

June 14, 2017

Suggested talking points for visits with City Council

The Goal: Inform City Council members about activities of ECC in last year

ECC has responsibility for advising city about ways to support optimal development of children and families

- ECC has responsibility for Ready Communities section of School Readiness Action Plan
- Worked with City Council members and staff to develop a proposal to fund program for providing continuity of child care for children of parents who are seeking a job.
- Made recommendations to City Council about state legislative agenda (e.g., support for continuing funding quality improvement dollars for Pre-K)
- Responded to request for recommendations on supervised child activities at community meetings
- Provided feedback to CodeNEXT process offering suggestions for promoting affordable housing for families with children. Two ECC Council members represented us at meetings discussing CodeNEXT planning.
- Provided feedback to the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Action Plan supporting affordable housing and child care programs
- Provided recommendations to the AISD Facilities Planning Committee regarding assurance that facilities for pre-kindergarten would promote high quality education
- Recommended city support for family resource centers in AISD
- Recommended continued support for family support services such as Project HOPES
- Recommended city support for Travis County application to provide home visiting services to mothers with young children
- Supported the adoption of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights by the City Council

ECC is charged with promoting cooperative arrangements to support quality early education and care

- Established a relationship with Austin Police Department. APD has appointed an officer to be a liaison with the ECC. One activity under discussion is to have the police department consult with early education centers as they develop required plans for responses to emergencies.
- Collaborate with United Way Success by Six program by taking responsibility for Ready Communities. ECC has a representative on the Success by Six Leadership Team
- Worked with libraries to add story times in East and South Austin, including both Spanish and English

The Ask:

- Continued funding for continuity of child care at or above current levels
- Assure that CodeNEXT planning and NHCD plans address needs of families with young children, including availability of child care