



## EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at Workforce Solutions, Pecos Room, located at 6505 Airport Blvd., Austin, TX 78752.

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

Board Members not in attendance: N/A

Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health (APH) staff – Cindy Gamez and Laura Williamson. Chair

Larry Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Commissioner Porter recused herself on Item 6c. Commissioner Elsner recused/abstained himself on Item 6cii.
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: No speakers present.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Wren motioned to approve the November 9, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes. Member Porter seconded. Minutes were approved with an 9-0-0 vote.
5. PRESENTATIONS – None
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
  - a) Executive Work Group – New District 6 Commissioner Harrison was in the audience and introduced herself to the ECC Commissioners. Commissioner Harrison will begin service on March 1, 2017.
  - b) Cross Systems Work Group -
    - Commissioner Son reported on ECC meeting with APD on January 18, 2017. Chief Manley is receptive to 211 training for police officers to help officers know how to respond to the needs of families with young children. The Chief also committed to Progressive Community Policing and would appreciate support on this effort from the ECC. The work group members and staff will follow up with Lieutenant Vallejo on police officer visits to child care centers as well as to connect ECE stakeholders with APD District Representatives to speak at Commander Forums.
    - Commissioner Son reported that the next Community Schools Initiative meeting will be on February 22, 2017 from 2pm-4pm. Location is TBD.
  - c) Policy Work Group -
    - i. **Possible Action Item – Discussion and Recommendation related to the Austin ISD Facilities Plan's impact on Pre-K Centers.** The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council support and encourage the AISD Facilities

Planning Committee to create recommendations for facilities and programs that support high quality pre-kindergarten education, including assuring that teachers and principals have expertise in early childhood and that facilities are designed to promote optimal social and intellectual development of young children. The resolution should be sent directly to the Joint Sub-Committee (City of Austin/Travis County/Austin ISD), Austin ISD Superintendent, Austin ISD School Board, and Facilities Planning group. Commissioner Sanchez moved to approve resolution with amendment to the last two paragraphs. Commissioner Paver seconded. Motion passed on an 8-0-1 vote with Commissioner Porter abstaining.

ii. **Possible Action Item – Discussion and recommendation related to HB4 regarding high-quality Pre-K).** The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council amend its legislative agenda to support continuing funding for HB4 at the current level of \$118 million or more per year for the next two years. Commissioner Holder moved to approve with amendment to the last two paragraphs. Commissioner Overton seconded. Motion passed with at 7-0-2 vote with Commissioners Elsner and Porter abstaining.

- Commissioner Huston distributed two letters drafted by the Policy work group. One letter was a “Thank You” letter to City Council for supporting and funding the Child Care Continuity program. Chair Elsner will send to Mayor and all Council Members as Chair of the ECC. The second letter pertained to the ECC vacancies and call to action for Council Members to appoint representatives to vacant seats. The letter was tabled for March 8<sup>th</sup> agenda since there was no action item on the February agenda. Commissioners were encouraged to continue to contact their Council Member to advocate for appointments to be made.
  - District Demographic Fact Sheets were distributed for Commissioners to review and offer feedback before distribution. APH staff will email fact sheets to all Commissioners.
  - Next meeting will be March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3pm-4:30pm.
- d) Public Engagement Work Group update - Group met to discuss defining Public Engagement/Family Engagement with a City of Austin focus. The next meeting will be February 21st at 4pm at La Madeleine Mueller.

#### 7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- a) Commissioners Wren and Sanchez will be the ECC representatives at the CodeNEXT Advisory Group meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.

#### 8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Sue Carpenter

- a) United Way is hosting a luncheon on March 6<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm on Ready, Set, K! E3 Alliance, Laura Koenig, will be presenting.
- b) Austin ISD will be tracking long-term child outcomes for children who had early childhood experiences (i.e. home visiting). Kindergarten registration forms would include a list of programs for parents to check if child(ren) attended.

#### 9. RELATED GROUPS –

- a) Austin Association for the Education of Young Children
- b) Child Care Licensing
- c) Child Incorporated
- d) E3 Alliance
- e) Workforce Solutions

#### 10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- a) Sanctuary City Designation

**ADJOURNMENT** –Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m. without objection.