



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at City Hall, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Larry Elsner, Raul Alvarez, Mary Jane Burson-Polston, Anna Lisa Conlin, Rebecca Harrison, Serena Hill, Aletha Huston, and Sebastian Wren.

Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health Department (APH) staff – Rachel Farley, Donna Sundstrom, and Laura Williamson.

Chair Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 9:08am.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: ECC members, guests, and presenters introduced themselves.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Huston moved to approve the March 21, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes and Member Harrison seconded. Minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0.
5. PRESENTATION: 2018 Bond Program Development Update, Katy Zemesnik and Carla Steffen
 - a) Items related to Early Childhood in the Task Force’s 2018 Bond Package Recommendation are:
 - i. Affordable Housing (\$161 million)
 1. A question was asked about whether affordable housing units are set up for families. The answer was that those specifics are determined as part of individual housing projects.
 - ii. Parks and Recreation
 1. Aquatics (\$33 million)
 2. Playscapes (\$4 million)
 3. Parkland acquisition and development (\$65.5 million)
 - iii. Austin Public Health
 1. Dove Springs Health Center (\$16 million)- next steps include a feasibility study about what facility could work well on the

site. The center may potentially include a medium-sized child care center.

b) Timeline:

- i. April 2018- Task Force recommendation presentation to Council
- ii. May/June 2018- Council deliberates on bond package, Council public hearings
- iii. August 2018—Council finalizes bond package, ballot language set in first two weeks of month, calls election, Council public hearings
- iv. November 6, 2018- Bond Election

6. NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- a) Updates and possible action on findings and items for City Council consideration developed by the work group responding to Council Resolution 20170928-057
 - i. Staff described process undertaken to respond to Council resolution and provided an overview of the Work Groups items for consideration by Council, including 4 funding items totaling \$430,000
 - ii. Member Huston moved to pass a resolution saying that the ECC recommends Council include all four of the funding items put forth by the resolution work group in the FY2018-2019 budget. Member Conlin seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 with Chair Elsner recusing.
- b) Updates and possible action on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 City Budget
 - i. Member Burson-Polston moved that the ECC reissue a recommendation from the previous year that affordable housing funding include units for families. Member Conlin seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- c) Updates and possible action on the 2018 City of Austin Bond Referendum
 - i. Member Huston moved to pass a resolution recommending to Council that the Bond Package include funding for an affordable, high quality child care center at the Dove Springs Health Center. Member Conlin seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- d) Discussion and possible action regarding mental health support and services in child care and education settings
 - i. Diane Ewing from Texans Care for Children gave an update on a recently released report, “Keeping Kids in Class- Pre-K through 2nd Grade Suspensions in Texas and a Better Way Forward”
 1. HB674 outlawed out of school suspension from Pre-K through 2nd graders beginning this school year
 2. The bill allowed but did not mandate Positive Behavior Supports, Social Emotional Learning, restorative discipline, and access to behavioral and mental health specialists as alternatives.
 3. Black boys, foster children, and children in special education are suspended at disproportionately rates
 4. Suspension of students in Pre-K varies widely by district
 5. There is no method for collecting state-wide data on suspensions or expulsions of children in child care centers
 6. In Houston, the school district implemented Positive Behavior

Supports and Social Emotional Learning and saw reductions in both in- and out of school suspensions

ii. ECC members discussed how ECC could impact this topic and what actions may fit within the ECC's purview.

e) Executive Committee updates – Chair Larry Elsner

i. ECC work groups

1. Policy- Travis County HHS is currently conducting a stakeholder input process to inform their social service funding and encourages participation of social service providers.
2. Finance- no updates
3. Community Partnerships and Engagement- no updates

7. STAFF BRIEFING:

- a) Texas Family Connects – no discussion
- b) Cities Supporting a Strong Prenatal to Age 3 Agenda Initiative – no discussion

8. RELATED GROUPS:

- a) Austin Chapter of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TXAEYC) – no updates
- b) Child Care Licensing – no updates
- c) Child Inc. – no updates
- d) E3 Alliance – no updates
- e) Success by 6
 - i. United Way is organizing visits with City Council Members and staff and asks interested ECC members to help arrange visits with the Council Member who appointed them and to attend the meeting.
 - ii. There is an orientation about the School Readiness Action Plan on April 25 at 9:00 a.m. to familiarize people with how it was developed, how it is organized, and how it works.
- f) Workforce Solutions – no updates

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Updates and possible action on the 2018 Bond Referendum
- b. Updates and possible action on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 City of Austin Budget
- c. Presentation on early childhood mental health
- d. Next meeting Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., Location: City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room 1101

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. without objection.