



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 in the Boards and Commissions room at City Hall, located at 301 West 2nd Street.

Board Members in Attendance: Vice Chair Monica Sanchez and Commissioners Garry Brown, Kyle Holder, Aletha Huston, Roscoe Overton, Rhonda Paver, Jacquie Porter, Brook Son, and Sebastian Wren.

Board Members not in attendance: Chair Larry Elsner

Staff in Attendance: Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) staff – Laura Williamson.

Vice Chair Sanchez called the Board Meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: Julia Campbell (Austin Parks and Recreation Department) discussed an initiative for a Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights. The initiative includes a 3-year implementation plan \$50,000 in funding to implement. The plan will be available to the public in November 2016. The Council requested a presentation be given at the November Early Childhood Council meeting.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - Member Holder moved to approve the September 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes with a revision to reflect a vote of 7-0-1 on Item 7a to reflect an abstention instead of the 7-1-0 language included in the draft minutes, and Member Porter seconded. Minutes were approved with a 7-0-0 vote.
 - Member Huston motioned to approve the September 14, 2016 Special Called Meeting Minutes, Member Brown seconded. Minutes were approved with a 9-0-0 vote.
5. PRESENTATIONS – Police Chief Art Acevedo: Fight Crime, Invest in Kids and Austin Police Department Early Childhood Initiatives
 - Fight Crime, Invest in Kids (Invest) includes Police Chiefs on a national board, Clergy members, retired generals, athletes, business owners, and other collaborative partners invested in positive outcomes for youth
 - There has been a significant increase in criminalization of adolescent behavior that come with severe punishments that follow youth into adulthood
 - Invest focuses on significant returns on investment from investing time and resources in youth
 - i. Helping young people achieve success has positive impacts on public safety
 - School to prison pipeline and lack of afterschool programs have a significant impact on dropout rates

for low-income youth and communities of color

- Member Overton discussed the need for more baseball and recreational options for kids
 - i. Chief Acevedo noted that the Police Activities League currently aims to bring summer camps, soccer programs, and basketball programs to kids that need outlets, which is made possible due to a community members that help with partnerships and sponsorships
- Member Huston addressed an interest in building bridges with APD and Acevedo's ideas about policies that could be implemented in the future
 - i. Chief Acevedo noted that additional funds should be identified to increase the availability of art and athletics programming in school for enrichment
- Member Holder talked about the importance of emphasizing that redirecting dollars toward prevention services will positively impact public safety
- Member Wren stated that investing in early childhood is not just a moral imperative, but that it's fiscally irresponsible not to

6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- Executive Work Group – Board Retreat Update
 - i. Discussion regarding alignment of groups with goals and determination of lead ECC Member for each group
 - Debate regarding whether groups should be on going or reanalyzed on an annual basis
 - ii. Working groups to include:
 - Policy – Will look across local funding sources, policies, and actions across the City and County and through the Workforce Board, and could potentially look at State regulations.
 - ECC Members include: Members Brown, Huston, Overton, Son, and Wren
 - Community Members include: Sue Carpenter from United Way, Ashley Bliss Lima from the University of Texas at Austin
 - Public Engagement – Will look at previous input given and work with the Public Information Office to explore how to gather additional input from parents. Group could partner with United Way.
 - ECC Members include: Vice Chair Sanchez, Members Porter and Son
 - Community Members include: Ryan Baker from Extend-A-Care and Laura Olson from United Way
 - Cross Systems – Will work to coordinate with other issue areas with cross-over interests. Could look at housing, public safety, integrating private provider networks, and incorporate discussion of families reintegrating from the justice system.
 - ECC Members include: Members Holder, Overton, Paver and Son
 - Community Members include: TBD
 - Additional ECC Members and/or community members may be added to these working groups
 - Groups were tasked with meeting prior to the regularly scheduled November ECC meeting to identify tasks that align with goals and begin discussion of 12-month plans.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- None

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Alison Bentley gave notification of a stakeholder meeting planned for October 27th at Allan Elementary

9. RELATED GROUPS –

- Ryan Baker requested that Extend-A-Care be listed as a standing group to give reports
 - ECC Members discussed a process for adding new groups and/or adding general language to allow any organizations to present
 - Policy Work Group will discuss and make a recommendation for process in November

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- Presentation from Parks and Recreation regarding the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights
- Addition of standing updates for Policy Work Group, Public Engagement Work Group, and Cross Systems Work Group
- Adoption of 2017 calendar for regular Early Childhood Council meetings

ADJOURNMENT –Vice Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. without objection.