DOWNTOWN AUSTIN
COMMUNITY COURT

GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA AND ADJUDICATED CASES ANALYSIS

November 18, 2022

PROJECT SUMMARY

DACC is conducting an analysis of its current and potential geographic service area (GSA) and adjudicated citations.

Geographic service area: The neighborhoods for which DACC adjudicates citations. Currently: downtown, UT's west campus, and east Austin

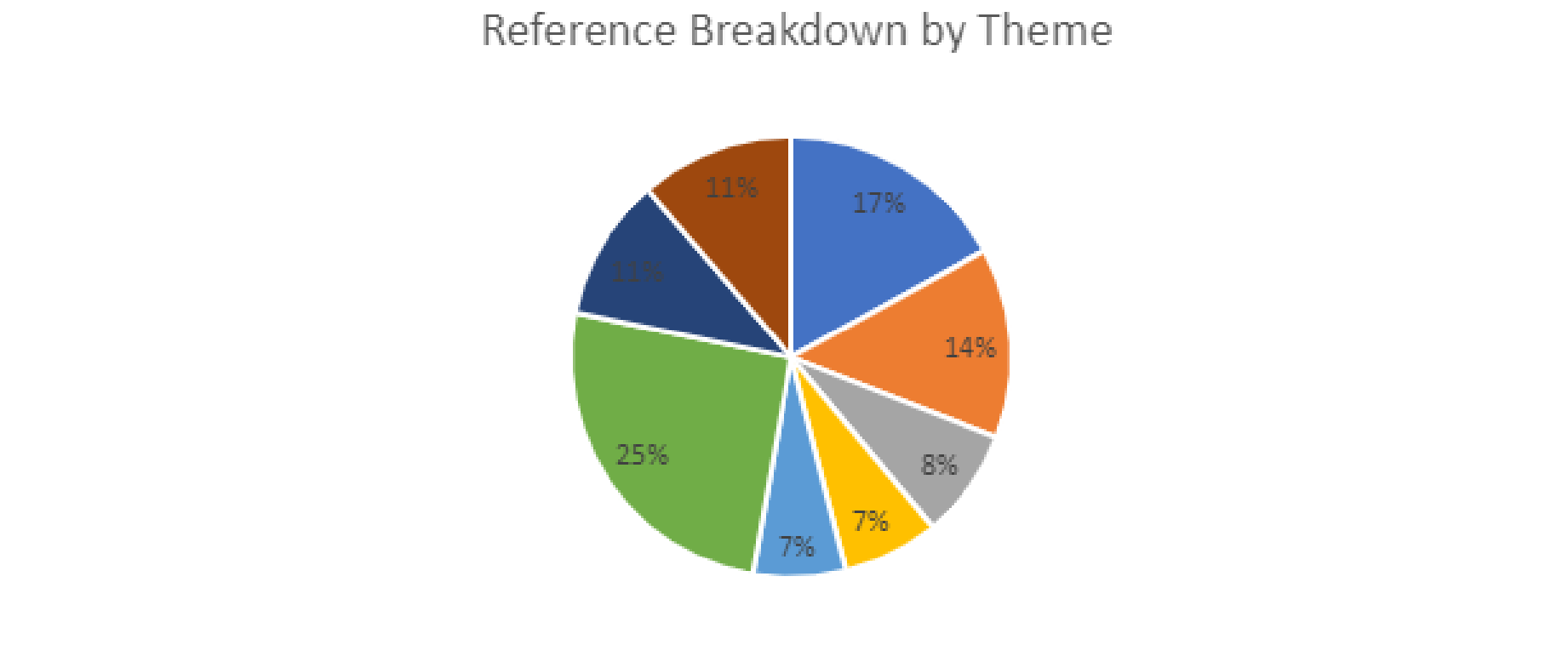
Adjudicated cases: The charge codes, or offenses, that are heard at DACC. Currently Class C misdemeanors (includes Prop B and state camping ban violations)

The purpose of this analysis is to understand the efficacy of DACC's current GSA and adjudicated citations, and to determine whether expansion or alterations might better serve the community and DACC stakeholders.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How effective is DACC's current set-up of geographic service area and adjudicated cases?
- Are there changes that should be considered, or potential reimagined operations structures that DACC management should explore?

