

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

Advisory Members Present:

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

Advisory Members Absent:

Guest Members Present:

Jack Darby, Krimelabb
Charlie Betts, DAA
Julian Huerta, Foundation Communities
Bill Brice, DAA
Susan Gehring, HHS
Andy Garbe, City Attorney
Sherry Blatherwick, Caritas
Barbara Turner
Sherry Blatherwick, Caritas
Michelle Akers, Caritas
Marti Bier, NHCD
Cindy Finnegan, Travis County

Staff Members Present

Pete Valdez, Court Administrator
Judge Michael Coffey
Melanie Fletcher, Court Operations
Supervisor
Patrick Lloyd, Court Operations Supervisor
Taylor Seyer, Case Manager
Jordan Luminais, Court Clerk Lead
Kim Capobres, Case Manager

I. Call meeting to order.

- **Opening remarks and introductions.**
Meeting called to order at 7:35am.

Approval of minutes from last meeting May 23, 2012.

Motion for approval by Lori Renteria . Seconded by Tim Miles.

II. Citizen Communication
No citizen communication.

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

- a. Budget Resolution. Voted on by the Advisory Committee. Passed.

- b. ESG Peer participation. Marshall stated that in order to comply with this grant, a homeless individual needs to be included in a decision making process. Marshall informed the group about the different avenues that were discussed regarding implementing this requirement. Marshall recommended a group of individuals who would act as a peer advisory group. Bill Kelly agreed with implementing a peer advisory group. Motion by Bill Kelly, seconded by Bruce Mills to start a peer advisory group. Lori Renteria and Hugh Simonich have volunteered to facilitate the peer advisory group. Melanie will check with the City Clerk's office to clarify what is required to implement a peer advisory group.
- c. Foundation Communities/Partnership Housing Discussion. Julian Huerta, Deputy Director of Foundation communities gave a presentation to provide background on the Partnership Housing collaboration. Julian provided background of Foundation Communities and the requirements to be housed at a Foundation Communities property, informing the group that it was low barrier rather than no barrier housing. Julian provided a breakdown of what types of people are housed in each Foundation Communities property. Julian stated that he felt the partnership was strong and that case management services were very strong through Caritas. The Arbor Terrace criteria for criminal backgrounds are different and stricter than Spring Terrace because the overall number of homeless people living on that property is less than what it is at Spring Terrace, and criminal history policy was set regarding concerns brought forward by the neighborhood. Due to this, the appeals process is being adjusted. Applicants that are denied due to patterns of criminal behavior will be able to appeal. Bill Kelly questioned if they would be willing to use a risk assessment tool to determine criminogenic risk. Hugh questioned the length of time to apply for a unit. Julian informed the Advisory Committee of the documents required before being able to apply for a unit and believes the appeals process is taking longer than desired. Charlie Betts spoke of a housing first model for the hardest to serve population, specifically those individuals being denied at Foundation Communities. Charlie stressed the probability of them dying on the street and the importance of figuring out a way to get the people that have the highest needs housed. Pete described the challenges that Community Court has with people that the court refers to Foundation Communities; the majority of the individuals have come from treatment and once in housing they relapse because they are able to drink at Foundation Communities. Pete stated the case management piece needed to be enhanced in attempts to avoid relapse. For these types of projects and for the population we are targeting to provide long term and permanent stabilization, the level of case management needs to be intensive. A citizen, Barbara Turner, spoke about the importance of helping those who are housed and providing strategies for coping and teaching people how to live after leaving treatment and not sending them from case manager to case manager. Taylor Seyer expressed the difficulty of obtaining all housing documents before submittal, specifically identification and obtaining an ID delays the process which causes the case managers to lose their clients in the process. Julian stated that he could see if there was something they could do.
- d. Project Recovery – Travis County RFI proposal. Pete informed the Advisory Committee that the Community Court had been in discussion with Travis County regarding funding for aftercare. Travis County wanted to publish a request for

information to see if anyone in the community wanted to provide the aftercare program. An agreement was made that the RFI would be parked until the new fiscal year begins. Community Court, ATCIC and Travis County are working on amending and enhancing the aftercare program; what is missing, what needs to change, etc. Pete informed the Advisory Committee that the name of the program will be changed in August from Project Recovery to Road to Recovery. The aftercare enhancements will be added to the work statement in the new contract.

- e. Update on bond development package. Marshall informed the group of a meeting on August 2, with City Council, to provide citizen feedback regarding the bond package. Marshall provided a breakdown of how much money would be allocated to affordable housing depending upon how much is approved in the bond development package. Marshall asked the Advisory Committee to advocate for a large portion of the bond to go to housing first and permanent supportive housing.

IV. No Executive Session held.

- V. The next meeting was set for September 19, 2012 at City Hall. Staff will include all 2012 upcoming meeting dates on future agendas.**

VI. Adjourned.

Motion to adjourn by Marshall Jones. So moved by Lori Renteria. Meeting adjourned 8:59am.

