



**DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR CALLED MEETING  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2023**

**The DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT ADVISORY BOARD convened in a REGULAR CALLED meeting on 17, NOVEMBER 2023, at 505 BARTON SPRINGS RD in Austin, Texas.**

Chair Lea Downey Gallatin called the DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT ADVISORY BOARD Meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:** *Chair Lea Downey Gallatin, Mikaela Frissell, Dr. Anu Kapadia, and Katy Jo Muncie*

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:** *Kergin Bedell, Vice-Chair Nicole Golden, Roy C. Woody, and Robin G. Sontheimer*

- Welcome to our new Board Member Katy Jo Muncie

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING on SEPTEMBER 15, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2023, were approved on Board Member's Mikaela Frissell's motion, Board Member Robin G. Sontheimer's second on an (8-0) vote.

**AUSTIN HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM FEEDBACK**

2. Individuals sharing first-hand account regarding their experiences being served through Austin's homelessness system. Speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will be allowed a three-minute allotment to provide their feedback to the Board.

- None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

3. DACC Mobile Court Pilot Update (Downey Gallatin/ Golden) – Laura Williamson, Business Process Consultant, DACC
  - Currently scheduled at five locations per month. The outcomes to be presented before Council in March 2024. Individuals can check for citations, open cases, and warrants then have a virtual meeting with a judge and prosecutor onsite.
4. Intensive Case Management Program evaluation update (Downey Gallatin/ Golden) – Robert Kingham, Court Administrator, DACC
  - The homeless services case management database was difficult to pull data for the evaluation since it had too many customizations. On page fifty-four are the detailed recommendations. Majority of them, we were or are actively working on those elements.
  - Justification for us to pivot away from homeless services platform to a purposely built platform. Engage with our partners across the city and our technology group to purchase us a new platform with less customization. We switched to new system, ECourt, but we consistently must customize.
  - There may be a cost for a new platform and maybe utilizing HMIS system but there is some limitation but cost effective. Possibly Apricot platform which is a higher cost item. We may need your feedback and support later.

Board Member Mikaela Frissell left dais at 9:02am.

5. Status of DACC operations (Downey Gallatin/ Golden) – Robert Kingham, Court Administrator, DACC
  - Before every board meeting going forward, DACC will provide the board a report titled "Status of DACC Operations." What we do with our stakeholders externally and internally. Although the outcome level is not included, when we get the new platform data points, it will show how our actions are having an impact there. In the future, we'll offer a dashboard with graphs and historical context.
  - Kate Ballew – Our first pop up clinic was Wednesday where we had Community Care onsite. We had nine clients seen by the clinic and received MAP card assistance. We plan to post when the next one is scheduled. We hope to have preliminary data by February 2024.
  - We have a virtual tour of the Community First Village every other Wednesday. Where a case manager signs off on the application when tour completed.
  - Jennifer Sowinski – Funding for the Rapid Rehousing Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) started with \$139,000 in 2013, there has been no increase since. At first, the funds covered rent and utilities for six months. We've expanded it to encompass a whole year while serving fewer clients. Finding properties to rent for just six months of

funding was challenging, and since most participants in this program fulfill the requirements for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), it would have taken them longer to stabilize. It does not cover rent after twelve months which case management works toward having them transfer to a housing voucher, if possible. We served twenty-three individuals, but we were able to house ten of them. The individuals get twenty-four months of case management. Rapid Rehousing is short term to help them sustain and get into the system for financial assistance, case management and no longer need the court assistance.

- Mental Health Diversion Center – we are coordinating the city’s involvement in a Pilot program which is a short-term and intermediate-term program. Convening with partners and anticipating coming online sometime between January to March 2024. Expand Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) hours and increase more services at PES. Individuals can go to a 90-day facility at Integral Care that is being refurbished at this time. Some individuals may need more care before the therapeutic services at the Judge Guy Herman Center or The Inn, which are in-patient psychiatric facilities.
- Community Court – A new strategic plan for the court was initiated. The current one is dated; we want to concentrate on our values and mission. The next step is for staff to provide a revised version by March 2024, after which the board will be consulted.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:27am.**

**The minutes were approved at the January 19, 2024, meeting on Board Member Katy Jo Muncie’s motion, Board Member Kate Garza’s second on a (7-0) vote.**