



Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board
Annual Internal Review
(This report covers the time period of 7/18/2018 to 6/30/2019)

Mission Statement: The mission of the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board ("Board"), according to § 2-1-130 of the City Code, is to "advise the Downtown Austin Community Court on policy and operational issues, and advise the council on the policies and operations of the court." 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. The Court seeks to hold people responsible while also offering help to change behavior.

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

During the reporting period (7/18/2018 to 6/30/2019), the Board met five (5) times. All meetings were posted to and open to the public. Our primary actions during this time were:

Organizational (Attendance Issues): The Board struggled during the year with attendance and quorum issues. Due to vacant seats and attendance concerns, the Board has been limited on the extent of the actions accomplished through the reporting period. The Board has discussed this concern, and with renewed energy the members agreed to work on addressing these attendance/quorum issues in the coming year.

Educational: We received presentations on a regular basis from individuals experiencing homelessness who have interacted with the Community Court, along with their Case Managers, including individuals with and without prior criminal histories. We received regular updates and information concerning homeless efforts including the Homeless Outreach Street Team program, the Austin Homelessness Advisory Council, emergency shelter redesign, City Audits, and grant and development opportunities. We received regular updates on available data and statistics for the Community Court. We received a presentation on the City Council's approved Homeless Action Plan and a presentation from ECHO and the Medical School about the Coordinated Entry System, the strengths and challenges of Coordinated Entry and the system barriers impacting housing placement in the City of Austin.

Recommendations and Other Actions:

In April 12, 2019, we passed Resolution No.20190412-2, concerning FY20 Budget Funding for the Downtown Austin Community Court.

In June 7, 2019, the Board approved Recommendation No.20190607-3a, in support of the Austin Homelessness Advisory Council (AHAC) resolution on storage, and recommended City Council considers funding for storage for individuals experiencing homelessness in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget process.

2. Determine if the Board's actions throughout the reporting period comply with the mission statement.

Yes, the Board's actions during this reporting period comply with the Board's mission statement. All of the educational aspects of our meetings, described above, were designed to enable us to understand the policy and operational aspects of the Community Court, so that we may give informed advice to the Community Court with regard to Community Court policies and operations. Our recommendation and actions were built upon that knowledge, and offered in support of the policies and operations of the Community Court.

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

Our goals for the upcoming year include:

- Continue the goal from the previous year to explore options and develop recommendations to City Council for modifying the operations of the Community Court to improve access to services for people experiencing homelessness and provide adequate funding to support that goal, including, but not limited to: (1) making the Community Court a court only for people experiencing homelessness, (2) expanding the Community Court's geographic boundaries and/or creating additional Community Court operations in other areas of Austin.
- Continue to learn about, monitor, and support the implementation of best practices for the Community Court's policies and operations.
- Continue to learn about, monitor, and support the Community Court's efforts to reduce recidivism and homelessness.
- Continue to learn about, monitor, and support the Community Court's collaboration with other agencies to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness who interact with the Community Court.
- Continue to work with the Community Court and others to address the facility and budget needs of the Community Court.
- Continue to work on increasing public awareness of the work of the Community Court, its various programs, and the benefits it provides to the Austin community.

Respectfully submitted,



Darilynn Cardona-Beiler, Chair