



Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

March 2012

Greetings!

The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable (A/TCRRT) is preparing for its annual forum. This year, we're calling it "Let's Talk" because we want to spark dialogue in the community about reentry. We are inviting former offenders, their family members, social service and criminal justice professionals, advocates, and other members of the community to come and share their thoughts and ideas about reentry. Everyone has a stake in making reentry work. We hope you will be there.

Let's Talk: Annual Forum

Our annual community forum will be on April 10th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Goodwill Industries of Central Texas Headquarters - Norwood Park. Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson will be giving the keynote address, and we will have breakout sessions headed by elected officials who care and want to share: Judge Sam Biscoe, Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole, Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt, Sheriff Greg Hamilton, and Council Member Bill Spelman. The audience will be very diverse, and this opportunity for interaction will be a great learning experience for all reentry stakeholders. To register, click [here](#).

The Price of Prisons in Texas

Spending on criminal justice accounts for a major part of the state budget, but the cost of incarceration extends beyond just the budget for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. For that reason, you may be interested in taking a look at a new report from the Vera Institute of Justice. A fact sheet on Texas is available [here](#).

Implementing Trauma-Focused CBT in the Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Many children in Texas' juvenile justice system have faced traumatic events at some point during their lives. Having tools to address trauma in juvenile justice settings is vital to helping kids grow into healthy adults. While [trauma-focused cognitive behavior therapy](#) (TF-CBT) is an evidence-based practice, there is little data on how to adapt it to correctional settings. In September 2011, the Center for Social Work Research at the University of Texas at Austin began a collaboration with what was then called the Texas Youth Commission (now the Texas Juvenile Justice Department) to pilot an adaptation of TF-CBT for correctional settings. The project is currently running a small trial to test the feasibility of the adaptations and will begin a pilot study next fall. For more information on juvenile justice and trauma, click [here](#). A web-based learning course on TF-CBT for clinicians is available [here](#).

Planning a Policy Priorities Forum

The A/TCRRT's Policy Reform Priorities Forum will be held on May 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Every two years, the A/TCRRT hosts a forum to gather input on how to make reentry more successful, and we share this information with the Texas Legislature. We are getting ready for the 83rd Legislature, and we need to hear about your experiences with reentry in Texas. If you would like to help plan this event, please come to the next Policy Reform Committee meeting on March 28. You can also take our planning survey by clicking [here](#).

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
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Save the Dates!

Policy Reform Committee

Date: March 28, 2012
Time: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Evidence Based Practice Committee

Date: April 6, 2012
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Support Systems Committee

Date: April 17, 2012
Time: 3:00 to 5:00 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](#).