



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 8, 2014**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Kyle Holder (Chair), Jacquie Porter (Vice-Chair), Albert Black, Dustin Breithaupt, Larry Elsner, Aletha Huston, Debra Keith-Thompson, Anurita Mittra, Cindy Rodriguez, Brook Son and Avis Wallace. Staff in Attendance: Health and Human Services Department (HHS) staff - Ron Hubbard and Cynthia Gamez were in attendance.

Chair Holder called the Board Meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Chair Holder asked guests to introduce themselves.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: 4 members disclosed Item 7c as a potential conflict of interest – Jacquie Porter (Vice-Chair), Albert Black, Anurita Mittra and Brook Son.
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September 10, 2014, regular meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Huston’s motion. Council Member Black seconded on a 7-0-1 vote with Council Member Brook Son abstaining.
5. PRESENTATIONS:
 - Kelly Nichols (Woollard, Nichols & Associates) and Arturo Hernandez (ATCIC) briefed the Council on Children’s Mental Health Planning efforts. The goal is to create a community plan for children’s mental health. The group would like for the Early Childhood Council to endorse the plan which will roll out in January/February 2015 and to attend the Children’s Mental Health Summit on February 20th 2015.
 - Council Member Aletha Huston gave an overview of Austin’s Two-Generation Vision. The vision promotes the idea of coordinating high-quality education and job training for parents with high quality early childhood education services for their children. There will be a Two-Generation Forum on October 21st at United Way and Early Childhood Council members were encouraged to attend.
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS
 - Executive Work Group – Council Member Black announced that the Nominations Sub-Committee met and had two motions for Chair and Vice-Chair nominees. There was a motion from the sub-committee to nominate Kyle Holder for Chair. No further nominations were made from the floor. Council Member Larry Elsner seconded on a 10-0 vote. A second motion from the sub-committee to nominate Jacquie Porter for Vice-Chair was made. No further nominations were made from the floor. Council Member Cindy Rodriguez seconded on a 10-0 vote.
 - Chair Holder informed members of the 2015 Work Plan process. Members were advised to review and discuss any revisions needed during their work group meetings. Goal is to approve

the plan in January 2015. A suggestion was made to amend the Work Plan to include SRAP 2.0 recommendations after they are un-veiled in March 2015.

- The draft 2014-2015 meeting schedule with new calendar dates was distributed. A motion to approve the new dates was made by Council Member Huston. Vice-Chair Porter seconded on an 11-0 vote.
- Policy and Finance Work Group – Tara Carmean, Travis County, presented on the Public Participation Project. Focus groups are completed and the work is now focused on compiling data. The data will be presented at the October 31st Early Childhood Stakeholder meeting and will also be shared with the Early Childhood Council.
- Provider’s Work Group – Discussion on crosswalk comparing nationally accredited standards to Texas Rising Star was tabled.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- Cindy Gamez briefed the Council on the Youth Summit. Council Member Elsner and Ron Hubbard also shared their notes from the meeting. Consensus was that there needs to be more emphasis on early childhood.
- Cindy Gamez briefed the Council on a recent resolution passed by City Council calling for the City to provide services to Unaccompanied Children from Central America. A separate resolution calls for the City Manager to research the potential use of a city issued identification card to help immigrant families who face housing, healthcare, and financial barriers without proper identification. Ms. Gamez stated she is on the Unaccompanied Children Task Force which is part of the Immigration Services Network of Austin (ISNA). ISNA’s website and meeting information was presented to the Council.
- Ron Hubbard briefed the Council Members on the Social Services RFA. HHSD staff will present further recommendations brought forth from pre-positioning meetings held with agencies. He announced that the Special Called meeting of the Public Health and Human Services would be held later that afternoon at 3pm at City Hall.

RECOMMENDATION –

Recommendation adopting “*Given the increased number of families with children under the age of 6 in need in our community, the cuts in funding for early childhood in 2011, and the adoption of the School Readiness Action Plan by the City, the Early Childhood Council recommends that the allocation to the area of early childhood in the social service contract review be commensurate with the importance of this age group and the documented benefits from investing in children early in life*” was approved on Council Member Breithaupt’s motion, Council Member Huston seconded on a 7-0-4 vote. Four council members abstained due to potential conflict of interest.

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Alison Bentley announced there will be a large stakeholder meeting on October 31st at United Way. The group will start working on tactics. Strategies recommended from the September stakeholder meeting are being reviewed and prioritized by the SRAP leadership team. Finally, data collection for the 3rd SRAP update is also starting.

9. RELATED GROUPS – None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – 2015 Work Plan Revisions/Discussion

ADJOURNMENT - Chair Holder adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m. without objection.