



PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 13th, 2017

12:30 – 2:00pm

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (300 E. Highland Mall Blvd.)

Minutes

Attendees: Helen Gaebler (UT Law), Kenneth Thompson (TDFPS), Sarah Worthington (TX Rio Grande Legal Aid), Karen Keith (Community Representative), Michelle Collins (Integral Care), Rebecca Farrell (Community Representative), Darla Gay (Travis County DA), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Mary Moran (TCSO), Rudy Perez (Travis County Adult Probation), Jaime Rodriguez (U.S. Bureau of Prisons), Doug Smith (TCJC), Mia Sneed (Community Representative), Laura Sovine (Austin Recovery), DeWayne Street (Goodwill Central Texas), Bree Williams (ECHO)

Guests: Marcus Ramirez (TDCJ), Mark Gilbert (Travis County Planning & Budget), Roger Jefferies (Travis County Justice & Public Safety), Abby Tatkov (ECHO), Lauren Johnson (ACLU of Texas), Craig Fairbrother (Travis County EMS), Sherry Blyth (Integral Care)

Support: Kelly Nichols (WNA), Annette Price (Advocacy Fellow), KiYa Moghaddam (WNA)

I. Introductions (Kenneth Thompson)

Kenneth called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. He welcomed attendees and facilitated a round of introductions.

II. Approval: October 2017 Minutes (Helen Gaebler)

It was noted that Marcus Ramirez should have appeared as attended in the October Minutes. Sarah moved to approve the minutes with the addition of Marcus Ramirez. Rebecca seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: WNA will update the October minutes to reflect the attendance of Marcus Ramirez.

III. Update and Discussion: Travis County Justice Planning Master Plan and FY18 Budget (Roger Jefferies and Mark Gilbert)

Mark Gilbert provided an update on the Travis County Justice Planning Master Plan. He stated that there are several facilities in need of attention. Most of the Travis County correctional facilities were built in the 1980s and run 24 hours a day which has left few opportunities for maintenance and repairs. The master plan was designed with zero projected growth in the inmate population during the next 20 years. The Master Plan includes improvements in housing, inmate programs, mental health offerings and an increase in capacity for those programs. The first phase

of the Master Plan is to build a new facility for women. This will allow the entire population of incarcerated women to be in one location and will allow for improvements to be made in buildings that are currently in use. This goal is to offer more services and better housing options for women, especially those who may be considered high-risk. The new facility for women will also include expanded OB/GYN services. The Master Plan calls for a new building so that each aspect can be designed with optimal results, something that can only be done when starting from scratch instead of rehabbing an existing building.

Mark stressed that this is not a capacity increase, but instead a capacity replacement. To take the worst quality building offline, there is a need to have capacity to relocate populations currently being housed. Roundtable members asked what planned reentry opportunities that will be included in the design of new facilities and asked what the process of requesting stakeholder feedback in the programs will look like. Roger agreed that more stakeholder feedback is needed prior to and during the design of the new facility. Helen recommended reaching out to the Roundtable as a resource for finding community organizations to provide feedback. Roger requests follow up for this, and will send information to forward to the Planning Council.

IV. Update and Discussion: Joint Community Engagement Workshop with RAP (Annette Price & Kenneth Thompson)

Annette updated attendees on the results of the mapping exercise completed at the joint meeting. One of the outcomes was the identification of geographical areas that need additional opportunities for reentry services. Pflugerville was identified as the first target area for focused community engagement. Annette and Kelly will support the community engagement efforts moving forward by matching interested PC and RAP members to set up outreach meetings in the new year.

V. Update: Regional Criminal Justice Allies Convening (Helen Gaebler & Annette Price)

Annette provided an update on the Regional Criminal Justice Allies convening held on Saturday, October 21st which brought together over a dozen local organizations focused on various aspects of criminal justice reform. The convening focused on building relationships and identifying shared priorities and possibilities for moving forward collectively. Topics that emerged at the convening included prison conditions, fair chance hiring, jail diversion programs, police accountability, criminal records/expungement, data sharing, and issues specific to justice-involved women. The Roundtable has committed to supporting ongoing dialogue and meetups for this group.

VI. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Planning Council Meeting

December 11th, 2017

12:30 – 2:00pm

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (300 E. Highland Mall Blvd.)

*Bring your favorite potluck dish! *