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



OPTION SET

- **Option #1:** DACC to Maintain Adjudication of Prop B/Statewide Camping Ban Violations Citywide; Expand Adjudication of Current Charge Codes (all other Class C misdemeanors) Citywide
- **Option #1.5:** DACC to Maintain Adjudication of Prop B/Statewide Camping Ban Violations Citywide; Expand Adjudication of Current Charge Codes (other Class C misdemeanors) to Other Parts of Austin on a Needs-Based Timeline
- **Option #2:** DACC to Maintain Current Charge Codes in Existing Geographic Service Area and Citywide Prop B/State Camping Ban Violations, Expand to Include Any Charge Codes for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Citywide
- **Option #3:** DACC to Drop Current Charge Codes, Adjudicate Only Citywide Prop B/State Camping Ban Violations, and Any Charge Codes for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Citywide

Option #1: DACC to Expand Both Adjudication of Current Charge Codes Citywide and Maintain Adjudication of Prop B/Statewide Camping Ban Violations Citywide					
Expanding DACC's GSA to other parts of Austin is supported by 93 percent of participants that chose to express their preference.	Compatible	Stakeholders frequently discussed ways to strengthen opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness to connect to social service.	Compatible	Stakeholders expressed need for more education about DACC in order to participate in productive conversations. There was also desire for more information sharing about DACC generally, particularly about available services and successful outcomes experienced by DACC defendants and clients.	Compatible
DACC maintaining case types for housed people (instead of exclusively serving people experiencing homelessness) is supported by 69 percent of participants that chose to express their preference.	Compatible	Stakeholders expressed desire for elements such as access and equity to be prioritized in upcoming decision-making or recommendations regarding DACC's GSA and adjudicated cases, with particular attention to the current exclusion of DACC's benefits for people outside of the current GSA boundaries.	Compatible	Stakeholders provided specific input on information that should be considered before any recommendations for change are made. This input ranged from cost analysis for staff expansion to data about DACC defendant/client diversity.	Compatible
More than 40 individual stakeholder references to geographic or service expansion directly emphasized the resources needed to maintain quality service levels.	Compatible	In discussions/questions about citations, responses did not strongly align with any particular viewpoints. Some respondents said they want to see more enforcement for Class C misdemeanors; others prefer a more lenient approach.	More information needed	Alignment with DACC's mission and purpose	Compatible
Does this option require policy change?	Yes	Does this option require significant resources?	No		

Option #1.5: DACC to Maintain Current Adjudication of Prop B/State Camping Ban Violations Citywide; Expand Adjudication of Current Charge Codes (all other Class C misdemeanors) to Other Parts of Austin on a Needs-Based Timeline					
Expanding DACC's GSA to other parts of Austin is supported by 93 percent of participants that chose to express their preference.	Compatible	Stakeholders frequently discussed ways to strengthen opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness to connect to social service.	Compatible	Stakeholders expressed need for more education about DACC in order to participate in productive conversations. There was also desire for more information sharing about DACC generally, particularly about available services and successful outcomes experienced by DACC defendants and clients.	Compatible
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Does this option require policy change?	Yes	Does this option require significant resources?	No		

Option #2: DACC to Maintain Current Charge Codes in Existing Geographic Service Area and Citywide Prop B/State Camping Ban Violations, Expand to Include Any Charge Codes for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Citywide					
Expanding DACC's GSA to other parts of Austin is supported by 93 percent of participants that chose to express their preference.	Compatible	Stakeholders frequently discussed ways to strengthen opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness to connect to social service.	Compatible	Stakeholders expressed need for more education about DACC in order to participate in productive conversations. There was also desire for more information sharing about DACC generally, particularly about available services and successful outcomes experienced by DACC defendants and clients.	Compatible
DACC maintaining case types for housed people (instead of exclusively serving people experiencing homelessness) is supported by 69 percent of participants that chose to express their preference.	Incompatible	Stakeholders expressed desire for elements such as access and equity to be prioritized in upcoming decision-making or recommendations regarding DACC's GSA and adjudicated cases, with particular attention to the current exclusion of DACC's benefits for people outside of the current GSA boundaries.	Incompatible - People that do not fit within the four official categories of homelessness experience financial instability that can be addressed by DACC magistration	Stakeholders provided specific input on information that should be considered before any recommendations for change are made. This input ranged from cost analysis for staff expansion to data about DACC defendant/client diversity.	Compatible
More than 40 individual stakeholder references to geographic or service expansion directly emphasized the resources needed to maintain quality service levels.	Compatible	In discussions/questions about citations, responses did not strongly align with any particular viewpoints. Some respondents said they want to see more enforcement for Class C misdemeanors; others prefer a more lenient approach.	More information needed	Alignment with DACC's mission and purpose	Compatible
Does this option require policy change?	Yes	Does this option require significant resources?	No		

