



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at Workforce Solutions in Austin, Texas.

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

Chair Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 8:36 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:** Amy Mok (Austin AEYC) discussed the \$15/hr living wage recommendation by the City of Austin and the impact to child care centers. Board members suggested child care providers should come to the next meeting to discuss any concerns.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Member Holder moved to approve the August 10, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes and Member Son seconded. Minutes were approved with a 7-0-0 vote.
5. Presentations – None
6. **WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –**
 - a) Executive Work Group –
 - i. ECC Retreat – Chair Elsner reported that the Early Childhood Council would hold a Special Called Meeting immediately following the September 14, 2016, meeting for a board retreat. He invited members of the audience to stay and participate.
7. **STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –**
 - a. Early Childhood Social Services Contracts – Member Huston made a motion to approve the Recommendation for Council Action related to Austin ISD Family Resource Centers program. Member Holder seconded. Motion passed on a 7-0-1 vote with Member Porter abstaining.
 - b. The Early Childhood Council presented former HHSD staff, Ron Hubbard, with a City Proclamation honoring his 21-plus years of service with the City of Austin working with children and families under the issue area of early childhood.
8. **SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE –** Alison Bentley reported that United Way mobilized stakeholders to attend the City Budget hearings to support level funding/increased funding for social services contractors.
9. **RELATED GROUPS –** Elaine Clark with Workforce Solutions reported that new child care rules will take effect on 10/1/2016 which will allow children to receive continuous care for 12 months. The Texas Workforce Commission issued a statewide enrollment freeze due to the new rules as budget implications

are likely. The State's priority 1 group children will continue for one year without a parent share of cost being assessed and will impact the board's expenditures. Length of the enrollment freeze is unknown.

10. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Members discussed having a placeholder for a future meeting to discuss flexibility with City resources and the need for creativity around systems-level planning to address local needs.

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 9:09 a.m. without objection.