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Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

February 2019

Roundtable News

February Planning Council Meeting

Please join us for the upcoming Council Meeting as we plan for Second Chance Month in April and check in on the Roundtable's Strategic Plan.

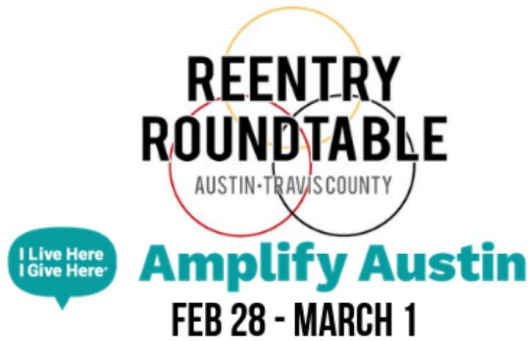
When: 12:30-2 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019

Where: Goodwill Community Center
[1015 Norwood Park Boulevard](#)
[Austin, Texas 78753](#)

Mark Your Calendars: Amplify Austin Is Almost Here!

The Roundtable is gearing up for Amplify Austin Day at the end of February and needs your help!

Over the course of 24 hours from February



28th to March 1st, the Roundtable aims to raise \$5,000 to support the Roundtable Advocacy Fellowship.

You can help out in the following ways:

- Donate during Amplify Austin! [Visit the Roundtable's page here.](#)
- [Sign up](#) to fundraise on the Roundtable's behalf. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Follow the [Roundtable on Facebook](#) for updates on Amplify Austin Day! Share with your friends and family!

For more information on how to get involved, please email laylee@woollardnichols.com.

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 generally 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](#).

Upcoming Events

Reforming Criminal Justice In America Event

When: Monday, Feb 4th from 5-7pm

Where: LBJ School of Public Affairs, Bass Lecture Hall, [2315 Red River Street](#)

Cost: FREE

The [LBJ School of Public Affairs](#), in partnership with [The Center for the Study of Race & Democracy](#), and the [Actual Innocence Clinic](#), welcomes Clarence Moses-EI and Eric Klein for an event entitled "Reforming Criminal Justice in America."

Clarence Moses-EI was wrongfully convicted and served 28 years in prison. He and his attorney, Eric Klein, will discuss the experience and its implications for criminal justice policy today.

To learn more, [please click here](#).

RSVP

Spring 2019 Expunction Expo: Free Assistance with Expunction & Sealing of Eligible Criminal Records

[The Mithoff Pro Bono Program at Texas Law](#) will host an Expunction Expo in the Spring of 2019, in partnership with the Travis County District Clerk's Office and the Travis County Law Library. **Applicants to the Expunction Project MUST attend one of two Intake Sessions and bring with them a Criminal History Report from the Texas Department of Public Safety. **Please see note on eligibility below.****

Intake sessions will be held:

February 5, 2019, 5-8 p.m.

Travis County Law Library

[314 W. 11th Street](#)

February 23, 2019, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Goodwill Community Center

[1015 Norwood Park Blvd.](#)

To express interest in attending an intake session, [please complete this survey](#). The survey allows them to roughly predict the number of applicants planning to attend, and does not guarantee they will be able to assist someone. Applicants will be seen at each intake in the order they arrive.

Applicants must obtain a copy of their DPS Criminal History Report to bring to the intake session. At the intake session, law student volunteers, supervised by attorneys, will review Criminal History 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.

****Please note:** Not everyone with a criminal record is eligible for expunction or sealing of records in Texas. [Please see the flyer to determine if attending an intake session is right for you.](#)

Expunction and sealing of records are very narrow forms of relief for a limited number of people who have been entangled in the justice system in Texas, and Texas has no relief of any kind from felony convictions.

[Download Flyer for More Information](#)

UT Opportunity Forum Presents: *Reconfiguring Criminal Justice: A Community Conversation on System Equity*

When: Friday, February 8th from 12:15-1:45pm

Where: University of Texas School of Law, Francis Auditorium - TNH 2.114 ([727 E. Dean Keeton St.](#))

Cost: Free! (Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited and an RSVP is required)



There are 2.2 million people incarcerated in the nation's jails and prisons, and another 6.6 million tethered to our adult criminal legal system through supervision. What's more, every year, an estimated 250,000 youth under the age of 18 are prosecuted, sentenced, and incarcerated in

the adult criminal justice system. Given the influence of various institutions on incarceration rates and resulting racial disparities, widespread discussion has emerged around what can be done to address inequities. Join us as we engage in a critically conscious dialogue on the criminal legal system with scholars and practitioners engaged in various reform efforts across the school-to-prison pipeline, the juvenile justice system and the adult criminal justice system.

Panelists:

- **MiAngel Cody**, Co-Founder and Decarceration Counsel for the Decarceration Collective
- **Morgan Craven**, National Policy Director for the Intercultural Development Research Association
- **Eric Wilson**, Advocate for Current and Formerly Incarcerated Persons
- **Michele Deitch**, Senior Lecturer at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and The University of Texas School of Law

Moderator: **Nino Rodriguez**, Research Associate, Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis

[Register Now](#)

All-Hands: Mobilizing Our Community Interactive Session

When: Wednesday, February 13th from 6-7:45pm

Where: Huston-Tillotson University, Dickey-Lawless Auditorium ([900 Chicon St.](#))

Cost: Free!

[MEASURE Austin](#) believes that a healthier community begins with its members communicating and working together to address disparities. This interactive forum sponsored by the St. David's Foundation will discuss the importance of community mobilization and address the following issues:

- How should organizers work to build relationships with the community before addressing issues?
- What are the best ways to reach/communicate with community members who are less connected and harder to reach?
- How can advocacy groups enter a community with care, being sure not to cause additional harm?
- What are the best ways to collect feedback on people's experiences and opinions, within a community?

