



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 9, 2016**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Cathy Doggett, Larry Elsner, Kyle Holder, Aletha Huston, 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 9:08 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: Austin AEYC reported on the upcoming AAEYC Conference on 4/9/16 and Week of the Young Child.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The February 10, 2016, regular meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Huston’s motion, Council Member Overton seconded on a 9-0-0 vote.
5. Presentations – Any Baby Can presented on the Ready Families Collaborative, one of the current social services agreements with the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department. The Collaborative addresses a need for families to have options along a continuum of care for early care and education services.
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
 - a) Executive Work Group –
 - i. Chair Holder reported that he and Council Member Elsner attended the City Council meeting on 2/18/16 to support the Passages Program during public comment.
 - b) Policy and Finance Work Group -
 - i. CM Huston reported that the ECC is off the agenda for the HHS sub-committee meeting for March. CM Huston still plans to speak during Public Comment. She plans to highlight the high points of the Child Care Continuity Services and recommend sending it to full Council. This would require 3 sponsors from Council. ECC Council Members discussed strategies for meeting with their City Council Member before the next HHS sub-committee meeting in May.
 - ii. CM Doggett reported on the School Readiness Action Plan Ready Communities Strategies. The Policy Work Group has developed a tracking system for Goal 2 related to meetings with Council Members. Each ECC member is tasked with meeting with their CM twice a year. A link to Google Docs will need to be sent to ECC members.
 - iii. CM Doggett also requested that the ECC members identify the top three tactics to prioritize/address. Input from the SRAP Leadership Team will also be gathered. Austin Police Department and the Children’s Mental Health Planning group were top priorities.

c) Provider Work Group – No report.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- a. HHSD staff, Cynthia Gamez, updated ECC members on the 6% Social Services Amendment for all social services contract at HHSD. 6% increase will be effective April 1st.
- b. Staff also updated ECC on the status of the Passages Program Ordinance No. 20160225-015 which was approved for \$160K in funding for The Salvation Army. Next steps will be to authorize execution of a contract with The Salvation Army.

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Alison Bentley with United Way reported that United Way Success by Six can assist the ECC with visits to City Council Members. They are currently planning visits to the County Commissioners. Part of the Advocacy Agenda is to re-introduce Council Members and County Commissioners on the School Readiness Action Plan and share bright spots. United Way also plans to thank the County regarding the Continuity of Care Services funding and request that more funding be allocated if possible. There will also be an upcoming Family Fun Day at Allan Elementary on April 30th hosted by Project HOPES in an effort to build a strong community.

9. RELATED GROUPS – Laura Koenig with E3 Alliance shared that United Way and Austin ISD were recognized as Architects of Change for the PreK3 Collaborative. She also reported the 2016 Blueprint for Educational Change Progress report was presented at the Blueprint Leaders Summit and the percentage of school ready children in Central Texas, including Travis County, dropped. A possible cause could be that population growth has increased but services have not. E3 is looking at community strategies to address this issue.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Data Presentation by E3 Alliance

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Holder adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m. without objection.