

Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable

*Building Successful Strategies for
Reentry and Reintegration in Austin/Travis County, Texas*
www.reentryroundtable.org

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING

Meeting Summary

May 13, 2024

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting packet: <https://app.box.com/s/r13c6624riy bq0f9ijefkcahi57cfvpm>

Attending: Melissa Shearer, Emily Seales, Kyle Walker, Jennifer Pinkley, Happye Dyer, Charles Moody, Misty Campbell, Mia Greer, Helen Gaebler, Kaleigh Phelan, Guenevere Brown, Sonja Burns, Shatavia Wafer, Erin Kingsbury, Larry Wallace Jr., Juanita Garcia, Crystil McCall, Rocio Villalobos, Jeff Lewis, Jen Troke, Reyda Taylor, Barbara Ornelas, Mary Moran

Support: Kelly Nichols, Autumn Ford Vasquez

- I. **12:30 – 12:40 p.m. – Welcome and Introductions**
 - a. Participants introduced themselves in chat

- II. **12:40 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. – Update on 2024 Deliverables**
 - a. [Link to 2024 Deliverables Workplan](#)
 - i. Kelly reviewed with the group what is happening this year and shared what activities are completed, in progress and haven't been started.

- III. **12:45 – 1:00 p.m. – Member Survey Presentation**
 - Kelly shared the 2024 Member Survey results and themes. They can be viewed in our [PowerPoint presentation](#).
 - Madeleine will send a sample outreach letter to everyone in the meeting follow up. Please reach out to the additional reentry groups in your networks who are not already engaged in the Roundtable and invite them to join.
 - Discussion questions: What trends are you seeing? What do you want to explore further? How would you like to use this data?
 - Member discussion:
 - Charles asked if there were any clear gaps or needs expressed in the data. Though there weren't any glaring gaps exposed in the member survey, Melissa answered that one comment she noticed was the need for Reentry Roundtable to conduct additional community outreach. She suggested increasing outreach for

Reentry Advocacy Project, for example, adding flyers in spaces where people recently exiting jail and prison will learn about the opportunities to participate.

- The group reviewed the suggested topics, including the reentry simulation idea, which Misty would be able to support since she is hosting a reentry simulation at the GRACE conference in August.
- Membership discussed Austin Transitional Center and the issue of improving conditions there. They discussed the role that Reentry Roundtable can play in advocating to TDCJ to ensure safety conditions improve. Happye can make an e-introduction to someone at Core Civic.

IV. 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. – 2025 Deliverables Brainstorming

- a. [Link to Reentry Roundtable 2022-26 Strategic Plan](#)
 - Kelly provided a quick overview of the strategic plan goals. Then, members spent a few minutes of quiet time to populate the [jamboard](#) with ideas for 2025 deliverables.
 - To view the ideas, [click here](#), or view the images below.

