



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 10, 2014**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at United Way of Greater Austin, 2000 MLK Blvd., in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Kyle Holder (Chair), Dustin Breithaupt, Larry Elsner, Aletha Huston, Laura Koenig, Anurita Mitra, Rhonda Paver, and Avis Wallace. Staff in Attendance: Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) staff - Dr. Rosamaria Murillo, Ron Hubbard and Cynthia Gamez were in attendance.

Chair Holder called the Board Meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTION: Chair Holder asked guests to introduce themselves. New Early Childhood Council member, Anurita Mitra and new Early Childhood Coordinator, Cynthia Gamez also introduced themselves.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: Sue Carpenter, United Way, updated the Early Childhood Council on the City Council candidate forums that United Way is hosting. She encouraged members to attend the upcoming forums. Ms. Carpenter also shared her support for the HHSD staff recommendations for social services contracts.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The August 13, 2014, regular meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Koenig's motion. Council Member Wallace seconded on a 7-0-1 vote with Council Member Anurita Mitra abstaining.
5. PRESENTATIONS:
 - Franciell Farris, Program Specialist, Workforce Solutions Capital Area- Presented on the Texas Workforce Commission's Texas Rising Star (TRS) Policy Concept. There will be an opportunity for public comment on the new child care rules coming out in October which will include the policy concept.

RECOMMENDATION –

Recommendation adopting “*Since the Capital Area Local Workforce board has consistently exceeded monitoring standards as part of its Texas Rising Star (TRS) assessment process which helps improve quality and builds capacity for quality, the Early Childhood Council recommends that TWC allow local board flexibility for TRS monitoring frequency to help meet our community's goals as outlined in the School Readiness Action Plan. The Council would like for a copy of this recommendation to go to TWC*” was approved on Council Member Koenig's motion, Council Member Huston seconded on a 8-0 vote.

The Early Childhood Council suggested looking at the new TRS standards and the crosswalk comparing TRS to National Accreditation standards before making any recommendations on the October child care rules.

- Kurt Becker – Manager, HHSD Immunizations Program –Mr. Becker presented on the City’s available resources for immunizations for un-insured adults (Big Shots). The provider committee will look at all recommended vaccines for adults to assist child care centers with their policies.

6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Executive Work Group – Chair Holder announced that Officer Nominations and elections will occur at the October meeting.
- Policy and Finance Work Group – Tara Carmean, Travis County, presented for absent Council Member, Brook Son, on the Public Participation Project. Last focus group will be October 2, 2014, and then data will be finalized.
- Provider’s Work Group – Council Member Koenig announced that the group will look at the Immunizations policy and work on recommendations for adult vaccines relevant to child care. She also stated that since the Pre-K Resolution calls for the City Manager to report to the Early Childhood Council within 90 days, recommendations can be made at that time.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- Dr. Murillo presented on the mission and goals of the Healthy Texas Babies Coalition. She requested a letter of support from the Early Childhood Council.

RECOMMENDATION –

Recommendation adopting “*The Early Childhood Council supports the Healthy Texas Babies coalition grant and recommends that the Austin City Council also support this initiative by writing a letter of support for the grant*” was approved on Council Member Huston’s motion, Council Member Elsner seconded on a 8-0 vote.

- Ron Hubbard briefed the Council Members on the HHSD presentation for Social Services contracts. No action has been taken. There will be another sub-committee meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014.

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Alison Bentley encouraged Council Members to go to the district forums. On September 18, 2014, United Way will host an early childhood stakeholder meeting at Workforce Solutions.

9. RELATED GROUPS – Austin AEYC President Raye Sansom spoke on the recent Texas AEYC conference hosted by the local affiliate. It was a successful conference with 700 attendees.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Youth Summit Results and Mental/Health Behavioral Health Forum added

ADJOURNMENT - Chair Holder adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m. without objection.