



PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, October 8, 2018  
12:30 – 2:00pm  
ECHO, 300 E. Highland Mall Blvd.

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Reggie Smith (TCJC), Helen Gaebler (UT Law), Mary Moran (Travis County Sherriff's Office), Bree Williams (ECHO), Sarah Worthington (TRLA), Darla Gay (Travis County District Attorney's Office), Cathy McClaughterty (Travis County Justice Planning), Rebecca Farrell (Community Representative), Pete Valdez (City of Austin Downtown Community Court), Lauren Dryer (Integral Care), Jennifer Tucker (Goodwill), Darwin Hamilton (Community Representative), Victor Garcia (Travis County Justice Planning), Robin Vassef (Travis County Justice Planning), Kaylin Rubin (ECHO), Clarence Watson

**Support:** Kelly Nichols, Laylee Safa

**I. Introductions (Reggie Smith)**

Reggie welcomed attendees and facilitated a round of introductions at 12:36pm.

**II. Vote: September 2018 Minutes (Reggie Smith)**

Darla Gay moved to approve the September minutes. Helen Gaebler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**III. Recognition of Helen Gaebler (Jaime Rodriguez)**

Tabled.

**IV. Fellowship Update – Welcoming Laurie Pherigo (Reggie Smith)**

Laurie Pherigo started her position as the Roundtable Advocacy Fellow on October 1<sup>st</sup>. She is very motivated and excited about this opportunity. One of her first tasks will be to connect with every Planning Council member. This can be done over the phone, over coffee, or at Impact Hub. Her second task will be to work on a professional development plan. Her third task will be to work with Kelly on an identity statement for RAP. This deliverable is due at the end of the calendar year. Kelly shared that Laurie had a chance to facilitate her first RAP meeting last week. Annette attended and showed Laurie how to open, close, etc.

Right now there is not enough funding to cover two fellows. The Roundtable will seek

additional funds for the coming year so that a second fellow can be added.

**V. Update: ACC/Roundtable Meeting on Employment Supports (Helen Gaebler)**

Helen updated the Planning Council on ACC's talent pipeline project. The second meeting took place on September 24<sup>th</sup> and brought together a wide range of stakeholders. The meeting consisted of a shift and share activity, a debriefing, and a summary of next steps. Conference calls will take place around each of the following: cataloguing current assets; facilitating connections between employment opportunities & job seekers; coordinating reentry support services; and securing sustainable multi-year funding. The next meeting will be in late November. At this point, it is unclear what role the Roundtable will play in this endeavor. It will be important to limit Kelly's time spent supporting this general effort. The Roundtable has a deliverable due at the end of March that requires convening employers around second chance employment.

Darla Gay shared that one of the first Roundtable projects involved asset mapping with a focus on barriers to employment.

**ACTION:** Darla will share this document with the rest of the Planning Council.

Members discussed concerns over having a one-stop shop for reentry. Transportation is always a problem, so choosing a single location would limit the number of individuals able to access the resource. Starting with asset mapping will allow the group to gauge what resources are available in different communities. Unfortunately, asset mapping is beyond the capacity of anyone in the Planning Council but could be turned over to an Americorps Vista, graduate student, or ACC student looking for volunteer work. To avoid duplication of efforts, it will be important to partner with already established organizations to share data that may already exist.

**VI. Discussion: Community Engagement, RAP & Reentry Coaching (Kelly Nichols)**

Kelly reviewed the Community Engagement Report deliverable that was turned in recently to the City and County. Some of the main themes that emerged in Del Valle, Manor, Pflugerville, and Jonestown/Northeast Travis County were a sense of isolation; unmet basic needs like food and housing; transitory nature of the population in certain areas; need for educating law enforcement and victim services; substance use and recovery issues. Faith communities expressed interest in connecting on reentry work but need guidance. A desire for something like RAP was expressed in Manor and Pflugerville. In Del Valle, residents do not feel like they have strong political representation.

Reggie pointed out that the presence of ISFs and residential reentry centers in Del Valle indicate a high need population there. He also stressed the need to educate individuals with lived experience on what they *can* do regarding education, voting, etc.

Laurie will lead RAP through the process of thinking through its identity and solidifying its mission and vision. Kelly will provide support and structure for this process. RAP needs autonomy but also support from Roundtable.

Darwin Hamilton reported on RAP's history, goals, and accomplishments. RAP provides an outlet and community for formerly incarcerated people who want to join a pro-social group going through reentry. Lauren, Annette, and Darwin have been sustaining the group and representing RAP in community education efforts. Currently there is not enough capacity to sustain some of that education and expand even where there is need and enthusiasm for RAP. RAP provides a safe space to share stories and build confidence. Support is at the core of RAP – listening, connecting, and coaching monthly. For example, Dr. Liz Garcia from Leadership Austin guided RAP attendees through the process of telling their own stories at the last RAP meeting. Darwin shared that this was a very powerful exercise, as people with lived experience often internalize their oppression and do not share with others.

It has been a challenge to keep moving the location to keep meeting in free spaces. Partnerships within the faith community could begin with asking for free meeting space to hold RAP meetings. Other potential free meeting spaces to explore are ACC, Austin Public Library, YMCA, Goodwill, and some Travis County Community Centers. Jennifer Tucker offered the Goodwill South location as a meeting space for RAP meetings every other month.

To expand RAP to new locations, directly-impacted leadership would need to be identified and funds raised to compensate them. It is essential that RAP meetings be led by formerly incarcerated people. Reggie stressed the need for folks with justice involvement to create the reentry coaching agenda and not have it imposed from the outside.

At a future RAP meeting, it would be helpful to find out what part of town attendees are coming from to help identify areas where there may be a need/interest.

Rebecca suggested creating a Youtube video that could be shared with an invitation to join RAP. This would be a valuable recruitment tool but is currently beyond the group's capacity.

**ACTION:** Clarence Watson will reach out to someone at ACC about this.

## VII. **Miscellaneous/Announcements**

Clarence Watson introduced himself as a member of SWAP (Students With a Purpose), a new ACC organization for students with lived experience in the criminal justice system. He expressed interest in meeting with Planning Council members individually. SWAP will be hold panel discussions, volunteer with the community, and provide support to students going through reentry. The group currently has a presence at the Highland and Eastview campuses but will be tabling at all ACC campuses. Rebecca recommended Clarence connect with Youth Rise.

The next Planning Council meeting is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Day. The group agreed to move the meeting to November 5<sup>th</sup>. Cathy McClaugherty offered to host this meeting.

**ACTION:** Laylee will follow up with Cathy.

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, the Roundtable will have to move Planning Council meetings to a new location. Don Tracy has shared that he can secure a meeting space if the Planning Council is okay with bouncing between ACC Highland and the Highland Business Center.

Margaret Moore will attend the November meeting. She is open to discussing whatever the Planning Council suggests. One topic could be behavioral health connections.

**ACTION:** PC members should email Kelly if they think of something

**ACTION:** Laylee will make sure Margaret Moore receives a calendar invite.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 1:51pm.