



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL (ECC)

Approved 3/19/2014

2014 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;
- (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.

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.
- Coordination with City services for young children, families, and child care providers.

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.