



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a Special Called 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 9:15 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None
3. Member Son facilitated the Early Childhood Council (ECC) Board Retreat. Meeting commenced with a brief overview of the ECC basics by staff member, Cindy Gamez, regarding boards and commission's requirements, deliverables and expectations.
4. Past Board Chairs shared key accomplishments and milestones enacted under their tenure, including what was most important to them as a leader of the ECC.
5. The retreat then moved to an impromptu networking session where participants engaged in three rounds of pairing up with a partner to discuss each member's contribution to the ECC and also what each members sees as the greatest challenge of the ECC. How to amplify citizen voice was one of the common themes of this discussion.
6. Member Son and Cindy Gamez then led a discussion on the School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) Overview and the City of Austin HHSD's priorities related to the SRAP. Members were reminded that the ECC is responsible for the Ready Communities section of the plan and for ensuring progress.
7. Members engaged in a deep dive of the Ready Communities sections: 1.) Ensuring Progress; 2.) Aligning policy/priorities; 3.) Advocacy; 4.) Shared system for measurement; 5.) Community engagement. Members broke into small groups to discuss what activities could be accomplished in the next year.
8. Members identified which Work Structures (ad hoc) were needed to accomplish activities. The Policy Work Group, Public Engagement Work Group, and a Cross systems/EC Liaison Work Group were the top proposed work groups. Next steps included action by each member to sign up for one work group and begin work.

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m. without objection.