



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 9, 2017**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2017, at Workforce Solutions in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Larry Elsner, Vice Chair Monica Sanchez, Raul Alvarez, Mary Jane Burson, Rebecca Harrison, Roscoe Overton, Sr., Rhonda Paver, Jacqueline Porter, Carrie Semple, Brook Son, and Sebastian Wren. Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health Department (APH) staff – Laura Williamson.

Chair Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Son moved to approve the May 10, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes and Member Harrison seconded. Minutes were approved with a 8-0-0 vote.
5. Presentations –
 - a) School Readiness Action Plan Overview – Alison Bentley, Ph.D., Director of Data and Evaluation United Way for Greater Austin
 - i. Discussion regarding community level demographic data including poverty parameters. Most low-income families are concentrated in the east portion of the City and County. More than 40% of children under 6 live in low-income households, with over 90% of those children in minority families. Kindergarten readiness in Travis County continues to drop for low-income children, which can be partially tied to significant funding drop in 2011 on local, state and federal level. Services have not kept pace with poverty growth. In Travis County, 6,428 children are receiving services but 26,109 children are in need of services. Discussion regarding the School Readiness Action Plan including goals, strategies, and community input and working groups. Board discussion regarding need for more engagement from outside groups and funders that are not currently engaged.
 - b) STRIVE – Laura Koenig, Director of School Readiness, E3 Alliance
 - i. School Readiness Action Plan provides template and guidelines. Resources are not available to build new programming; need to look at most impactful approaches and areas of highest importance in face of drops. Research is clear on best approach, but community is experiencing challenges with capacity and resources. Socio emotional skills are critical to ability to fully benefit from early learning environment; greater scaled of need in this area. Need to break toxic stress cycles and ensure access to mental health resources for young children and families. STRIVE is a national organization that focuses on early childhood and aims to find one area of focus to make progress. Started about same time as E3 Alliance and Success by Six, and all focus on collaboration. The Annie E. Casey Foundation had a planning grant available, but Austin didn't qualify

because the community is too far along. STRIVE is now donating time to go toward similar planning efforts with a launch planned for September for a health, mental health, and early childhood collaboration. SRAP will serve as the framework, and looking for people with influence and/or knowledge to participate in the process. To date, about 35 people have been asked to participate. Process will be structured with 6 days targeted meetings with two days on with 2 days break in between to continue the work. Aiming for strategies to be nimble enough to work across entire region. Will distribute brief to ECC Members.

6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- a) Executive Work Group – Larry Elsner
 - i. Discussed orientation for new ECC Members and mentoring, as well as importance for Members to use City emails. Mayor has appointee on agenda for approval on the August 10th agenda.
- b) Cross Systems Work Group – Brook Son
 - i. No meetings since June, but work has been continuing. Training for APD for childcare center providers. Hoping to connect area representatives from APD to build relationships between families, community, and police. Next Community Schools Coalition meeting scheduled for September 28th.
- c) Policy Work Group – Aletha Huston
 - i. District 2-Page Brochures – (Possible Action Item – Discussion and approval related to district brochures used for early childhood advocacy)
 - Brief overview provided by Member Wren
 - Vice Chair Sanchez motioned to approve the brochures
 - Member Alvarez seconded the motion
 - The motion passed 9-0-0 with Members Porter and Paver off the dais
 - ii. Talking Points for Council Visits – (Possible Action Item – Discussion and approval of suggested talking points for City Council visits)
 - Talking points distributed to Members for review. Discussion regarding whether formal action was needed, and instead recommended as suggested guidelines. No formal action was taken
- d) Public Engagement Work Group – Monica Sanchez
 - i. No discussion

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS – none

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Sue Carpenter, United Way SB6

- a) Early Childhood Career Lattice and Shared Services Model – Cathy McHorse
 - i. Update on the Career Lattice and Shared Services Model will be given at upcoming ECC meeting. United Way representatives are happy to join ECC Members as needed during visits with Council offices. United Way will be holding a quarterly stakeholder meeting on September 28 from 3:00-4:30pm.

9. RELATED GROUPS - none

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – No discussion

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m. without objection.