



# Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

March 2010

## Greetings!

A lot of exciting developments have been taking place at the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable (A/TCRRT) lately. In just the past few months we held our annual community forum, presented our FY 2010 accomplishments to the Austin City Council, sponsored two seminars on evidence-based practices, and immersed ourselves in the politics of the 82nd Legislature.

We have also welcomed the A/TCRRT's new interim chair, Sandra Eames, Ed.D. Sandra is taking over for Thomas Cruz while he is on military leave. Thomas will be back next year, and we plan to keep in touch with him while he is in the Middle East.

## There's A Place For You at the Roundtable

The core of the A/TCRRT is its membership. It was great to see so much of that membership turn out for our annual community forum on February 22. The A/TCRRT advocates for systems-level change, but systems are made up of people. That is why we need YOU to be the voice of reentry in our community. Please consider joining one of our committees by contacting Emily Rogers at (512) 934-3038 or [emilyrrt@gmail.com](mailto:emilyrrt@gmail.com). As more citizens recognize the value of reentry and reintegration, it will become easier to transform the "system."

## EBP Committee Hosts Seminars; Publishes FAQ

The A/TCRRT hosted its second evidence-based practice seminar on Friday, March 18. Participants in this seminar learned about cognitive behavioral therapy and solution-focused brief therapy. We also discovered a great resource from the University of Texas School of Social Work, the [Texas Behavioral Health Clearinghouse](#). This website has a lot of resources on evidence-based practices being used around the state.

The next meeting of the Evidence Based Practice Committee will be held Friday, April 1st, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, in the 6th Floor Conference Room of the Executive Office Building, 411 W. 13th.

If you are wondering what evidence-based practices are, take a moment to view our [FAQ](#).

## Update on Housing

In 2010, in an effort to reduce fragmentation in housing planning for special populations, including the reentry population, the A/TCRRT merged its housing work with [Ending Community Homelessness Coalition \(ECHO\)](#). This decision was the result of a consensus recommendation from the [Austin/Travis County Corporation for Supportive Housing Re-entry Texas Initiative](#). The ECHO Housing Work Group meets the First Thursday of each month from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM at 211 E. 7th Street in the 7th Floor Conference Room. For more information, contact Chairperson Jo Kathryn Quinn at (512)646-1252, [jquinn@caritasofaustin.org](mailto:jquinn@caritasofaustin.org). A summary of the A/TCRRT housing activities and outcomes in FY 2010 can be found [here](#), and a summary of housing activities for February and March 2011 can be found [here](#).

The A/TCRRT encourages you to participate in the upcoming community meetings and public hearings regarding the City of Austin's FY 2012-2013 Action Plan to deploy federal HUD funds. More information on the City's Neighborhood Gatherings on Community Needs can be found [here](#).

Housing is one of our legislative priorities so if you are interested in testifying in this area, join the Policy Reform Committee!

## News from the Policy Reform Committee

The Policy Reform Committee tracks legislation and informs its members about actions they can take at the Legislature. Find out more about the committee's work [here](#).

The next committee meeting will be Monday, April 25, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable wants, needs, and IS you! Find out more about how you can [get involved](#).

Sincerely,

Jeri Houchins  
Administrative Director  
(512) 873-4959

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### In This Issue

[There's a Place for You](#)  
[Evidence-Based Practices](#)  
[Housing](#)  
[Policy Reform](#)  
[Support Systems](#)  
[Other Community Events](#)

### Support Systems

Spring is a time for renewal, so it is a perfect time to focus attention on the Support Systems Committee. At our annual community forum, there was a lot of interest in re-energizing this committee. In the past, this is where we have worked on issues like resources for reentry, family support, and children of the incarcerated.

The Support Systems Committee will hold its "Get Ready" Meeting on April 4, from 5:15 PM to 6:45 PM at the Terrazas Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez. If you have an interest in developing our future goals, objectives, and activities for supports and services--this is a meeting for you! Contact Jeri Houchins at [jeri.jeanw@gmail.com](mailto:jeri.jeanw@gmail.com) if you'd like to join this important group of partners dedicated to serving the reentry population and their families.

### Quick Links

[FY 2010 Annual Report](#)  
[Travis County Reentry Guide](#)  
[A/TCRRT Planning Council Membership Calendar](#)  
[More About Us](#)

### Events in the Community

The Downtown Cluster of Congregations and Social Service Agencies is hosting a presentation on the impact that state budget cuts will have on local nonprofits. The presentation will be held on Sunday, April 3, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church at 1300 Lavaca. Their flyer can be found [here](#).