



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 10, 2012**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 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 that signed in for the meeting were: Cindy Gamez, Marti Burris, Alison Bentley, Sue Carpenter, Pat Smith, and Robbie Polan.

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Holder at 9:00 AM.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Guests introduced themselves.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Council Member Casini identified a possible conflict with the funding recommendations for prenatal services, and Council Member Rodriguez identified a possible conflict with the funding recommendation for Second Step Curriculum purchase and training.
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The approval of the minutes was postponed until the November meeting.
5. **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, and POSSIBLE ACTION:** None
6. **OFFICER ELECTION**
 - a. **Nominations** – Chair Holder opened officer nominations from the floor. Council Member Huston nominated Kyle Holder as Chair, and Council Member Elsner nominated Anna Lisa Fahrenthold as Vice-Chair. It was noted that Vice-Chair Fahrenthold’s appointment from Travis County ends on December 31, 2012, and that if she is not reappointed by the County or appointed by Council Member Tovo, an election for a replacement Vice-Chair will be necessary. No other nominations were made.
 - b. **Elections** – Kyle Holder was elected as Chair by a vote of 9 – 0, with Council Member Koenig arriving after the vote. Anna Lisa Fahrenthold was elected as Vice-Chair by a vote of 8 – 0, with Vice-Chair Fahrenthold not voting and Council Member Koenig arriving after the vote.

7. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

a. Executive Work Group – Kyle Holder discussed that the calendar 2013 work plan needs to be developed and then approved in December.

b. Policy and Finance Work Group – The Work Group’s recommendations were presented and discussed with the ECC. The discussion included responses to questions that Council Member Wallace had asked. The questions and responses are attached to these Minutes. After discussion, the funding recommendations were approved in three motions that separated the items to avoid the members with conflicts having to abstain from every recommendation. A listing of the approved recommendations with amounts is attached to these Minutes.

- The recommendations for ASPIRE, Parent Leadership, and Watson Fellowships were approved on a motion by Council Member Huston with a second by Council Member Koenig on a 9 – 0 vote with Council Member Elsner out of the room.
- The recommendation for the Prenatal Project was approved on a motion by Council Member Huston with a second by Council Member Rodriguez on a 9 – 0 - 1 vote with Council Member Casini abstaining.
- The recommendation for the Curriculum and training was approved on a motion by Council Member Huston with a second by Council Member Keith-Thompson on a 9 – 0 - 1 vote with Council Member Rodriguez abstaining.
- A motion to make services from the funding amounts to teen parents a priority as applicable was approved on Council Member Wallace’s motion and Council Member Keith-Thompson’s second on a 10 – 0 vote.

c. Providers Work Group – Council Member Keith-Thompson discussed the Groups work on Library and Swimming Pool issues. Council Members Wallace and Casini volunteered to work together on the City libraries’ issues, and the Policy Work Group will consider the issue too. The Swimming Pool issue was discussed and Pat Smith’s proposed policies document was reviewed. Further work is needed to develop a written rationale including:

- the question of equity for children in child care
- recommendations for increased accessibility for child care
- identifying related state standards

Also, a conversation with the Parks Board was recommended.

8. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS – Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator

a. City Fiscal Year 2013 Budget information – HHSD Director Rivera discussed the funding amounts added by City Council for early childhood including \$250,000 for Healthy Families and \$238,216 with part being one-time funding and some being in the Department’s base budget. The ECC will make specific recommendations for the funding at the October meeting.

9. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Sue Carpenter provided an update for the members including a handout of the *2012 Early Care and Education Survey* that will be available on the SB6 website. A comment that a presentation about the School Readiness Plan be made to the Joint Committee of City/County/AISD was made.