Option #3: DACC to Drop Current Charge Codes, Adjudicate Only Citywide Prop B/State Camping Ban Violations, and Any Charge Codes for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Citywide					
Expanding DACC's GSA to other parts of Austin is supported by 93 percent of participants that chose to express their preference.	Compatible	Stakeholders frequently discussed ways to strengthen opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness to connect to social service.	Incompatible - People experiencing homelessness receive other citations besides Prop B/State Camping Ban violations	Stakeholders expressed need for more education about DACC in order to participate in productive conversations. There was also desire for more information sharing about DACC generally, particularly about available services and successful outcomes experienced by DACC defendants and clients.	Compatible
DACC maintaining case types for housed people (instead of exclusively serving people experiencing homelessness) is supported by 69 percent of participants that chose to express their preference.	Incompatible	Stakeholders expressed desire for elements such as access and equity to be prioritized in upcoming decision-making or recommendations regarding DACC's GSA and adjudicated cases, with particular attention to the current exclusion of DACC's benefits for people outside of the current GSA boundaries.	Incompatible - People that do not fit within the four official categories of homelessness experience financial instability that can be addressed by DACC magistration	Stakeholders provided specific input on information that should be considered before any recommendations for change are made. This input ranged from cost analysis for staff expansion to data about DACC defendant/client diversity.	Compatible
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Does this option require policy change?	Yes	Does this option require significant resources?	No		

CASE VOLUME DATA

- **Option #1:** DACC to Maintain Adjudication of Prop B/Statewide Camping Ban Violations Citywide; Expand Adjudication of Current Charge Codes (all other Class C misdemeanors) Citywide - Average (max) # of cases currently adjudicated at AMC that would come to DACC: 4,715
- **Option #1.5:** DACC to Maintain Adjudication of Prop B/Statewide Camping Ban Violations Citywide; Expand Adjudication of Current Charge Codes (other Class C misdemeanors) to Other Parts of Austin on a Needs-Based Timeline - Average (max) # of Top 10 cases that would come to DACC instead of AMC: 3,915
- **Option #2:** DACC to Maintain Current Charge Codes in Existing Geographic Service Area and Citywide Prop B/State Camping Ban Violations, Expand to Include Any Charge Codes for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Citywide - Average (max) # of additional cases for people experiencing homelessness that would come to DACC in Option #2: 2,987
- **Option #3:** DACC to Drop Current Charge Codes, Adjudicate Only Citywide Prop B/State Camping Ban Violations, and Any Charge Codes for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Citywide Average (max) number of additional cases from 2017-2019 that would come to DACC from AMC: 1,855

OPTION #1.5: A CLOSER LOOK

- **Option #1.5:** DA DACC to Maintain Adjudication of Prop B/Statewide Camping Ban Violations Citywide; Expand Adjudication of Current Charge Codes (other Class C misdemeanors) to Other Parts of Austin on a Needs-Based Timeline - Average (max) # of Top 10 cases that would come to DACC instead of AMC: 3,915
  - **Top 10 DACC Case Types**
    - Public Intoxication
    - Disorderly Conduct
    - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
    - Sit/Lie violations
    - Consuming Alcohol in a Public Place
    - Pedestrian in the Roadway
    - Human Waste
    - Littering
    - Simple Assault by Contact
    - Misdemeanor Theft C - Less than $100

QUESTIONS FOR ADVISORY BOARD

- Are there questions staff can answer about the information presented?
- Is there more data needed to guide decision-making?
- Is there guidance on the viability for any of the presented options?

NEXT STEPS