



A/TCRRT Planning Council Meeting
Monday, July 11th, 2016
12 Noon to 1:30 PM
700 Lavaca, Room 111.2

Minutes

Attendees: Sherry Blyth, Darwin Hamilton, Lisa Howard, Melisa Orren, Jaime Rodriguez, Danny Smith, Douglas Smith, Mia Sneed, Laura Sovine, Louella Tate, Kenneth Thompson, Pete Valdez, Bree Williams, Sarah Worthington

Guests: Patricia Bouressa, Lewis Conway, Kathy McClairty, Leela Rice

Guest Interns: Paige Bufkin, Katherine Gower, Alyssa Perez-Morrison

Staff: Caity Barillas, Lauren Johnson, Sam Woollard

I. Introductions (Sarah Worthington)

Sarah facilitated a round of introductions and welcomed the Planning Council.

II. Approval of May 2016 Minutes (Sarah Worthington)

Louella moved to approve the May meeting minutes, Kenneth seconded the motion, and the Planning Council unanimously approved the May minutes.

III. Presentation on Travis County Substance Use Disorder Plan (Sherry Blyth)

Sherry Blyth presented an overview of the Travis County Substance Use Disorder Plan. The following are highlights from her presentation:

- Treatment for substance use disorders is currently underfunded in Travis County.
- High rates of substance abuse is costly both financially and in human lives.
- Individuals can recover from substance use disorders
- Substance abuse is a public health issue however it continues to be treated as a criminal issue.
- When funding is awarded it needs to be recovery oriented.
- Travis County recently created a system that allows for different and new types of recovery, using a new model of looking at the whole person instead of just the addiction.
- Central Health is implementing the Substance Use Disorder Plan. They are currently working on small scale projects until they find what works.
- Travis County and Central Health are both talking about treating people with medication assisted therapy to help them recover. They are also looking at the approach of having the money follow the person in the services that they need. The pilot will begin in the fall. Central Health is looking at standardizing the screening and assessment tools and protocols in the CommUnity Care clinics. Probation is also looking at increasing its engagement with peer recovery supports.
- One of the main obstacles Travis County is facing is the stigma associated with substance abuse. The first group that ATCIC is considering working with is an HIV recovery group. They are considering piloting with groups that have healthcare issues combined with substance abuse issues. There are barriers on a state and federal level, especially in regards to funding, for addressing both mental health and substance abuse together.

- Members observed that The sobriety center that is under consideration is more of a diversion tactic more than an actual service that helps get people sober. The Planning Council members discussed that there needs to be acknowledgement of the racial disparities that are in existence regarding how laws related to different substances are implemented. Members also requested that any pilot programs that are developed are representative of the community.

IV. Employment Work Group Update (Sarah Worthington)

The Employment Work Group held three work group forums: an employer forum, a forum about those with criminal backgrounds seeking work, and the final forum focused on employer engagement, regional efforts, and advocacy. The results of the work group forums will be incorporated into the Planning Council's strategic plan. The Council discussed engaging with the Mayor's Employment Task Force and presenting the results of the forums to different ethnic groups such as the Latino, Asian, and African American groups.

V. Housing Work Group Update (Melissa Orren)

Melissa announced that the Housing Work Group is in the final stage of the Housing Report. They will be presenting the final plan to the Planning Council at the meeting next month. **Action Item:** Melissa will meet with the Austin MHC Boarding Houses Group before August's meeting.

VI. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable

Attendees shared the following announcements:

- ATCIC is making a targeted effort to incorporate race and ethnicity into their substance use disorders pilot program. Members suggested engaging with local churches for implementation.
- The Housing Workgroup is identifying individuals to assist in testing fair housing based on race and ethnicity.
- ATCIC received a new grant to provide wrap around services for individuals who have their first psychotic episode. The program starts September 1st.
- The Council discussed contributing to Grassroots Leadership for the Texas Advocates for Justice training opportunity they are hosting.

Next Meeting:

August 8th, 2016

Noon - 1:30pm

700 Lavaca, Room 1.112