10. RELATED GROUPS (as needed) – No reports.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.

Early Childhood Council

Attendance with 12 Month History

FY 2012 All Meetings

	LAST	FIRST	NOV 2011	DEC 2011	JAN 2012	FEB 2012	MAR 2012	APR 2012	MAY 2012	JUN 2012	JUL 2012	AUG 2012	SEPT 2012	OCT 2012
1	Black	Albert	1	1	1	1	1	1	E	1		1	1	1
2	Casini	Sofia							Appointed 8/2/2012			1	1	1
3	Elsner	Lamy	1	1	1	1	1	X	1	X		1	1	1
4	Fahrenthold	Anna Lisa	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	NO MEETING			
5	Holder	Kyle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
6	Huston	Aletha	1	1	1	1	1	1	X	1		1	1	1
7	Keith-Thompson	Debra	1	1	1	E	E	1	E	1		1	1	1
8	Koenig	Laura				New appt 3/1/12	1	1	1	1		E	1	1
9	Paver	Rhonda	X	1	X	1	1	1	X	1		E	1	X
10	Porter	Jacque	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	1		X	1	X
11	Rodriguez	Cindy	E	1	1	1	E	1	1	1		E	1	1
12	Wallace	Avis	1	E	E	E	1	1	1	E		E	1	1
	VACANCY - CM													
	TOVO													
	Total Members Present		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	7	9		7	12	10

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

Dr. Wallace's questions needed for Wednesday's meeting for the Child Care Council,

What are the restrictions on the Capitol funds that were recommended for one time funding?

Should these capitol funds be used for equipment only? What other uses can these funds are used for? Are the items purchased with the funds considered consumable?

What is the process for an organization to become a recipient of funds to assist in serving the public?

How were these one-time funding expenditures determined?

What are the accountability measures for public service funding?

Responses to Dr. Wallace's questions:

1. The funds are designated to be used for early childhood services, not necessarily capital items.
2. The funds can be used for services, consumables, or equipment. The HHSD definition of equipment is an item with a cost over \$1,000 and a useful life of more than one year.
3. An organization can compete when funding is available and submit a proposal or application. Some organizations have received funds designated to them by name by City Council. Some organizations are part of a collaborative effort. Most commonly, a collaboration has one agency as a fiscal agent and other agencies are subcontractors. The process for successful applicants includes submission of an administrative and financial review document and insurance requirements. Most competitions are posted on the City Purchasing website: https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/vendor_connection/solicitation/solicitations.cfm
4. The one-time funding allocations to the budget were determined by City Council members in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget approval process that was approved in September.
5. Accountability measures include a contract with specific stipulations as to payments, reporting, performance measures, budget, monitoring, insurance, and record keeping.

10/10/2012

Potential COA Early Childhood Projects

Approved by the Early Childhood Council 10/10/2012

Project Name	Description	Amount Recommended
ASPIRE	Add families to the ASPIRE program which has demonstrated long-term significant outcomes for families. Parents receive ABE/ESL classes while their young children receive high quality ECE. Parents also receive parent education, home visits, and family literacy coaching. Each family receives 20 hours of service weekly for nine months.	\$74,000 Ongoing
Prenatal Project – 1115 Waiver	Evidence-based model for providing pre-natal services and education to high-risk populations. The model provides group check-ups and education services, building the protective factor of peer support for vulnerable women.	\$64,000 One-time
Parent Leadership and Community Cafes	This project would use the evidence-based Community Café model to foster community empowerment and parent leadership in target neighborhoods. Groups of parents would meet monthly with to provide peer support, explore ways to increase the “protective factors” in their communities, and to advocate for solutions to community problems/concerns. Funding would pay for training of and stipends for parent leaders, food for sessions, and child care.	\$20,000 Ongoing
Jeannette Watson Fellowships	Increase the number of teachers with AA, AAS, BA degrees in centers serving low-income families. The primary goal is the retention of highly-qualified, skilled teachers in classrooms with vulnerable children. Child outcomes, teacher retention rates, and center quality will be measured with validated, external tools.	\$60,159 Ongoing
Curriculum & Local Training 2nd Step	Second Step early learning program teaches self-regulation and executive-function skills that help children learn and skills to manage their feelings, make friends, and solve problems.	\$20,057 One-time
Totals	\$238,216 Grand Total City Funds (does not include match)	\$ 84,057 One-time \$154,159 On-going

As applicable, priority should be given to teen parents for services.