



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Garry Brown, Larry Elsner, Kyle Holder, Aletha Huston, Roscoe Overton, Rhonda Paver, Jacquie Porter, Monica Sanchez, Brook Son, and Sebastian Wren. Staff in Attendance: Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) staff – Cindy Gamez, Ron Hubbard and Laura Williamson.

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: Member Porter – Agenda Item 7a
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 9, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes will be approved at the June 8, 2016 meeting. The April 13, 2016 Regular Meeting was canceled due to no quorum.
5. Presentations – Neighborhood Housing and Community Development on the FY2016-2017 Action Plan. The City expects to receive \$11.4 Million in federal formula grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Action Plan serves as the City’s application to access these resources. Child Care Services including child care vouchers and direct child care services for teen parents are part of the Action Plan.
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
 - a) Executive Work Group –
 - i. Nominations committee brought forth two nominees for Chair and Vice Chair of the Early Childhood Council. Member Elsner was nominated for Chair and Member Sanchez was nominated for Vice-Chair. Motion to approve nominees was made by Member Huston and seconded by Member Porter. Vote passed on a 10-0-0 vote.
 - ii. Motion by Member Huston to ask the Policy Work Group to plan a retreat to be held during September 2016 meeting. Member Overton seconded and motion was passed on a 7-0-0 vote.
 - b) Policy and Finance Work Group -
 - i. CM Son updated group on the Continuity of Child Care Services recommendation. Resolution 20140414-004 is asking for the City Manager to report back to Council no later than August 2, 2016 on the number of children served with current funding, unmet needs, outputs and performance, and additional recommendations and guidelines. The Policy Work Group will work with City of Austin HHSD staff, Travis County and Workforce Solutions to gather data needed for the report. Advocacy and future meetings with Council by ECC members will be important.

- ii. CM Son reported on the identified groups that the School Readiness Action Plan Ready Communities has prioritized for ongoing engagement: Austin Police Department, Re-Entry Roundtable and Affordable Housing.
- c)
- Provider Work Group – Group met on April 14th. One provider (Austin ISD) attended. The group is looking at different strategies and avenues for engaging providers to participate. The AAEYC Accreditation Network is a possibility. Member Overton will contact Dawn Leach who chairs the network group.
7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
- a. Austin Housing Plan Development possible action item was tabled. Policy Work Group will discuss at their next meeting and bring forth a new recommendation.
 - b. Cynthia Gamez reported that Donna Sundstrom has been named Interim Assistant Director for the Community Services Division.
 - c. Member Huston reported that former ECC member and early childhood advocate, Priscilla Pond Flawn passed away. Member Huston will draft a City Proclamation to be presented to the Flawn family.
8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Alison Bentley with United Way reported on the Early Childhood Stakeholder meeting held on April 28th. She also reported that over 200 people attended the Family Fest on May 7th at Allan Elementary. The fest was organized by Project HOPES.
9. RELATED GROUPS –
- Elwin West with Austin AEYC updated the group on the AAEYC annual conference and the AAEYC Annual Membership meeting to be held on May 12th.
 - Patrick Sanders with Child Inc. reported on the Kids Fest held at Mueller on May 7th. Over 600 people attended. Child Inc. recruited children for next school year. Child Inc. will also host the next Texas Head Start Association conference July 16-20th and the National Head Start Association conference will be held in Austin this December 2016. Date to be determined.
 - E3 Alliance reported that 60 Central Texas school districts applied for TEA grant totaling \$6.1M. The Ready, Set, K has been approved for State-wide use. 15 Central Texas districts are currently using it. AARO will take on another Pre-K enrollment push campaign this summer. E3 is partnering with Concordia University to a professional development project that would transfer into college credit. Private funders will expand Austin ISD Pre-K for 3 year olds to another 15 classrooms next school year.
10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – CIUR 1752 draft report presented to Early Childhood Council

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Holder adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m. without objection.