



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 2011**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, at Austin City Hall, City Council Chambers, 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 were Vince Cobalis, Stephanie Hayden, Maria Allen, and Ron Hubbard. Guest who signed in were Pat Smith, Linda Welsh, Cindy Gamez, Sue Carpenter, Raye Sansom, Jessica Son, Leah Meunier, and Laura Koenig.

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

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Guests were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Council Members Fahrenthold and Porter recused themselves on agenda item 5. Recommendations to City Council.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The May 19, 2011 meeting minutes were approved on Council Member Elsner's motion and Council Member Sanford's second on a 7 – 0 vote Council Member's Paver, Porter and Wallace arriving after the vote.
4. **CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**
 - Gary Thomas with Kid Gloves spoke about an identity theft prevention product.
 - Pat Smith, owner of Little Dudes child care centers, spoke about increasing number of services to address children with challenging behaviors. Provided handout.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Rosofsky discussed the Finance Work Group's process and recommendations related to the City Council resolution about funding for services to at-risk youth. The proposed recommendations were approved on Vice-Chair Holder's motion with Council Member Elsner's second on a 8 – 0 – 2 vote with Council Members Fahrenthold and Porter abstaining. The approved recommendations included:

Child Development

1. *Literacy services for low-income preschool and elementary age children in child care (including books for classrooms), WIC offices, health clinics, and low-performing public schools. (\$60,000)*
 - *Provide age and language appropriate books*
 - *Provide culturally sensitive books*
 - *Include Reach Out and Read Program*

Child Care Quality Improvement

2. Child care training and scholarships

- *Evidence based social emotional (CLASS) training for providers (\$17,500)*
- *Taking Charge of Change new cohort (child care director leadership development) (\$25,000)*
- *College level scholarships toward early childhood course plans (\$25,000)*

Youth Development and Parenting

3. Teen parents - Low-income, at-risk including homeless and former foster children.

- *Preparation for independent living materials such as household kits (beds, linens, kitchen items, etc., utility deposits) (\$30,000)*
 - *Parenting education for teens (\$20,000)*

Discussion followed about the African American Resource Advisory Commission's and the Hispanic/Latino Community Oversight Team's recommendations from their meetings earlier in the month.

The ECC authorized Vice-Chair Holder and Council Member Rosofsky to act on behalf of the ECC in determining the final set of recommendations for the youth services resolution in coordination with the African American Resource Advisory Commission and the Hispanic/Latino Community Oversight Team on Vice-Chair Holder's motion and Council Member Sanford's second on a vote of 8 – 0 – 2 with Council Members Fahrenthold and Porter abstaining.

6. DISCUSSION WITH HHSD DIRECTOR – Shannon Jones, Acting Director
ECC members discussed issues and concerns about early childhood and the City. Topics included funding, inclusion of the ECC in City planning such as for the recent RFP, concern about omission of early childhood and preventative services criteria in RFP, and need to improve coordination with the City. Mr. Jones addressed considerations such as data and coordination with other City Boards and Commissions. He also said that the Department will be working on a comprehensive plan.

7. WORK GROUP REPORTS: Each committee and work group shared a brief summary/description of their group's goals.

- a. Executive – Aletha Huston
- b. Policy Development and Research – None
- c. Providers – Margie Sanford reported that the group has not met since the last ECC meeting, and that a new Chair will be needed since her term on the ECC is ending.
- d. Finance – Natasha Rosofsky – Reported in item #5.

8. STAFF BRIEFING – Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator, described the role of the Coordinator's position.

9. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Leah Meunier reported that the Stakeholders meeting has been postponed.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Including public input such as for children's behavior and including a report on the state's Early Childhood Council at future meetings was noted.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

	LAST	FIRST	JULY 10	AUG 10	SEPT 10	OCT 10	NOV 10	DEC 10	JAN 11	FEB 11	MAR 11	APR 11	MAY 11	JUN 11
1	Black	Albert		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	X
2	Carpenter	Sue		E		1	1	1	1	X	X	Vacant 3/14/11	Vacant	Vacant
3	Elsner	Larry		X		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	Fahrenthold	Anna Lisa	New appointment 10/19/2010				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	Holder	Kyle		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	Huston	Aletha		X		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	Keith- Thompson	Debra		1		1	1	1	E	E	1	1	1	1
8	Paver	Rhonda		1		X	1	1	1	1	E	E	X	1
9	Porter	Jacquie		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	Rodriguez	Cindy		X		1	1	X	1	1	E	1	1	X
11	Rosofsky	Natasha		E		1	1	1	X	1	1	X	1	1
12	Sanford	Margie		1		1	1	1	1	E	1	1	1	1
13	Wallace	Avis		E		1	E	X	1	X	1	E	E	1
Total Members Present			No Mtg	6	No Mtg NoPost	11	12	11	11	9	10	9	10	10

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