)**

Emily Rogers presented to the committee. She stated that the Justice Planning conducted an evaluation on their programs in the state jail: Commitment to Change (substance use class for three months during incarceration and after-care component) and Inside Out (intensive case management for three months in the jail and three months in the community). She noted that the programs serve all ages, solely men. Almost everyone that participated in the programs had a substance use problem. For the Commitment to Change program, less than half of clients continued onto aftercare in the community. Emily stated that for the Inside Out Program, 78% of clients stayed with the program until they exited the jail. The program worked to connect those reentering to resources in the community. Both programs in the evaluation struggled with keeping participants through the entire duration of the program. Participants of both programs completed the programs at a higher rate. One-year recidivism rates for participants of Commitment to Change was lower than Inside Out; however, this was expected as Inside Out targeted higher risk individuals. Individuals that participated in both services had slightly lower recidivism rates than those who participated in only one program. Travis County created a comparison group for those who didn't participate in the programs; the Commitment to Change program had a lower recidivism rate than the comparison group and the Inside Out program had a higher recidivism rate than the comparison group. Overall the County saw a reduction in recidivism by the Commitment to Change participants. They have not seen a change in recidivism for the Inside Out program. Travis County staff is looking at combining the programs into one program moving forward.

The Workforce Development Program was also evaluated. It was stated that the program helps individuals find a job that is well situated for them, prepares interview skills and resumes, and identifies employers. It was also noted that very few of the participants have higher than a high school diploma. Emily stated that the program serves individuals with a range of offenses, both under and not under community supervision. 83% of clients found a job. The average earned by participants was \$11/hour. Participants in this program had a low recidivism rate. Based on the program evaluation, Travis County is piloting the program in the state jail.

**Action Item:** Evaluations will be available on the Travis County Justice Planning website within the next few weeks.

VII. **Discussion: Letter to House Corrections Committee (Helen Gaebler)**

Helen Gaebler presented to the committee. She noted that a letter was drafted to the House Corrections Committee based on the Planning Council's feedback at the last meeting. The letter was circulated via email and received significant feedback. Helen proposed creating a policy footprint process to streamline the process for policy statements moving forward. Jorge suggested an additional request for TDCJ to collect survey data from those within their first year of reentering the community and suggested presenting a list of organizations of formerly incarcerated individuals that are working toward positive change. The committee unanimously agreed that this would not be included in the letter

but be a separate conversation. Lisa reminded the Planning Council that representatives from state agencies must abstain from legislative advocacy and suggested that an alternate version of the letterhead be explored for advocacy with a footnote that state agencies abstained from the vote. **Action Items:** Helen will send out a revised version of the letter on an updated letterhead for a member vote. In the future, Planning Council members will be asked to send feedback on policy letters directly to Helen and Sarah to compile all comments together.

Note: Sarah abstained from the conversation.

VIII. **Misc. Announcements and Roundtable**

- Kenneth suggested that Planning Council members read the police stop report by race.
- Laura reminded members that Austin Recovery has unmerged from Council for Recovery and can take individuals into residential treatment that are at or below 200% of poverty. Referrals can call admissions at the office. Austin Recovery also has an outpatient program and family house. They are currently looking into bringing back detox services.
- Sarah reminded members that Fred at TRLA is looking for clients to provide legal services; refer clients to Sarah who may be interested

Meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.