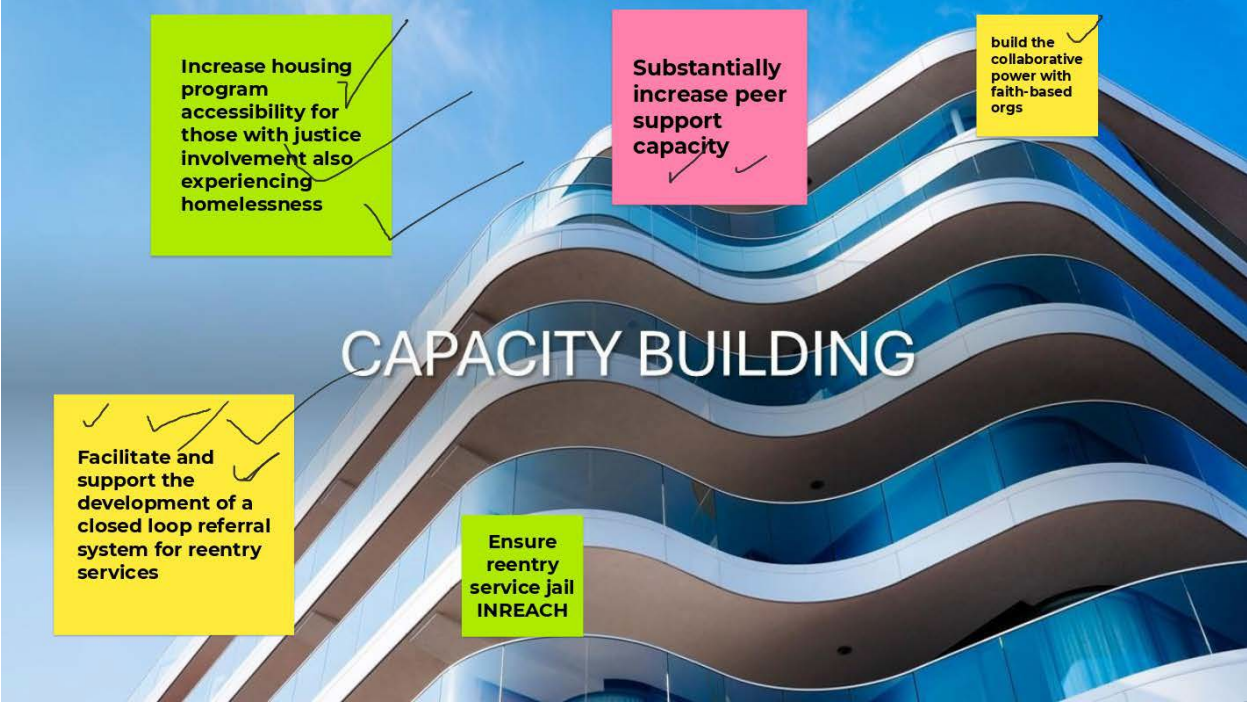
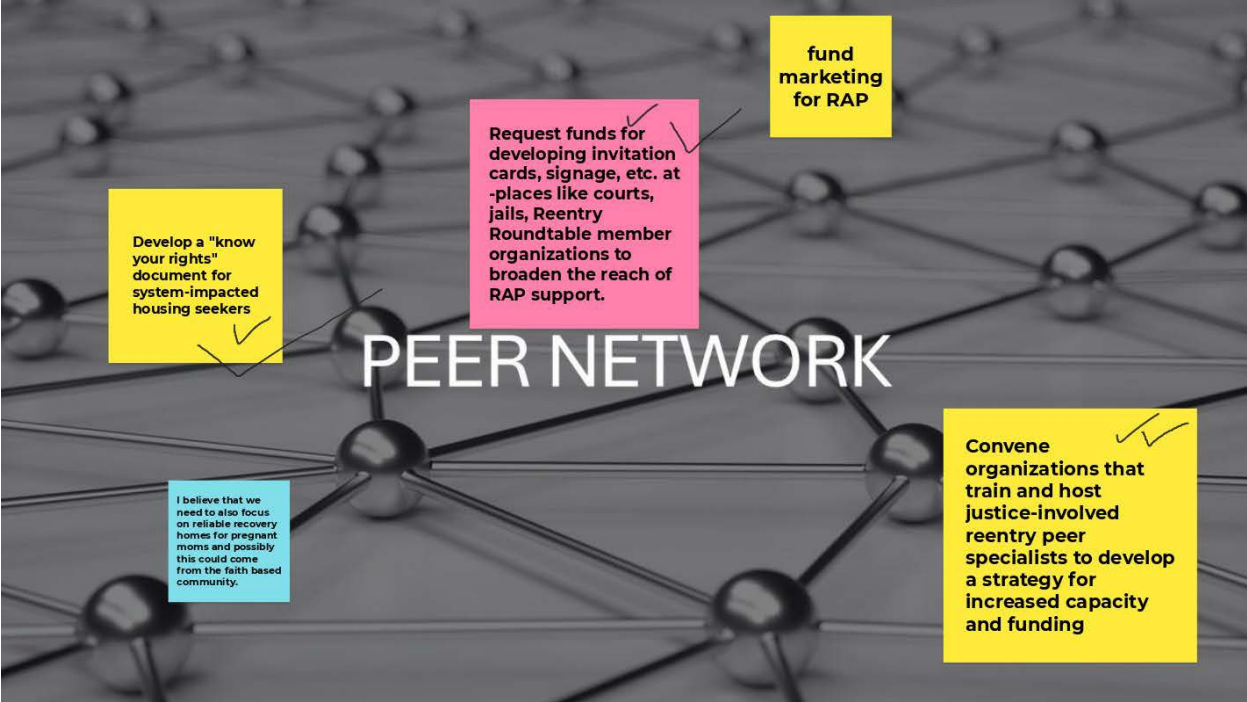
LEADERSHIP & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- Identify leader/career tier availability (training opportunities, job opportunities,, intern opportunities) in the region**
- Identify training curricula and/or organizations. Identify entry barriers build entry points**
- Contact industry regional leaders and identify collaborative oppurtunities**
- Engage the Roundtable network to establish employment, mentoring, and other networking opportunities for persons with justice system involvement**
- Engage area employers and human resource professionals to reduce stigma, share benefits of hiring persons with criminal backgrounds, and promote skills-based hiring**

Excellent idea! Let's set a specific goal - e.g., we want to have 3 employer sessions led by TWC and HR Directors who currently hire persons with criminal backgrounds with goal of putting 100 people in jobs

Paola (Indeed) & Jason (ECHO) are working on a workforce development work group focused on unhoused folks - might be good to partner with them

I like the idea of mentorship opportunities I believe that life experience has real value and opportunities to build relationships and purpose this may give opportunities to build





- V. 1:45 – 1:55 p.m. – **Advocacy Fellow Update – Barbara Ornelas**
- Kelly reported that Barbara will give her update over Mobilize.

- VI. 1:55-2:00 p.m. – **Member Announcements**
- Melissa let the group know that the Diversion Center conversations are continuing, and a pilot is happening. She also reported that Counsel At First Appearance is continuing with more tests.
 - Emly reported an open position for a Case Worker -

[https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/traviscounty/jobs/4497041/case-worker-mental-health-division?department\[0\]=Public%20Defender&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/traviscounty/jobs/4497041/case-worker-mental-health-division?department[0]=Public%20Defender&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs)

NEXT MEETING

**June 10, 2024
12:30-2:00pm
Zoom**

Stay informed on upcoming meeting agendas and network resources by [joining Reentry Roundtable's Mobilize online community](#).