



Planning Council Meeting  
Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
700 Lavaca, Room 2.110

**Attendees:** Kenneth Thompson (TX DFPS), Michelle Collins (Integral Care), Sandra Eames (Austin Community College), Rebecca Farrell (Truth Be Told), Darla Gay (Travis County District Attorney's Office), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Lisa Howard (TCJC), Jaime Rodriguez (U.S. Bureau of Prisons), Reggie Smith (RAP), Mia Sneed (Community Representative), Laura Sovine (Austin Recovery), DeWayne Street (Goodwill), Louella Tate (Community Representative), Bree Williams (ECHO), Sarah Worthington (Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid)

**Guests:** Courtney Robinson (Excellence and Advancement Foundation), Andrew Krebs (UT Graduate Student, Sociology), Julie Moss (Travis County Adult Probation SMART), Delisha McLain (Texas Juvenile Justice Dept), Linda Anderson (Travis County Adult Probation SMART), Nancy Haywood (ACC), Debbie Russell (Pecan Street Association), Latreese Cooke (MELJ Justice Center), Sal Velazquez (Travis County Justice Planning), Brittany Hopkins (Texas Criminal Justice Coalition)

**Support:** Kelly Nichols (WNA), Lauren Johnson (Fellow), Annette Price (Fellow), KiYa Moghaddam (WNA)

### **I. Introductions (Kenneth Thompson)**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. Kenneth Thompson welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions.

### **II. Approval of March 2017 Minutes (Kenneth Thompson)**

**ACTION:** WNA will amend the March minutes to indicate that Abby Tatkov attended as a guest not a proxy.

**ACTION:** Sandra Eames moved to approve the March 2017 minutes with the amendment, Rebecca Farrell seconded, and attendees unanimously passed the motion.

### **II. Update: Network Mapping Exercise (Kelly Nichols)**

Kelly Nichols facilitated a network mapping exercise with the Planning Council.

**ACTION:** WNA will provide spreadsheet to the Planning Council electronically.

### **III. Vote: Strategic Planning Contract (Kenneth Thompson)**

Kelly Nichols confirmed the scope of the contract is for a three-month period ending in July 2017. During this period, WNA will facilitate the strategic planning sessions and write the strategic plan.

**ACTION:** Sarah Worthington moved to approve the contract, DeWayne Street seconded and all attendees unanimously passed the motion.

### **IV. Presentation: Excellence and Advancement Foundation Resource Center (Courtney Robinson)**

Dr. Courtney Robinson presented on the new Excellent and Advancement Foundation Resource Center located at Huston-Tillotson University. The Foundation combats the School to Prison pipeline and the juvenile justice system through individually tailored prevention and intervention programs focused on the entire family, and also engages in grassroots advocacy. The resource center

is located on the Huston-Tillotson University campus and the foundation currently partners with Austin and Manor ISDs. For more information, visit [breakthepipeline.com](http://breakthepipeline.com).

#### **V. Update: FY17 Deliverables (Kelly Nichols)**

Kelly provided an update on grant funding and the status of related deliverables:

Organizational enhancement: Newsletters are being sent monthly, strategic planning sessions are scheduled to begin in May with the final plan due to be adopted no later than August, and an end-of-year report will be provided.

Housing: convene implementation group to hold at least four meetings focused on enhancing access to persons with criminal backgrounds scheduled to be completed no later than June.

Employment: Currently 4.5 of a minimum of 12 hours of technical assistance and/or feedback to Travis County employment-focused efforts related to persons with criminal backgrounds. There are plans to work with Cultural Strategies, the vendor the City of Austin selected to lead the Fair Chance Hiring outreach solicitation to meet this deliverable.

Behavioral Health: This deliverable was met in Dec. 2016 through the Leadership Austin Engage Breakfast.

#### **VI. Update: 2017 Legislative Session (Lauren Johnson, Annette Price, Reggie Smith, Brittany Hopkins)**

Lauren Johnson, Annette Price, Brittany Hopkins and Reggie Smith provided an overview of key reentry-related bills, including the following:

- HB 4110 – related to community collaboratives for persons experiencing homelessness or mental illness
- HB 2702 - Sandra Bland Act
- HB 73 - Good Samaritan Act (a similar bill was vetoed last session)
- HB 557- related to the expulsion of criminal records
- HB 3016 – related to the nondisclosure of criminal records
- HB 3080 - related to the death penalty for persons with mental illnesses
- SB 1584/HB 2883 – related to incorporating a risk and needs assessment to determine the terms of probation
- SB 3289 – relating to limiting incarceration for first-time technical probation violations

**ACTION:** The Fellows will continue to track re-entry related bills and send them to the Planning Council. The Planning Council will de-brief at the end of session.

#### **VII. Update: Work Group on Criminal Background Barriers to Housing (Bree Williams)**

Bree Williams provided an update the first Work Group meeting and informed the Planning Council that the second would occur after the Planning Council Meeting.

**ACTION:** The updated draft will be sent to Planning Council Members.

#### **IX. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable**

The meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.