



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 10, 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, Rhonda Paver, 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 9:05 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 January 13, 2016, regular meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Paver's motion, Council Member Porter seconded on a 9-0-0 vote.
5. Presentations – None
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
 - a) Executive Work Group –
 - i. The ECC is on the March 9, 2016 agenda for the HHS Subcommittee to brief members on the Continuity of Care Program. It was noted during visit to Council Member Delia Garza that she was considering adding the Continuity of Care Program as an action item to the agenda. CM Garza asked ECC to bring witnesses to the March 9th meeting. Upcoming visit to Council Member Tovo is scheduled. CM Holder and CM Elsner will give public comment during the Austin City Council meeting on 2/11/16 in support of the Passages Program.
 - b) Policy and Finance Work Group -
 - i. CM Son briefed the members on updated to the School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) Ready Communities section. ECC has two roles with the plan – (1) ownership of the Ready Communities section and ensuring progress on the five strategies; (2) carrying out specific actions/tactics. The work group has been working on streamlining this section to make it more actionable as well as prioritizing the tactics. A plan to include the SRAP Ready Communities in the ECC Work Plan was discussed. Next meeting is 2/29/16.
 - c) Provider Work Group – Council Member Porter reported that the group met on 1/28/16. Members discussed the purpose of the work group and asked participants to attend. Meeting at a different time was suggested (3rd Thursday). The group also discussed the current Austin ISD RFP for partnerships with child development centers. CM Holder asked for volunteers to Chair the Provider Work Group.

CM Paver emphasized that the shortage of ECC members affects ability to serve on work groups. She volunteered to help with the next meeting on 3/10/16. There will be no February meeting.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- a. HHSD staff, Cynthia Gamez, reported on Resolution 20141211-114 establishing a budget policy that requires the City Manager to develop, as part of the annual budget process for Council consideration, an annual increase to existing social service contracts in the amount equal to, or greater than, an increase in the Consumer Price Index.

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Alison Bentley with United Way reported on the ECC Stakeholder meeting held on 1/28/16. The agencies in attendance were asked who uses developmental screenings and who is not. The goal is to make connections with those who are not so that more children get screened. She also reported that SRAP work groups have been asked to prioritize strategies/tactics. Lastly, SB6 will visit all City Council Members and County Commissioners. Business leaders, child care centers and the ECC will be invited to attend in an effort to coordinate visits.

9. RELATED GROUPS – Alexandra Alfau reported that Any Baby Can will present at the next ECC meeting in March to give us an update on the monitoring visit by the City of Austin. Laura Koenig with E3 gave an update on the National Center for Grade Level Reading. Elaine Clark with Workforce Solutions reported that there are about 1300 children on the waiting list for child care. Workforce Solutions is accepting applications from the board's priority groups.

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

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