



**DACC ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
FRIDAY, January 15, 2021**

**The Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting on Friday, January 15, 2021 in Austin, Texas.**

Vice-Chair Lea Downey-Gallatin called the Board Meeting to order at 8:08am.

Board Members in Attendance: Vice-Chair Lea Downey-Gallatin, Kergin Bedell, Kate Garza, Gary Ponder, Susan Requejo, and Drew Williamson

Staff in Attendance: Pete Valdez, Jennifer Sowinski, Chris Anderson, Judge Coffey, Laura Williamson, Edna Staniszewski, Amy White and Barry Williams

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Steve Harrell – update on storage bins and job. The Violet KeepSafe Storage program is located on 12<sup>th</sup> and Red River.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2020 AND NOVEMBER 19, 2020  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

- a. Board Member Susan Requejo moved to approve the November 13<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Board member Kate Garza seconded the motion. Motion passed by 6-0 vote.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Status of DACC operations during COVID-19, changes in operations, any new trends noticed. (Cardona-Beiler/Downey Gallatin) – Pete Valdez, Court Administrator, Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC)
  - i. Rapid Rehousing efforts, staffing and housing placement – Amy White gave updates on staffing and referrals. The ESG COVID grant funding is covering five clinical case manager positions and a clinical supervisor; four clinical managers have been hired so far with the fifth one being hired next week. A target of 50 referrals with a goal of 40 housed by end of September 30, 2021. There are currently 23 referrals and 19 completed intakes, with another 10 expected by the end of January.
  - ii. Virtual hearings – DACC took over their on virtual dockets as of December 2020, which run two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday, from 9am-12pm,

according to Barry Williams. Judge Coffey mentioned that no shows have been an issue but lower than open court. There have been some technical difficulties with screen sharing but proactively working on improvements. DACC does not currently have walk-in dockets in place, but is in the process of developing protocols and obtaining the approvals necessary before implementation

- iii. Terrazas temporary location, etc.- Pete Valdez mentioned that DACC has had 7500 interactions with individuals since March 2020 for a variety of services available through triage case management. Due to resources and the Reimagining Public Safety process, APD court service officers are being pulled and DACC is looking at private vendors for security. Starting January 25th, the APD court service officers operation hours are changing to 8am-4pm. City Manager's office is leading a search for vendors and DACC is requesting personnel who have received de-escalation and mental health training. In addition, DACC has taken over the Violet Keep Safe Program that serves homeless individuals needing storage for personal items and its great continuum to our services.
- b. DACC relocation efforts update – Pete Valdez, Court Administrator, Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) – Search is ongoing for City owned property and once found then discussion on renovations will need to take place.
- c. Introduction of the new Homeless Services Strategy Officer (Cardona-Beiler/Downey Gallatin) - Dianna Grey, Homeless Services Strategy Officer – Introduction and background given.
- d. Status and impact of services and performance outcomes of existing contracts under DACC during COVID-19 (Cardona-Beiler/Downey Gallatin) – Pete Valdez, Court Administrator, Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC). COVID has impacted contracts, as well as linking individuals to services due to restrictions that have affected funding. However, it has given DACC an opportunity to continue the Violet Keep Safe Program for another year.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. City Ordinance Review (sit/lie, camping, solicitation) (CardonaBeiler/Gallatin). Since changes to the ordinance, charges have decreased.

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Updates on following items
  - Violet Keep Safe Program
  - Terrazas Library
  - DACC facility updates

- Hiring new staff
  - Leave Item A as a standing item
  - Progress on APD vs. vendor
2. Get update from strategy officer for May 2021 meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

Kate Garza made a motion to adjourn at 9:05am and Kergin Bedell seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.