



Annual Internal Review EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL (ECC)

This report covers the time period of 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2013

The Board/Commission mission statement from City Code §2-1-123 is:

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;
- (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.**

In the listing below, please find the Early Childhood Council's recommendations to the City Council regarding:

- Alignment of City funded services to the School Readiness Action Plan
- Bridge Child Care Voucher Program for families in crisis
- Parental Leave
- School Readiness Action Plan Alignment process
- Social services RFA
- Texas Workforce Commission comments about the State Child Care Plan for Federal HHS

The ECC worked to connect with related community groups and other City Departments both by inviting presentations to the ECC and by ECC Members visiting the other groups. Please refer to the following list of Presentations and / or Community Contacts:

- Austin Association for the Education of Young Children – multiple updates about activities
- Austin Public Libraries – Children’s Librarian
- Contact with Workforce Solutions about coordination regarding child care issues
- Focus on Children in Travis County: Snapshot from the American Community Survey 2009-2011 - Research & Planning Division, Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service
- HHSF Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget Presentation
- Mothers and Infants Outreach Program
- School Readiness Action Plan by Success By 6 (United Way)
 - Including active membership on the School Readiness Action Plan Leadership Team
- Taking Charge of Change (leadership development for child care directors) presentations by multiple participants
- Travis County Social Services Request for Proposals Plans
- Update by state Child Care Licensing regarding recent changes

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

All six of the charges to the ECC are addressed in its activities and the activities the ECC supported and through both recommendations and work. The highlight of the year is the ongoing work on the Austin/Travis County School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) that included community-wide participation from stakeholders including governments, non-profits, early childhood professionals and parents with the ECC as a major contributor. Five ECC members, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, serve on the SRAP Leadership Team.

The full Austin/Travis County School Readiness Action Plan is available online at:
http://www.unitedwayaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/UWATX_SchoolReadinessActionPlan_full_May2012.pdf

And, the annual update at:
http://www.unitedwayaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/UWATX_SRAPupdate_2013_FINAL_UPDATED.pdf

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

Please see the attached Early Childhood Council 2014 Work Plan.



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL 2014 WORK PLAN

Charge: The Early Childhood Council shall:

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Assignments and Goals

Executive

- With United Way, organize and conduct visits to city council, county commissioners, city and county HHS agency officials. Advocate for
 - Restoring and increasing social service contract funding including prevention for next funding competition
 - Expand scholarships for child care employees
 - Increase funding for Jeanette Watson salary supplements
- Communicate regularly with City Council, County Commissioners Court, and agency officials with written memos (short) as well as visits.
- Continue to update calendar of city and county budget cycles and key dates for ECC.
- Regular reports and follow-up between ECC and related groups.

Policy and Finance

- Review community plans and make recommendations regarding needs of children and families, including: School Readiness, CHIP, Imagine Austin, and Workforce Development plans.
- Develop strategies to engage parents, and train some parents to attend visits with public officials. Work through Success By 6 parent leadership groups.
- Have regular communication with Workforce Solutions Board and staff, and provide public comments regarding CCDF funds and the annual child care plan to the Texas Workforce Commission.

Providers

- Continue to build relationships with local providers.
- Support partnerships between providers and Licensing representatives.
- Address hot topics and emerging issues, and have discussions with relevant officials to improve public services for children, particularly in underserved areas.

All

- Continue to actively participate in and support the ongoing cycle of the early childhood community planning process including membership on the School Readiness Action Plan Leadership Team.
- Follow-up on School Readiness Action Plan, specifically where the ECC is listed as the responsible entity.
- Continue procedures for regular communication with other city boards and commissions that were begun in 2012.