



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 8, 2011**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 West Second Street, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in attendance are listed on the attached attendance roll sheet. Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) staff in attendance was Ron Hubbard. Guests that signed in were: Shayla Reed and Hannah McIntyre.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Huston called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Guests were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF RECUSAL FOR AGENDA ITEMS:** Council Member Jacquie Porter recused herself on Agenda item 7.a.i. AISD PreKindergarten full or part day issue since she is an AISD employee.
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The January 11, 2011 meeting minutes were approved on Council Member Paver's motion with Vice-Chair Holder's second on a 9 – 0 vote.
5. **STAFF BRIEFING – Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator**
 - a. Fire code changes and their potential impact on child care providers was discussed.
 - b. A \$44,259 increase to the Bridge Program contract for the current and next year was announced.
6. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS**
 - a. Executive – Aletha Huston discussed the logistics of the new, alternating meeting formats for the ECC. One goal is to have more robust conversations about issues.
7. **WORK GROUP ITEMS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
 - a. Research and Policy Development – Cindy Rodriguez
 - i. The Chair presented the draft letter and recommendation about full-day PreKindergarten at AISD. The PreK recommendation letter was approved on Vice-Chair Holder's motion with Council Member Elsner's second on a 8 – 0 – 1 vote with Council Member Porter abstaining. (Letter copy attached.)

- b. Providers – No report.
- c. Finance – Council Member Rosofsky provided an update about the child care reimbursement rate issue and visits to City Council Members.
- d. Work Group discussions on the response to fire code changes and child care reimbursement rates were held.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Early Childhood Council

Attendance - 12 Month
Scheduled Meetings

	LAST	FIRST	MAR 10	APR 10	4/20/10 Special	MAY 10	6/3/10 Special	JULY 10	AUG 10	SEPT 10	OCT 10	NOV 10	DEC 10	JAN 11	FEB 11
1	Black	Albert	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1
2	Carpenter	Sue	1	1	1	1	1		E		1	1	1	1	X
3	Elsner	Larry	1	1	1	1	1		X		1	1	1	1	1
4	Fahrenheithold	Anna Lisa					New appointment 10/19/2010					1	1	1	1
5	Holder	Kyle	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1
6	Huston	Aletha	1	1	1	1	1		X		1	1	1	1	1
7	Keith-Thompson	Debra	1	1	E	1	1		1		1	1	1	E	E
8	Paver	Rhonda	X	1	1	1	X		1		X	1	1	1	1
9	Porter	Jacquie			New appointment				1		1	1	1	1	1
10	Rodriguez	Cindy	1	1	1	1	1		X		1	1	X	1	1
11	Rosofsky	Natasha	1	E	1	1	1		E		1	1	1	X	1
12	Sanford	Margie	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	E
13	Wallace	Avis	1	1	1	E	1		E		1	E	X	1	X
Total Members Present			10	10	10	10	10	No Mtg	6	No Mtg	11	12	11	11	9

Present = 1, Absent excused = E, Absent unexcused = X



**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department
Early Childhood Council**



February 9, 2011

Chairperson

Aletha Huston

Vice-Chairperson

Kyle Holder

Members

Albert Black
Sue Carpenter
Larry Eisner
Anna Lisa Fahrenthold
Rhonda Paver
Jacquie Porter
Cindy Rojas Rodriguez
Natasha Rosofsky
Margie Sanford
Debra Keith-Thompson
Avis Wallace

Early Childhood
Council
City of Austin HHSD
P. O. Box 1068
Austin, Texas 78767

(512) 972-5028

Mayor Leffingwell
Council Member Morrison
Council Member Spelman
City of Austin
Austin, Texas

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The Early Childhood Council respectfully requests that you share this letter with the joint City of Austin/AISD/Travis County Joint Subcommittee at its meeting on February 18, 2011 as well as any officials in AISD that you deem appropriate. This request is being sent to Judge Biscoe also.

The City of Austin Early Childhood Council supports efforts by the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees to explore all options for preserving the full day prekindergarten program in AISD. The prekindergarten program serves children whose families have low incomes and/or speak a language other than English at home. A full day program provides an excellent investment for our community by providing these preschoolers with the tools that will help them succeed in school and become productive citizens.

As the City of Austin board entrusted with the mandate to recommend policies that support quality programs for children and families in our community, we fully support AISD's commitment to quality. The value of prekindergarten is well-supported by research showing that it prepares children for school. Full-day programs are even more effective than half-day programs. Students who are far behind at entry to preschool can develop vocabulary, math and literacy skills that approach national norms if provided with extended duration preschool that maintains high quality standards. ("Is More Better? The effects of Full Day vs Half Day Preschool on Early Achievement," The National Institute for Early Education Research, www.nieer.org).

Thank you for your efforts to preserve full day prekindergarten classes in the Austin Independent School District.

Sincerely yours,

Aletha C. Huston
Chair