Panelists:

- **Chas Moore**, Austin Justice Coalition
- **Ricardo Zavala**, Dove Springs Proud
- **Fatima Mann**, Community Advocacy & Healing Project
- **Jared Breckenridge**, Huston-Tillotson University
NAACP

Moderator: Selah Vie



[Click here to download the event flyer.](#)

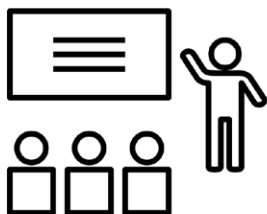
[Register Now](#)

Re-entry Employment Specialist Training

When: February 20-22nd from 8am-5pm

Where: ACC Eastview Campus, Building 8000, Room 8223 ([3401 Webberville Rd](#))

Cost: Free!



The Re-Entry Training Team of Travis County invites you to register for their upcoming Re-entry Employment Specialist training. Participants will receive intensive, competency-based instruction that includes approximately 24 hours of classroom training. The classroom training is delivered in three sessions, approximately 8 hours per day (8 am – 5 pm) on a quarterly basis. Participants must complete all three days of training to become certified.

The Re-entry Employment Specialist training was developed by the National Institute for Corrections to assist community members and professionals to provide job readiness, placement and retention services to individuals with a prior criminal history.

To register: Submit your name, title, company name, email address, and phone number to mary.moran@traviscountytexas.gov by **February 8th**.

For more information, [click here](#) or call (512) 854-5463.

Central Texas African American Family Support Conference

When: February 26th and 27th

Where: Palmer Events Center ([900 Barton Springs Rd.](#))

Cost: \$15-\$150



The 19th Annual [Central Texas African American Family Support Conference](#) will feature interactive workshops and inspirational speakers exploring how mental health, drug and alcohol use and intellectual and developmental disabilities impact children and families, education, faith, race, criminal justice, trauma and more.

Be part of a conference that brings our community together to reduce stigma, confront bias and move towards a healthier future.

The Central Texas African American Family Support Conference offers financial assistance for conference fees, lodging and accommodations for participants who would not be able to attend otherwise. [Click here to learn more.](#)

[Register Now](#)

Free Community Job Fair on February 27th



[Travis County Justice Planning Workforce Development](#) offers a program designed to help individuals rebuild their lives with a unique approach to reentry. They provide free trainings, case management, service planning, and career expos.

You are invited to attend their next free community job fair on Wednesday, February 27th from 10am to 12pm at [700 Lavaca St. Austin, TX 78701.](#)

For more information, call (512) 854-6497 or [click here](#).

Mental Health First Aid Training

If someone stopped breathing or showed signs of having a heart attack, most people would call 911 or administer CPR. But many of us don't know

how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health issue.

[Mental Health First Aid](#) (MHFA) is a nationally-recognized training that teaches people how to help someone who might be showing signs of a mental health issue. [Click here](#) to watch the video Integral Care launched to raise awareness about Mental Health First Aid.



Anyone can learn the signs of a mental health issue or mental health crisis. Anyone can get the tools to provide support. Anyone can make a difference in someone's life.

[Register today](#) for a free, 1-day class offered at various times and locations by Integral Care.

News & Resources

Programs In Dallas And Williamson Counties Offer Young Offenders An Alternative To Incarceration

Eighty-five percent of young people who are convicted of a crime in Williamson County are re-arrested. A new initiative is looking at ways to reroute young adults out of the criminal justice system.

To read the full story from KUT, please [click here](#).

Self-Assessment for Employment-Focused Reentry Programs



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

[The National Reentry Resource Center](#) has developed a [self-assessment](#) that helps programs gauge their capacity to provide integrated reentry and employment interventions, including work readiness, to people with varying risks and needs. The tool helps reentry practitioners identify opportunities to build the capacity of their programming and services, which, in turn, can better prepare participants for employment and decrease their likelihood of returning to incarceration.

The self-assessment should be used in conjunction with the [Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies: Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Job Readiness \(IRES\) white paper](#), a resource released in 2013 that helps policymakers, practitioners, and system administrators ensure resources are being used effectively to improve employment outcomes for people who have been incarcerated or are on probation or parole.

[Download the Self-Assessment](#)

Help Wanted: An Examination of Hiring Algorithms, Equity, and Bias

The hiring process is a critical gateway to economic opportunity, determining who can access consistent work to support themselves and their families. Employers have long used digital technology to manage their hiring decisions, and now many are turning to new predictive hiring tools to inform each step of their hiring process.

Upturn

A new report by [Upturn](#) explores how predictive tools affect equity throughout the entire hiring process. The report explores popular tools that many employers currently use, and offers recommendations for further scrutiny and reflection. They conclude that without active measures to mitigate them, bias will arise in predictive hiring tools by default.

[Read the Report](#)

In Wisconsin, First-of-its-Kind Facility Prepares People Inside Prison for Employment

[Update from the Council of State Government Justice Center Staff](#)



The significance of employment for people returning to their communities after incarceration is well known; however, jobs are not always easy to find. Many state corrections departments face challenges not only equipping people with the technical skills necessary for employment, but also with helping them find and secure job opportunities. With this in mind, Wisconsin's Departments of Corrections and Workforce Development are aiming to tackle these issues before people even complete their sentences.

In November 2018, WI DOC's Oakhill Correctional Institution (OCI) opened an in-house job center to help people who are incarcerated prepare for employment after they reenter the community. The first of its kind in a WI state facility, the job center provides an opportunity for people to build resumes and send them to potential employers, apply for jobs, and set up interviews—all before their release date. This preparation is a key part of ensuring a person's successful reentry and, consequently, lessening his or her chances of reoffending.

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