



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY

REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 5th, 2018

12:30 – 2:00pm

700 Lavaca St.

Attendees: Reggie Smith, Sherri Cogbill, Michelle Collins, Rebecca Farrell, Helen Gaebler, Darla Gay, Lauren Johnson, Karen Keith, Cathy McClagherty, Mary Moran, Rudy Perez, Laurie Pherigo, Jaime Rodriguez, Kenneth Thompson, Don Tracy, Jennifer Tucker, Pete Valdez

Guests: Liz Baker (Integral Care), Josh Delzy, Lauren Johnson, Andrew Krebs, Kent Harris, Mia Greer (Community Coalition of Health)

Support: Kelly Nichols, Laylee Safa (WNA)

MINUTES

I. Introductions (Reggie Smith)

Reggie opened the meeting at 12:38pm and facilitated a round of introductions.

Josh Elzy introduced himself to the Planning Council as an HR professional interested in offering trainings on how to address barriers to employment as well as individual coaching for community members with lived experience in the criminal justice system. He shared that he will attend this week's RAP meeting on Wednesday evening. He can be reached by email at jelzy@hotmail.com.

Jaime Rodriguez introduced Kent Harris who works with the Bureau of Prisons in Bryan, Texas.

II. Vote: October 2018 Minutes (Reggie Smith)

Darla moved to approve the October 2018 minutes. Mary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Recognition of Helen Gaebler (Jaime Rodriguez)

Planning Council member Jaime Rodriguez presented Past Chair Helen Gaebler with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of Warden Rodney Myers for her time, dedication, and compassion given in service to the Federal Correctional Institution in Bastrop, Texas.

IV. Update and Conversation with the District Attorney (Margaret Moore)

Margaret Moore greeted the Planning Council and introduced herself as the Travis County

District Attorney.

She provided an overview of the potential consolidation of the City and County District Attorneys Offices. District Attorney Moore explained that combining offices would produce greater efficiency and eliminate redundancies that tie up funding that could otherwise be used for necessary programs. She discussed the advantages of consolidation, including financial savings.

District Attorney Moore shared that if the Criminal District Attorney Office is created and she is elected, she will advocate for instituting 24/7 screening. She would ultimately like to do away with the system of direct file so that a case cannot be filed until a prosecutor gives approval. Harris County currently uses this method and has demonstrated that this system reduces time spent in jail and prevents the filing of bad cases.

District Attorney Moore addressed pre-arrest diversions, the impact of racial bias on law enforcement, and incentivizing participation in drug treatment programs by dismissing drug charges afterward program completion.

Reggie thanked Margaret for coming and extended an open invitation for her to attend any future meeting of the Planning Council.

V. Integral Care FY19 Funding Deliverables (Michelle Collins)

To date, Integral Care has not tied a specific set of deliverables to its annual funding of the Roundtable at the \$7,000 level. To create a sense of alignment and accountability, however, Integral Care has proposed a goal of training all Planning Council members in mental health first aid by the second quarter of 2019. Planning Council members who have not yet gone through the training will be offered multiple opportunities to participate:

- a. A link to regular, 8-hour trainings will be shared in the monthly newsletter
- b. One training session will be reserved for Planning Council members
- c. Integral Care will host a condensed training at a future Planning Council meeting

ACTION: Revisit in January.

VI. Advocacy Fellowship Update (Laurie Pherigo)

Laurie Pherigo introduced herself to the Planning Council as the new Advocacy Fellow. She shared what she's been working on since starting on October 1st as well as her goals for the fellowship. She let Planning Council members know that she would try to meet with each one individually before the end of the year.

Misc. Announcements and Roundtable

Darla Gay brought up that the Bureau of Prisons has dramatically reduced the utilization of halfway housing and house arrest. This has resulted in longer incarcerations and less supervision post-release.

ACTION: Darla will send information to Planning Council members interested in learning more.

Next month's Planning Council meeting will be a holiday potluck as well as a shift and share activity focused on the upcoming legislative session.

The Roundtable's first deliverable of the year to the City and County is to develop an identity statement for RAP. Kelly and Laurie will co-facilitate a discussion at the next two RAP meetings about the focus and mission of RAP.

The Roundtable has teamed up with Don Tracy at ACC to address workforce support for individuals with criminal backgrounds. Kelly shared that there will be three conference calls over the next week before a jointly sponsored meeting with ACC on this issue. Tomorrow's call will focus on cataloging employers and opportunities. This work is directly related to the Roundtable's convening of employers that must be done this year. The meeting next Tuesday will be about connecting folks pre- and post-release with employment opportunities. Next Thursday's meeting will focus on coordination of peer support. Planning Council members should let Kelly or Laylee know if interested in participating.

Lauren Johnson proposed holding small conferences annually or throughout the year. She suggested starting with parole and community supervision. Rudy Perez has agreed to look into giving credit for attendance.

ACTION: Lauren will meet with Laurie and Reggie to discuss this idea.

Next Planning Council Meeting

December 10th, 2018

Holiday Potluck

12:30 – 2:00pm

TBD