

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee  
Austin, Texas  
July 20, 2011

City Council Members  
City Hall 301 W 2nd Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

DRAFT

Dear City Council Members,

In its meeting on July 20, 2011 the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee passed a resolution to acknowledge and highlight the progressive actions taken by the DACC administration during the past two years to more effectively address the needs and issues of the frequent offenders being seen by the Court. These actions of the DACC have been significantly enhanced as a result of the supportive attention of the City Council that has provided and is providing increased resources for staff, rehabilitation services and community programs.

In summary the DACC is:

- Targeting the most problematic group of frequent offenders for intensive case management services
- Performing more comprehensive case management assessments on those frequent offenders who are willing to respond
- Systematically collecting assessment data that will provide interpretive information for evaluation of service needs and effectiveness
- Expanding the availability of enhanced social services for those frequent offenders entering Project Recovery and moving into transitional housing
- Planning with other community service providers for the establishment of permanent supportive housing as a part of the continuum of services to sustain individual personal gains in rehabilitation.

Please see the attached page for a more detailed description of these actions.

Thank you for considering.

Charles Locklin, Chair  
Community Court Advisory Committee  
Chlpublic2@austin.rr.com

cc: Michael McDonald, Assistant City Manager  
Pete Valdez, DACC Administrator

## **Downtown Austin Community Court Highlights**

From May 2009 to July 2011 the DACC has accomplished:

- Increased statistical data/performance measure and information sharing with all key community stakeholders.
- Identification and compilation of a frequent offenders list.
- A cost study related to the frequent offenders in support of budget requests.
- Transfer of trials for all non-homeless defendants to Municipal Court.
- Coordination of Center for Court Innovation visit (still awaiting report from CCI).
- Hiring of two new case managers targeted at frequent offenders.
- Partnership Housing project with Caritas. (Expand)
- Implementation of system to gather 160 data points around frequent offenders.
- Continued funding of Project Recovery in FY 10 and FY 11.
- Direct referrals/access to Project Recovery (now treating men and women) for DACC Frequent Offenders and management of all Project Recovery referrals beginning FY12.
- Development of stronger agency connections with ARCH/Front Steps, Caritas, ATCIC (COPSD, MCOT, ACT, ACCESS, Project Recovery), Travis County Mental Health Public Defender's Office, Goodwill, Travis County Commitment to Change program, Community Care Clinic, VA, Travis County Del Valle Jail, Green Doors, A New Entry, Foundation Communities, Competency Restoration.
- Enhanced collaboration and community engagement through DACC Advisory Committee, DAA, APD, DTAC Representatives and Commanders, Travis County DA's Office, Travis County Courts, Travis County Criminal Justice Planning, ECHO, ATCIC, Reentry Roundtable, Capital Area Council of Governments, Austin Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Collaboration, Mental Health Jail Diversion Committee, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Urban Institute Justice Reinvestment at the Local Level, Behavioral Health Planning Partnership.
- Addition of transitional housing as a rehabilitative service to provide more continuity of care for male and female clients in recovery.
- Increased Community Service Restitution Program presence in the Downtown Austin area, as well as an increase in collaborations with other City departments.
- Initial discussions regarding implementing workforce development and training for target population.
- Acquisition of vehicles for use by targeted case managers to transport clients to treatment and to other appointments, enhancing case management effectiveness