



Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

April 2013

Greetings!

As we are now in full swing of 2013 and everything that it has to offer, we'd like to share the latest reentry news at the local, state, and national levels as well as the primary initiatives our committees are undertaking. Additionally, below you'll find important updates on the current legislative session.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

During this 83rd Legislative Session, the [A/TCRRT Policy Reform Agenda](#) has partnered with the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, ACLU, and many other organizations promoting progressive reentry legislation. Texas is a little over halfway through the current state legislative session and the deadline to file bills was March 8th. More than 160 "smart-on-crime" bills were filed and will be considered by our legislators in the coming weeks. The Confinement and Reentry bills filed can be reviewed [here](#). The legislative session officially ends on Monday, May 27th. Check [our website](#) for more updates as the session continues.

Texas Criminal Justice Coalition: Texas County Resources

To show the impact that criminal and juvenile justice-related bills have on each county, TCJC is developing [county-specific data sheets](#) on system-involved youth and adult populations. Juvenile data sheets offer an overview of each county's youth population, local community-based programming options that serve as alternatives to secure detention, and information about each county's pre-adjudication or post-adjudication facility. Adult data sheets offer information on pretrial, defense, probation, incarceration, and post-release phases of system involvement, with associated costs. To see Travis County's Adult Criminal Justice Data Sheet, click [here](#).

Child Support Review Process

Child Support Review Process (CSRP) is a service provided by the Attorney General's office to resolve legal issues on your child support case without going to court. The program also allows former offenders a less stressful environment to address back child support payment obligations, visitation privileges, and other parent/child issues. For further details and information on CSRP, click [here](#).

Camp Good News: Together We Can Make a Difference

The A/TCRRT, Seedling Foundation, and many reentry partners have joined hands to identify, recruit and prepare children to attend Camp Good News--a free, one week summer camp for children ages 10-15 who have an incarcerated parent. The Camp, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, provides a rich and fun-filled camping experience in a supportive environment. Caring and well-trained counselors model godly behavior while fostering healthy relationships and equip children with tools they need to explore the blessings and wonders of self. Two pre-camp events are scheduled to give the kids an opportunity to meet each other and prepare them for the fun ahead. We still have FIVE slots open so contact the A/TCRRT right away if you have a child in mind that would like to attend. Click [here](#) for more information.

Sheriff Hamilton Hosts National Conference

Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) is proud to announce they will be hosting the 2013 Vision Summit: Looking Toward the Future of Reentry on September 10-13, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Midtown in Austin, Texas. There will be two and a half days filled with presentations and workshops that target topics of reentry, e.g., transportation, IDs, homelessness, mental health issues, substance abuse, employment, veterans, youth, and family reunification. Nationally recognized leaders in the field of reentry will give insight into what communities can do to be part of the solution to successful reentry and reintegration. [Save the date](#).

April 2013 Report Highlights Lessons Learned by Law Enforcement Agencies in Establishing a Successful Prisoner Reentry Program

The Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG Justice Center) has released a new report, Lessons Learned: Planning and Assessing a Law Enforcement Reentry Strategy. Created with support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), the report highlights how four law enforcement agencies engaged in local-level reentry partnerships in order to reduce crime and increase public safety in their jurisdictions. These four "learning sites" featured in the report applied strategies outlined in the Planning and Assessing a Law Enforcement Reentry Strategy toolkit released by the CSG Justice Center and the COPS office in 2008, which focuses on ten key elements of creating a local reentry initiative. For more information, click [here](#).

A/TCRRT UPDATES

One of Our Own: If you want confirmation on why you care about reentry and are an appreciated partner of the A/TCRRT, then [read this article](#) written by Jorge Renaud from the March 9th issue of the Statesman. Jorge is a member of the A/TCRRT Planning Council and one of the original members of our XOffenders' Council (XOC). In addition to participating in multiple local reentry activities, he is currently taking the lead in guiding members from the XOC as they learn to track, prepare, and testify on bills that promote successful reentry.



Jorge Renaud

Housing Focus Area: Under the leadership of Darla Gay and A/TCRRT's partnership with ECHO, great accomplishments are being made to tear down housing barriers. [This](#) is the latest housing update for February 11-March 10, 2013. All other monthly housing updates can be found [here](#).

As you can see, 2013 promises to be a busy and invigorating year. The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable wants, needs, and IS you!

Find out more about how you can [get involved](#).

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Save the Dates!

Support Systems Committee

Date: April 16, 2013
Time: 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Evidence Based Practice Committee

Date: May 6, 2013
Time: 11:30 am -12:45 pm

XOffenders' Council

Date: May 6, 2013
Time: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Employment Committee

Date: May 10, 2014
Time: 1:30-3:30 PM

Planning Council

Date: May 13, 2013
Time: 12:00 to 2:00 p.m

More Information on Reentry

Interest in reentry is rapidly expanding around the country. The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable has a page on its website where you can find resources for keeping up with nationwide trends in reentry. To see it, click [here](#).