



**ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW
EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

Kyle Holder, Chairperson

ECC Approved 3/21/2012

This report covers the time period of 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2011

The Early Childhood Council shall, as stated in City Code § 2-1-123 (B):

- (1) make recommendations to the city council for the creation, development, and implementation of programs that promote optimal development for young children;
- (2) develop, for recommendation to city council, programs and activities that contribute to the continued development of a system of high-quality early care and education and after-school programs for Austin’s children;
- (3) explore and develop, for recommendation to city council, cooperative arrangements with area governments in the metropolitan region to support a system of quality early care and education;
- (4) encourage volunteerism and philanthropic efforts in order to generate broad-based community involvement and support for quality early care and education and promote the well being of families of young children; and
- (5) develop, for recommendation to city council, strategies encouraging individuals and agencies to continually improve the quality of their services for young children; and
- (6) support innovative approaches to quality early care and education and leadership development in fields relating to the optimal development of young children.

1. Describe the board’s actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board’s mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

MONTH	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RELATED CHARGE
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to support Texas Early Childhood Education Collaborative’s 10 Steps for subsidized child care • Comments to Open Space Ordinance • Request to City Integrity Office regarding anti-lobbying and social services RFP 	1, 3 1 1, 2, 5
February	Recommendation to support AISD full-day PreKindergarten	6

MONTH	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RELATED CHARGE
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed policies of the City/County Direct Child Care Program related to providers maintaining quality certifications Reviewed impact of Fire Code changes and enforcement on child care providers including possible resources to assist providers in meeting Fire Code Surveyed providers about Code changes and related expenses 	6 6 6
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECC agreed to support and participate in the joint community planning process under Success By 6 (SB6) Approved intent to align Early Childhood goals with SB6 	All 3
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted evening meeting to encourage public input HHSD Budget presentation and discussion with ECC with ECC's comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of social service funding for early childhood Concern for recommendations with no early childhood funding. Concern that the scoring matrix used made early childhood scores low. Encouraged priorities for services to young children in the budget. Concern about emphasis on animals over children. Clarification of ECC's role in budget process and difficulty due to recusals. 	4 1,2,4,5,6
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations related to City Council resolution about funding for services to at-risk youth in coordination with two other advisory bodies Discussion with HHSD Acting Director about concerns including early childhood funding, omission of early childhood and preventative services in the RFP, and need to improve coordination with the City 	2 1,2,4,5,6
July	No meeting	
August	Reviewed state's 2012-2013 child care plan in a discussion with Workforce Board staff	1, 2, 3
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation about the Texas Early Learning Council, and its purpose and activities Introduced to Carlos Rivera, new HHSD Director 	1, 3 Overview

MONTH	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RELATED CHARGE
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start/Early Head Start Community Assessment presentation by local Head Start grantee • Discussion about involvement in the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA-CHIP) • Recommendation to City Council regarding the social services RFP and early childhood funding, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) concern about funding cuts to early childhood services, 2) use of CHA-CHIP to make needs based decisions, and 3) the return on investment of early childhood programs, • Recommendations related to the Children with Challenging Behaviors proposal • Presentation: Dr. Chiquita Eugene, Citywide Program Manager for Youth and Family Initiatives • Discussion of HHSO reorganization that will impact early childhood 	<p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>1, 2, 5, 6</p> <p>6</p> <p>Overview</p> <p>Overview</p>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and request for input • Imagine Austin Recommendation: Plan should pay greater attention to children ages 0 through 5, and their families. • Providers Work Group will use the Directors' Group at Workforce Solutions to provide feedback 	<p>1, 6</p> <p>1, 5</p> <p>4</p>
December	Update on progress of community plan called the Travis County School Readiness Plan	All

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Early Childhood Council's actions complied with its mission in 2011, although some possible actions were limited by the Anti-Lobbying Ordinance as interpreted to the ECC.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

The Early Childhood Council's work plan for 2012 is attached. It notes the relationship to the ECC's charge in Ordinance.



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL 2012 WORK PLAN

Charge: The Early Childhood Council shall:

- (1) make recommendations to the city council for the creation, development, and implementation of programs that promote optimal development for young children;
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Assignments and Goals

Outcome 1: Provide input and information between related community groups and the ECC. (Charge: All)

Assigned Work Group: Public Awareness

Regular reports and follow-up between ECC and related groups.

Outcome 2: Increase Council and community knowledge of early childhood funding and advocate for increased resources in our community. (Charge: 1, 2, 4)

Assigned Work Group: Policy and Finance coordinated with Public Awareness

- Track funding streams for priority early childhood strategies
- Become knowledgeable and advise Council about potential funding streams and opportunities for leveraging
- Become knowledgeable and communicate to relevant entities about legislation related to early childhood financing

Outcome 3: Successful local and regional early childhood initiatives. (Charge: 2, 5, 6)
Assigned Work Group: Providers

- Continue to build relationships with local providers.

Outcome 4: Partnerships between providers and Licensing representatives. (Charge: 2, 3, 5)

Assigned Work Group: Providers

- Address hot topics and emerging issues at the Providers meetings.

Outcome 5: To research and promote policies to local and regional areas regarding children and families. (Charge: 1, 2, 3)

Assigned Work Group: Policy and Finance

- Advocate for increased child care reimbursement rates and other early childhood legislative issues
- Monitor and make plan for recommendations regarding the upcoming AISD school year.

Outcome 6: Participate in and support the ongoing work of the Travis County School Readiness Plan. (Charge: All)

Assigned Work Group: All

- Continue to actively participate in and support the ongoing cycle of the early childhood community planning process including membership on the Results Based Planning Committee.