



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

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

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

Board Members not in attendance: Rebecca Harrison and Roscoe Overton, Sr. 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. INTRODUCTION: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: No speakers present.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Huston motioned to approve the March 8, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Porter seconded. Minutes were approved with a 7-0-0 vote with Commissioner Alvarez off the dais.
5. PRESENTATIONS – Hailey Hale with Austin Public Health gave a brief update on the 2017 Community Health Assessment (CHA) process. Staff are currently taking the draft CHA to the community to get feedback on priorities. Workgroups are being formed to address these priorities. Staff plan to present findings from forums in August/September 2017. Planning will start end of year 2017/early 2018 on the Community Health Indicator Report (CHIP). The Early Childhood Council would like to participate in the process and provide input to the plan. A request to have CHA/CHIP on the regular ECC agenda under Related Groups was requested.
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
 - a) Cross Systems Work Group -
 - i. Commissioner Son reported that the workgroup will have a possible action item at the May meeting on the 2017-18 Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) Action Plan. This is an opportunity for the ECC to provide input to make the plan more family focused. The workgroup will be adding language to update the ECC 2016-17 recommendation to NHCD.
 - ii. Commissioner Son also reported that child care centers who attended the NAEYC Accreditation Network meeting would like help with emergency preparedness training from the Austin Police Department. A request to coordinate child care center visits so that safety/safety assessment is included was made.
 - b) Policy Work Group -
 - i. Commissioner Huston reported that the work group would like to follow up on outcomes data for the Continuity of Child Care funding from Austin Public Health to be able to go back to City Council and Commissioner's court for enhanced funding.

- ii. Commissioner Wren reported that the group will have a possible action item in May on CodeNEXT. Two groups to target for a resolution would be the CodeNEXT Advisory Group and City Council. The Advisory Group would like input from Boards and Commissions by mid-May. Defining affordability will be a focus area.
 - iii. Commissioners Huston and Wren reported that the 1-page flyers with district specific data are close to being ready and that visits to Council need to start soon. Flyer feedback should be sent to staff liaison, Cindy Gamez, by May 3rd. Coordinating visits with United Way Success by Six will need to take place and visits should take place between mid-May and June.
 - c) Public Engagement Work Group update –
 - i. Supervised Children’s Activities – A motion was made by Commissioner Son to approve a resolution (with edits) *in support of supervised children’s activities being implemented that are in compliance with suitable child care policies and procedures to maximize benefits for children participating in programs*. Commissioner Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote with Commissioner Paver off the dais.
7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
- a) New ECC appointees, Carrie Semple (D8) and Mary Jane Burson-Polston (D10) were announced. Both will start service at the May meeting.
 - b) Members recognized outgoing Commissioner, Kyle Holder. Commissioner holder served on the ECC for 18 years.
8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Sue Carpenter reported the Young Children in Nature initiative and the City of Austin grant “Cities Connecting Children and Nature”. Opportunities for more green spaces and appropriate nature experiences for young children. Additionally, landscape architects can work with child care centers on their outdoor learning environments to improve their playgrounds.
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 – NHCD Possible Action item and CodeNEXT Possible Action Item.

ADJOURNMENT –Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m. without objection.