



A/TCRRT Planning Council Meeting  
Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
12 Noon to 1:30 PM  
700 Lavaca, Room 111.2

## **Minutes**

**Voting Members Present:** Helen Gaebler, Darla Gay, Lisa Howard, Mia Sneed, Laura Sovine, Bree Williams, Sarah Worthington

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

**Visitors:** Susie Bannon, Roberto Berrios-Garza, Brook Son, Jennifer Sowinski (for Pete Valdez)

### **I. Introductions (Sarah Worthington)**

Sarah facilitated a round of introductions and welcomed the council. The council members each shared the best piece of advice they had ever been given.

### **II. Approval of May 2016 Minutes (Sarah Worthington)**

The vote to approve the May 2016 minutes was tabled because there was not a quorum.

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

The review of the quarterly financial report was tabled because there was not a quorum.

### **IV. Presentation on Language Related to those with Criminal Backgrounds (Susie Bannon)**

Susie Bannon, UT Student presented on language related to those with criminal backgrounds. She shared a brief history of her own personal story and how being involved with the criminal justice system personally affected her life. The presentation included several points about language and influence:

- There are two meanings of words: denotative and connotative.
- The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis states that language has an influence over people's thoughts.
- Felon, Offender, and Ex-offender all have negative connotations.
- The Reduction Dehumanization Oppression in Tuskegee allowed men to be tortured for medical testing and the language they used to describe the "test subjects" made it acceptable to torture the men in the name of science.
- The Marshall Project worked specifically on language surrounding those who were criminal justice involved. The Planning Council discussed:
  - Overlaying race on the connotation of criminal justice language layers the meaning behind the words.
  - There are other groups who have studied the meaning of the words used to describe previously incarcerated individuals and institutional language is difficult to change.
  - The Planning Council decided to use more positive language surrounding previously incarcerated individuals and make it a goal of the Reentry Roundtable.

- The council decided that there should be a record of the different terms the Reentry Roundtable has used over time to show where they started and where they have evolved to. It is important to display the history behind the words that individuals are using to refer to previously incarcerated individuals.

**V. Discussion: FY16 Funder Deliverables (Sarah Worthington)**

The council tabled the FY16 funder deliverable discussion because there was not quorum.

**VI. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable**

Mia Sneed announced that there will be an upcoming Cross Systems Conference August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in San Marcos. The theme for the Summit is Equity in Texas: Bold Beginnings, Courageous Path, Igniting Our Future. Darla announced that CAN has released their new dashboard and the biggest disparity was in African/American homelessness. Bree Williams announced that ECHO has released a new report on their website about homelessness. It was suggested that the council brainstorm ideas to raise attendance for Planning Council:

- Meeting date/time be changed
- A call-in option or webinar option for monthly meetings and only have in-person meetings quarterly
- Members be allowed to send a designee for the meetings they have to miss
- The number to reach quorum be lowered
- Sarah reach out to the members who have not been attending to get their input to see why they are not attending
- Reach out to leadership for the organizations that are participating in the Planning Council to put the meetings back on their radars
- The meetings be more task driven and goal oriented

The meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.