

**DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2012
7:30AM
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, ROOM 1101
CITY HALL**

Advisory Members Present:

William Kelly, Univ. of Texas
Marshall Jones, DAA
Will Hancock, Lifeworks
Lori Renteria--East Cesar Chavez N.A
Tim Miles, Foundation Communities
Bruce Mills
Hugh Simonich

Advisory Members Absent:

None

Guest Members Present:

Bill Brice, DAA
Charlie Betts, DAA
Cindy Finnegan, Travis County
Andy Garbe, City Attorney

Staff Members Present

Pete Valdez, Court Administrator
Judge Michael Coffey
Melanie Fletcher, Court Operations
Supervisor
Jennifer Abdallah, Court Operations
Supervisor
Gemma Mears, DACC Intern
Kim Capobres, Case Manager
Taylor Seyer, Case Manager

I. Call meeting to order.

▪ **Opening remarks and introductions.**

Marshall Jones called the meeting to order at 7:38 am. Marshall introduced the committee's newest member, Hugh Simonich.

▪ **Approval of minutes from last meeting October 19, 2011.**

Marshall Jones moved to approve the minutes, Bruce Mills seconded. The minutes were approved.

II. Citizen Communication

Jennifer Abdallah announced that Bill Brice will arrive later in the meeting and would like to speak on an agenda item.

III. Presentation, discussion, and action on the following items:

- a. Update: DACC Permanent Prosecutor Appointment. Marshall Jones announced that he has had preliminary conversations with Lewis Leff and Council Member Riley, but has not drafted an official letter. He will draft a letter and circulate it to committee members for comment.
- b. Update: Data Collection Working Group. Staff announced that the statistical sheet is still being amended and approved through legal. Marshall asked for an update on the

- court sending one time offenders to Municipal Court and staff answered that the requested data has been provided to the working group and no procedural changes have been implemented. Pete Valdez remarked that this diversion of offenders to Municipal Court may affect DACC's work crew numbers. The committee discussed the value of the community service work crew as it relates to the court's service of homeless, repeat offenders. Marshall Jones said he and Bill Kelly will continue the conversation about community service and one time offenders with Chief McDonald and Council Member Riley.
- c. Impact of expanding DACC jurisdiction to 12th and Chicon. Marshall Jones presented a draft letter to City Council regarding the proposed expansion of the DACC jurisdiction to 12th and Chicon, recommending that DACC should not expand its jurisdiction unless additional resources are identified to serve the area. Marshall proposed the DA's office and Jason English as a resource for the community to resolve the issues at 12th and Chicon. Lori Renteria requested adjustment to the letter sent by Marshall to indicate the benefits of expanding the jurisdiction. Pete Valdez offered an alternative of more case managers to do outreach, including the 12th and Chicon area. Bill Kelly agreed that if DACC can demonstrate the cost savings of housing offenders as well as the benefits of assertively engaging defendants in outreach case management, a case can be made for adding that component to the case management unit. Bill Kelly moved to approve the letter as written, Brice Mills seconded. Lori Renteria opposed, all others were in favor. The motion passed.
 - d. Progress report on Partnership Housing. Pete Valdez provided an update on the number of clients housed so far and the clients who have applied. Bill Brice with the Downtown Austin Alliance spoke on this agenda item, voicing the DAA's support for the project and the DAA's belief that these steps are moving the court and the community in the right direction.
 - e. DACC's collaboration with the ECHO 100 Homes project. Marshall Jones provided background information on how the 100 Homes project started, and the recent momentum after the death of one of the top 100 vulnerable. Jennifer Abdallah gave an update on the court's involvement with the initiative.
 - f. Non-agenda items
 - ECHO Updates: Marshall announced that the City's bond process is starting and that ECHO is advocating that 20% of the affordable housing bonds go toward permanent supportive housing. Charlie Betts with the DAA stated that the committee members need to lobby the Bond Advisory Committee to preserve funds for permanent supportive housing. ECHO approved its budget and the City has funded an HMIS Director through ECHO.
 - Pete Valdez announced that the Targeted Case Management program evaluation will be ready in March, and gave some preliminary findings.
 - Lori Renteria announced that Hugh Simonich has a list of deceased homeless individuals that could be cross referenced with the Court's database.

IV. No Executive Session held.

V. The next meeting was set for March 23, 2012 at City Hall. Staff will include all 2012 upcoming meeting dates on future agendas.

VI. Adjourned.

Bill Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Marshall Jones.

Adjourned at 8:59 am.