



PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 10th, 2018
12:30 – 2:00pm

ACC Highland Campus, Building 1000, Room CR-1101 in the Accelerator area
MINUTES

Attendees: Kenneth Thompson (Texas Department of Family & Protective Services), Sarah Pahl Worthington (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid), Sherri Cogbill (Texas Department of Criminal Justice), Michelle Collins (Integral Care), Rebecca Farrell (Community Representative), Karen Keith (Executive Committee RAP Representative), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Mary Moran (Travis County Sheriff's Office), Jaime Rodriguez (U.S. Bureau of Prisons), Reggie Smith (Texas Criminal Justice Coalition), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill Industries of Central Texas), April Zamora (Texas Department of Criminal Justice), Marsha Morgenroth (Travis County Probation), Don Tracy (ACC), Carl Hunter (Recovery People)

Support: Kelly Nichols, Laylee Safa (WNA)

I. Introductions (Kenneth Thompson)

Kenneth opened the meeting at 12:37pm and facilitated a round of introductions.

II. Update on the Texas Reentry Task Force (April Zamora)

April announced that the Texas Reentry Task Force biennial report was released on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice website this morning. She summarized the report's findings and helped familiarize Planning Council members with the Task Force's goals and accomplishments. April highlighted each working group, including community reentry (led by Kimberly Pierce), housing (led by Brooke Boston), employment (led by Doug Smith), family and faith (led by Pastor Valentine), etc. She introduced attendees to Website for Work, a second chance employment resource that has already helped 135 employers hire 561 people with criminal backgrounds. Employers must do the following to be included on the website: prove that they will pay above the table; offer healthcare benefits; offer employment regardless of conviction type; attend job fairs that are open to the community for anyone with a criminal background. Over 1,000 employers are currently involved in some way. Karen Keith pointed out that it would be beneficial to involve individuals with lived experience in the criminal justice system in the task force.

ACTION: WNA will share link for biennial report with Planning Council members.

III. Vote: August 2018 Minutes (Kenneth Thompson)

The August 2018 minutes were amended to make the following edits: Don clarified that the training mentioned on page 3 is with adults instead of high schoolers. Page 5 was updated to read: "The price

tag for certified production technician training at Lockhart women’s facility training is currently estimated at \$1,500, while HVAC training at Georgetown is approximately \$3,000.” Francene Helaire and Jaime Rodriguez need to be added to the list of attendees.

Rebecca Farrell moved to approve the edited minutes. Mary Moran seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Vote: 2018-19 Officer Elections (Rebecca Farrell)

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| Chair | Reggie Smith |
| Vice Chair | Michelle Collins |
| Immediate Past Chair | Helen Gaebler |
| RAP Representative | Karen Keith |

Kenneth moved to accept the proposed officer slate. Jaime seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Reggie Smith will be the first Roundtable Chair with lived experience.

V. Recognition of Helen Gaebler, Kenneth Thompson and Sarah Worthingtons’ Contributions to the Roundtable (Karen Keith)

Karen Keith shared a heartfelt tribute of thanks and appreciation to outgoing members of the Executive Committee.

VI. Vote: New Planning Council Member: Don Tracy Representing Austin Community College (Rebecca Farrell)

Rebecca shared the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to approve Don Tracy as a new member of the Planning Council. She provided background information on Don Tracy’s work at ACC as well as his lifelong passion around justice-centered issues. Reggie moved to accept the nomination of Don Tracy as a new Planning Council member. Karen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Since Reggie and Michelle are now part of the Executive Committee, they are also part of the Nominating Committee moving forward.

Darwin accepted a nomination to be part of the Nominating Committee. If anyone else would like to serve, please let the committee know.

VII. End of Fiscal Year Financial Update (Kelly Nichols)

Kelly provided an update on the Roundtable’s income and expenditures to date. All funding from Travis County and the City of Austin will have come in within the next month. Integral Care’s payment is still pending and should be sent very soon. There are no issues with expected funding coming in. The Roundtable also received \$5,000 from the France-Merrick Foundation.

Kelly shared that anticipated expenditures will come in below budget because of fellowships ending early this year. Annette Price moved on to do statewide work in June, so the Roundtable only spent half of that anticipated budget this year. Tray has ended his fellowship early which has led to some

other cost-savings.

The Executive Committee has been discussing the fact that Travis County has not increased their contribution while the City of Austin has. It would be ideal for those amounts to match, especially since the Roundtable is working in Travis County more broadly. One thing to consider is holding RAP meetings in more locations.

Filling both fellowship positions right now would overstretch the budget. The Roundtable will continue to look at additional grants and sponsorships so that another fellow can be added. The plan is to have a new junior fellow come on board in early October. The Executive Committee has not yet decided about the timeline for hiring an additional fellow.

VIII. Update and Discussion: Website redesign (Kelly Nichols)

The current Roundtable website has a lot of great content but has an outdated look and poor structure and usability. The Executive Committee recently approved using TriSummit Solutions to help with backup, security, updates, and a mini redesign. They will update the Wordpress theme to something more modern and user-friendly. Before the redesign can be pursued, the Roundtable must choose a new logo that can then guide the colors of the new website. The goal is to have the new website redesign up by January.

Sarah Worthington, Jennifer Tucker, Jaime Rodriguez, Karen Keith, and Don Tracy volunteered to convene a small workgroup to consult on the look and feel of the new website. They will meet virtually 2-3 times in the coming months to put together a list of websites that have the desired look and feel. An initial priority will be to determine the intended purpose of the site – resource sharing, communication, etc. The Planning Council would like to put more emphasis on community engagement going forward. Other suggestions include thinking through basic accessibility issues on the site. For example, it would be beneficial to make Spanish translations of resources available on the website

IV. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable

Jennifer Tucker shared that Goodwill is hosting a free digital literacy bootcamp.

ACTION: Jennifer will share information about the bootcamp for inclusion in the newsletter.

The Planning Council will not likely be meeting at ECHO after the October meeting. The Roundtable is looking for a new location and will let Planning Council member know about future location changes. Planning Council members are encouraged to reach out if they have suggestions about meeting spaces.

The deadline for completing the Roundtable Member Survey has been extended to tomorrow. The survey provides the opportunity to commit to serving on the Planning Council next year. It's a brief survey and does not take long to complete.

IX. Meeting adjourned 1:52pm.

Planning Council Meeting
October 8th, 2018
ECHO, 300 E Highland Mall Blvd
12:30 – 2:00pm