



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2011**

(This report is due in the first quarter of each fiscal year for the previous year.)

### **Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee** **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

**The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:**

The purpose of the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee is to advise the Downtown Austin Community Court on policy and operational issues.

The purpose of the Downtown Austin Community Court is to collaboratively address the quality of life issues of all residents in the downtown Austin community through the swift, creative sentencing of public order offenders.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

In 2012, the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee (DACC) met 6 times on a bi-monthly basis. All meetings were posted to the public. Our primary goals for 2011 were to focus on the routine of the Court in the handling of our 'frequent users', the effectiveness of the Court and the need to support the homeless community as a whole.

The primary change in 2011 was the addition of two new intensive case managers hired FY 2011 who truly helped take the Court 'to the next level' of care in dealing with our hardest to serve 'frequent users' of the Court and other City Systems. The year was also the first complete year for Director Pete Valdez and saw the retirement of John Lawyer.

The Committee wrote a resolution to City Council and Management regarding the use of Project Recovery. In working with the Travis County Courts, it became apparent that the DACC was more suited to manage client referrals than was Travis County. This change was worked out where now the DACC and Travis County can refer clients, and admission will be based on the individual's level of criminal involvement as well as a clinical need for the treatment program. DACC manages this referral process and determines final admissions. A copy of that letter is attached.

We also did a cost analysis of cases to the Court. That information is attached and was presented to Council Member Riley per request.

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

It is my assessment as Vice-Chair for 2011 that the actions of the committee were in direct concord with both the Advisory Commission and Court's missions. By working to streamline the court's functionality the Court was in a better position to offer "swift, creative sentencing." By gaining greater access to Project Recovery, the Court could better "collaboratively address the quality of life issues of all residents in the downtown Austin community."

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

2012 could prove to be a very successful year for Community Court with the November Bond Package possibly allowing for more permanent supportive housing which we are strongly in favor of. In addition, we are committed to moving unnecessary cases out of the Court, advocating for a full time Prosecutor and gaining one or two more FTE's to help with community outreach, thus expanding the capabilities of the Court without expanding its boundaries. These goals align with the missions of the Commission and Court.