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## Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

November 2018

### Announcing the Fall 2018 Advocacy Fellow



Please join us in welcoming Laurie Pherigo!

Laurie brings a wide variety of experiences to this position, both from her past employment and from her life itself. Laurie has worked in the administrative/customer service field most of her

adult life in environments ranging from law firms to automotive shops. As a woman with “lived experience” consisting of 6 years in TDCJ and 3 years on parole, she strives to turn the difficult and negative circumstances she endured while incarcerated into positive change for those being released as well as those still in prison. Laurie’s goals for her fellowship include working with TDCJ to connect soon-to-be released men and women with obtainable, useful resources that will help them establish a stable and productive new life. For those still incarcerated, Laurie will support efforts to have the “nature of the crime” removed as a rationale for denying parole by the Texas Board of Pardons and Parole.

In her spare time, Laurie enjoys watching football, reading Stephen King novels, drinking caramel frappes, and spending time with family and friends. She and her spouse have 4 grown children, 10 grandchildren, and two dogs. Most importantly, Laurie is thrilled and humbled to be given this opportunity to help make a change in the world and pass along the many blessings she received on her journey to successful re-entry.

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## November Planning Council Meeting

Please join us for our November Planning Council Meeting as we welcome Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore as our special guest. ***\*Please note the change of location\****

**When:** Monday, November 5, 2018 from 12:30-2 p.m.

**Where:** Travis County Administration Building, 1st Floor in the Hall of Government, Multi-Function Room C, [700 Lavaca St. Austin, TX 78701](#)

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## 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](#).

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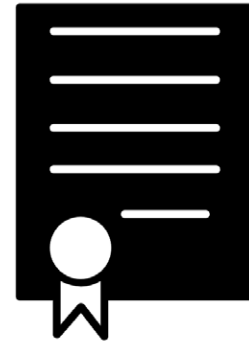
# News & Resources

## Let's Change Occupational Licensing Laws in Texas

In Texas, approximately 4.7 million adults have a criminal record. This makes obtaining an occupational license in Texas nearly impossible as an avenue to a quality life.

During the 2019 Texas Legislative session, the [Texas Criminal Justice Coalition](#) hopes to tackle this issue by sharing the perspectives of individuals who have personally experienced difficulty obtaining an occupational license in the state.

If you have a dream career you would love to pursue but can't due to a criminal record, TCJC wants to hear from you!



[Share Your Experience](#)

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## Mental Health First Aid

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 this free, 1-day class.

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## Public Defender Office Task Force Off to a Slow Start

*From the [Austin Monitor](#):*

After a recommendation [Tuesday, October 17](#) in a report from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission to the Travis County Commissioners Court, the court decided to create a working group of people with diverse backgrounds and professional experiences to respond to the TIDC report and make recommendations concerning the public defender office.

The concept of the working group itself, however, has already presented several challenges to the court regarding what exactly the group should be and how it might function. The court attained some clarity about the group in Tuesday afternoon's voting session but ultimately decided to proceed in forming the group despite a handful of lingering questions.

[Read the Full Story](#)

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## MacArthur Foundation Awards Millions to Cut Jail Populations

The [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#) recently announced the winners of the second round of its [Safety and Justice Challenge grants](#). In all, 13 cities and counties will receive between \$350,000 and \$4 million each to implement criminal justice reforms to reduce jail populations. Twelve others will receive \$50,000 grants to start innovative programs aiming to do the same.

[Read More](#)

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## Upcoming Events

Save the Date: The 2018 Texas Vision Summit Re-Entry Conference



The Texas Re-Entry Advisory Council is hosting the Annual Vision Summit: Looking Toward the Future of Re-Entry. Workshop presenters will share their ideas, perspectives and experiences on re-entry from the criminal justice system. In the past, The Vision Summit had over 200 participants and it was an overwhelming success!

**When:** November 1-2, 2018

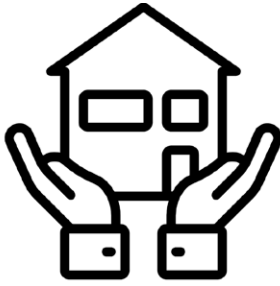
**Where:** Bryan, Texas

**RSVP:** \$99, [Click here to register](#)

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Central Texas Regional Summit:  
Dialogue on Expanding Housing Opportunity

[Community Advancement Network](#) invites you to their Central Texas



Regional Summit focused on expanding economic opportunity in the five-county metropolitan area (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis & Williamson Counties).

This year, they are holding a **regional dialogue on the subject of expanding housing opportunity.**

**When:** Thursday, November 8 from 10 am - 2 pm

**Where:** Embassy Suites, [1001 East McCarty Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666](#)

**Cost:** FREE! Lunch will be provided.

RSVP



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