



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 14, 2015**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Cathy Doggett, Larry Elsner, Kyle Holder, Roscoe Overton, Jacquie Porter, Monica Sanchez, Brook Son, and Sebastian Wren. Staff in Attendance: Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) staff – Cindy Gamez and Ron Hubbard.

Chair Holder called the Board Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTION: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Council Member Son for Item 6b.
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September 9, 2015, regular meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Elsner’s motion, Council Member Porter seconded on a 8-0-0 vote.
5. Presentations – Rebecca Matz with Workforce Solutions Child Care Services presented on the Texas Rising Star Certification program. Ms. Matz gave a general overview of the program and noted changes to the assessment tool. Major changes to the tool occurred in the Qualifications/Training and Curriculum/Lesson Planning sections.
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
 - a) Executive Work Group –
 - i. Council Member Holder reported on the status of the HHSD Re-organization letter to Director, Shannon Jones. Few edits to be made.
 - ii. Council Member Doggett withdrew her name as a nominee for Vice-Chair. A motion by Council Member Overton to nominate Council Member Sanchez as Vice-Chair was made and seconded by Council Member Porter. Motion passed on an 8-0-0 vote.
 - iii. A motion by Council Member Elsner to approve 2015-2016 Calendar Dates was made and seconded by Council Member Overton. Motion passed on an 8-0-0 vote.
 - b) Policy and Finance Work Group -
 - i. Discussion regarding the Continuity of Care funding took place. Members discussed and reviewed a draft letter to City Council recommending that \$500,000 of un-allocated HHSD social services dollars be utilized for the Continuity of Care program. Funding would allow for children to continue to be enrolled in high quality care when parents become ineligible for the federal child care program. A motion to approve letter with noted edits and for Council Chair Holder to sign and send to HHS Sub-Committee was made by Council Member Elsner and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. Motion passed on a 7-0-1 vote with Council Member Son abstaining.

c) Provider Work Group – Did not meet

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- a. HHSD staff, Cynthia Gamez, distributed Resolution 20150623-016 describing an overview of collaborative efforts impacting Pre-K enrollment. Council Member Porter reported that Pre-K enrollment was positively impacted with 4600 children enrolled. Previous estimates projected only 4000 children enrolled.

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Alison Bentley reported that the next stakeholder meeting will be October 29th from 3-4pm at The Allan Center

9. RELATED GROUPS – None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Chair Holder suggested adding an agenda item for discussion and possible action on identifying a City Council member or Mayor as an early childhood champion.

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Holder adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. without objection.