



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 21, 2012**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at City Hall, 301 West Second Street, 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 present and signing in were Leah Osborne, Marti Burris, Kevin Schoenberger, Elaine Clark, Jessica Son, Melinda Sewantez, Rye Sansom, Pat Smith, Nelda Frasier, and Richard Nunez.

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Holder at 9:01 am.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Laura Koenig, newly appointed Early Childhood Council Member, was introduced, and she spoke about her background and interests in early childhood.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Albert Black noted his conflict of interest on item 7. a. as Executive Director of an agency that has a CDBG child care contract.
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None
The first 5 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns.
4. **PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Action Plan Process and request for input from ECC – Patricia Bourenane, Research Analyst Senior, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, presented about the action plan and methods for community involvement.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The February 8, 2012 ECC meeting minutes were approved on Council Member Huston's motion and Council Member Paver's second on a 9 – 0 vote.
6. **WORK GROUP REPORTS**
 - a. Executive Work Group
 - i. 2012 Work Plan
 1. Engagement with related groups – Council Member Farenthold led a discussion about what groups and how to engage related groups in the work of the ECC.
 2. Approve Work Plan – the 2012 ECC Work Plan was approved with edits on a motion by Council Member Huston and Council Member Wallace's second on a 9 – 0 vote. The final version is attached to these minutes.

- ii. Annual Report – The Chair’s Annual Internal Review was approved with edits on Council Member Elsner’s motion and Vice-Chair Fahrenthold’s second on a 9 – 0 vote. The final version is attached to these minutes.
- b. Policy and Finance Work Group – Aletha Huston asked Elaine Clark, Workforce Solutions, to discuss the proposed increases in provider reimbursement rates (a previous recommendation of the ECC). The rates will be considered by the Workforce Board.
- c. Providers Work Group – No report.
- d. Public Awareness Work Group – Leah Meunier discussed the continuing work on finalizing the School Readiness Plan. She also reported that ways to raise community awareness during the Week of the Young Child in April are being discussed.

7. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. Current CDBG child care funding summary – Ron Hubbard discussed the current funding levels. A recommendation to City Council to maintain at least the current funding level including maintaining the funding level for the Bridge Program at the Fiscal Year 2012 level was approved on a motion by Council Member Huston and a second by Council Member Elsner on a 7 – 0 – 1 vote with Council Member Black abstaining, and Council Member Paver leaving the meeting prior to the vote.
 - b. The concerns from meeting between some child care providers with HHSD Director were identified. They included provider membership on the ECC, restrictions on the use of city swimming pools by child care centers, the number and expense of health/food service permits, and the recognition of Texas Rising Star centers.
 - c. Austin Fire Department requirement of Certificate of Occupancy for child care annual fire inspections was reported.
8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Council Member Meunier announced a public meeting about the Social/Emotional Learning Collaborative.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

