



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

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

Chair Holder called the Board Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The November 18, 2015, regular meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Huston’s motion, Council Member Elsner seconded on a 8-0-0 vote.
5. Presentations – HHSD Director, Shannon Jones III, gave HHSD overview of 2015-2016 Social Services Funding. HHSD received new investments. Suggestion to work with HHSD Planning Unit on the 2017 Community Health Assessment process to identify key connections with the School Readiness Action Plan and Children’s Mental Health Plan.
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
  - a) Executive Work Group –
    - i. Council Member Holder discussed the new School Readiness Action Plan Advocacy Subcommittee. The group wants to formalize its role versus meeting on an adhoc basis. Recommendations from ECC welcomed.
    - ii. ECC members reported on visits with Council Members Kitchen and Houston. The Child Care Continuity Program was the main focus of discussion with Council Members. Feedback from CM’s was to have more data on effectiveness of the program.
    - iii. ECC shared memories and reflected on former ECC member, Timy Baranoff, who passed away December 18, 2015.
  - b) Policy and Finance Work Group -
    - i. Council Member Son reported that the ECC met with HHSD Deputy Director, Stephanie Hayden, and HHSD Assistant Director, Rosamaria Murillo, about the Child Care Continuity program. As a result of the meeting, the ECC will shift focus of funding from social services to a safety net program to emphasize the self-sufficiency aspect. To prepare for March 9<sup>th</sup> HHS Subcommittee briefing, a suggestion to get data of where TRS centers are at in Travis County as well as how long parents stay in jobs was made. The ECC also discussed meeting more regularly with Council Members who appointed them to give them updates on early childhood activities.

c) Provider Work Group – Council Member Porter will Chair the January meeting later this month on January 28, 2016 (12-2pm) at Workforce Solutions. The work group will discuss the new Austin ISD Request for Proposal. AISD is seeking proposals from local qualifying Child Development Centers (CDC) that are interested in partnering to serve Pre-K eligible three and four year old students.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

a. HHSD staff, Cynthia Gamez, reported that three meetings in 2016 will need a location change. Follow up with Allan Center and/or Street Jones suggested.

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Requested support from the ECC Provider Work Group regarding the child care subsidy/head start program RFP. Opportunity for an increase in infant/toddler care for the community. RFP will be released in April and is due in July

9. RELATED GROUPS – None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Presentation by the Ready Families Collaborative/Any Baby Can

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