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## Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

September 2018

### Roundtable News

#### Officer Elections at the September Planning Council Meeting

We hope you can join us for our next Planning Council meeting. The agenda includes 2018-19 officer elections, an end-of-fiscal-year financial update, and a discussion about a redesigning our website.

**When:** Monday, September 10, 2018 from 12:30-2 p.m.

**Where:** ECHO, 2nd Floor [300 E Highland Mall Blvd, Austin, TX 78752](#)

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#### Applications for the Roundtable Advocacy Fellowship Program are Due September 14

We want to thank Tray Frazier for his service to the Roundtable in his term as Advocacy Fellow. Due to Tray's transition, we are adjusting the timeline for the next Roundtable Advocacy Fellowship to begin this fall. This is a part-time, contracted position for persons with significant lived experience navigating the criminal justice system and reentering the community.

The goals of the Fellowship program are two-fold:

1. to enhance the capacity of the Roundtable to address the challenges of reentry and reintegration and support social justice in our community, and
2. to develop the leadership capacity of the fellow by providing opportunities and mentorship to enhance their professional skills such as research, writing, and coordinating, planning, and leading activities.

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[Click here](#) for more information about the Fellowship and to apply.

## Reentry Advocacy Project

**Who:** Are you or is someone you are close to directly impacted by the criminal justice system? If so, please join the [Reentry Advocacy Project](#) (RAP) for a monthly conversation with other folks with lived experience with incarceration and reentry.



**What:** A project of the Roundtable, RAP engages formerly incarcerated men and women to advocate for the development and implementation of policies and practices that directly and positively impact the reentry population and their families, as well as provide guidance to the Roundtable. RAP is a place where you can get support and advice to address reentry challenges and barriers.

**When:** RAP meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6–7:30 p.m. with pizza and informal networking starting at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mt. Zion Baptist Church Zion Action Recovery Center at [2951 E 14th St.](#)

You can stay up-to-date with RAP meeting times and other events by following them on [Facebook](#)

## Roundtable Seeks Community Engagement



Are you engaged with reentry efforts in Pflugerville, Del Valle, Manor, or Northwest Travis County?

If so, we'd love to chat with you about the work you do for our community. Please email [laylee@woollardnichols.org](mailto:laylee@woollardnichols.org) or call her at (512) 552-4005 to schedule a time to connect.

## Texas Legislature Update

### Notice of Public Hearing: Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice

The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 in E1.016 to hear invited and public testimony on the following interim committee charges:

- **Identify Successful Re-Entry Programs:** Study current reentry programs and procedures across Texas' adult criminal justice system and identify which are most effective. Review best practices and make recommendations to

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programs to allow for successful reentry and integration into the community and to prevent recidivism.

- **State Jail Review to Improve Outcomes:** Perform a comprehensive analysis and study of the Texas state jail system. Examine the access to and use of rehabilitation, vocation, and education programs. Determine whether current programs are effective and if there are efficiencies that can be found to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes.
- **Telemedicine in Correctional Facilities:** Review current availability and best practices in the state regarding the use of telemedicine for inmates in city or county jail, state jail, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Examine and make recommendations on whether access to care and outcomes can be improved through the expanded use of telemedicine for medical and mental health services, and whether expansion would create efficiencies. Examine barriers to implementation and expansion of telemedicine in correctional facilities.
- **Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention:** Study opportunities to increase awareness of human trafficking through public awareness campaigns, among local officials, and within public school districts including the identification of potential human trafficking and stash houses as well as how and where to report. Examine the Human Trafficking Prevention Business Partnership Program at the Office of the Secretary of State and provide recommendations for increasing participation of Texas businesses in the fight against human trafficking.

## Local News & Events

### Past Roundtable Advocacy Fellow Lauren Johnson Interviewed on Decibel

Don't miss the Roundtable's first Advocacy Fellow Lauren Johnson talking about reentry and criminal justice reform on [Decibel Live with Judy Maggio](#). Lauren Johnson currently serves as the Criminal Justice Outreach Coordinator for the ACLU of Texas.



[Watch Lauren's Interview](#)

### Fall 2018 Intake Sessions Announced for Mithoff Pro Bono Program at Texas Law's Expunction Project

The [Texas Law Expunction Project](#), a pro bono legal clinic operated by the [Mithoff Program at The University of Texas School of Law](#), determines eligibility and prepares paperwork to be filed in court to expunge or seal criminal records for people who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

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Reports, and additional court records if available, to **determine eligibility to expunge or seal criminal records**. If eligible, the project may be able to assist in preparation of paperwork and provide instructions for filing to expunge or seal records in appropriate courts later this spring. The Project has scheduled the following intake sessions in September:

Tuesday September 18<sup>th</sup> 6-8 p.m. (first come, first served)  
Goodwill Community Center, [1015 Norwood Park Blvd.](#)

Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup> 6-8 p.m. (first come, first served)  
The Travis County Law Library, [314 W. 11th Street](#)

To attend an intake session, please complete [this survey](#), or for more information, email [expunction@law.utexas.edu](mailto:expunction@law.utexas.edu).

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## In the News: Fair Chance Hiring

### Why You Should Hire Someone Who Went to Prison

Check out [this short read](#) posted on [Ozy.Com](#) that highlights the positive outcomes that result when employers utilize fair chance hiring practices. The article uses results from a [2018 survey of managers and regular employees](#) as well as anecdotal evidence to describe these outcomes.

*Lester Young had been released from Kershaw Correctional Institution in Lancaster County, South Carolina, after serving 22 years for murder. Young expected to face high barriers to employment but nothing prepared him for the relentless rejection. Criminal background checks, which include arrests on felony charges, are often issued early in the hiring process, so Young was denied job after job — some two dozen, by his count. “You’re standing on the field wanting to get in the game,” he says, “and they won’t let you show you’re capable of doing the job.”*

*That is, until he applied at Tyson Foods, which doesn’t do background checks.*

Finish Reading

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## Fellowship Opportunity

### Leading with Conviction: Fellowship Application Deadline Sep. 16

[Leading with Conviction](#) (LwC) is an advanced leadership training specifically tailored for formerly incarcerated (anyone who has been incarcerated or under supervision in the criminal or juvenile justice systems), mid-senior level leaders with a specific and proven track record in advocacy, activism and community organizing.

LwC is a cohort based, 12-month opportunity for leaders from around the country. LwC takes place both in-person and remotely through four in-person forums (held in New York City, NY), six webinars, executive coaching, peer coaching, and regular digital communication. LwC trainings benefit leaders by introducing them to the people and practices closely linked to successful community and regional criminal justice advocacy efforts, enabling them to take on greater challenges and to generate quantifiable impact in their work. JLUSA Fellows maintain full time jobs while successfully

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For additional information, including eligibility and admission criteria, [click here](#).

## Workforce Training

### MoveFWD: A Workforce Collaborative of Central Texas



The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority created [MoveFWD](#) in 2018 and is collaborating closely with other local agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify and prepare candidates for skilled positions within the construction and service industries.

The program provides interpersonal skills and job training, as well as social services that may be needed by those seeking a long-term, full-time career. Social services include career counseling, housing, work clothes and transportation assistance among many others. The program also prepares job candidates for the workplace by providing hands-on training so they become more qualified than other potential candidates.

Training programs are developed in coordination with employers, and are tailored to ensure participants leave the program qualified and ideally positioned for the jobs currently available.



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