



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20180411-6c1

Date: April 11, 2018

Subject: Recommendation regarding inclusion of the Dove Springs Health Center with a high quality child care center in the 2018 City of Austin Bond referendum.

Motioned By: Member Aletha Huston

Seconded By: Member Anna Lisa Conlin

Recommendation

In Recommendation 20180411-6a, the Early Childhood Council endorsed all items for Council Consideration included in the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K 3 Report developed in response to Council Resolution 20170928-057. This recommendation is for Council to support the inclusion of the Dove Springs Health Center with a high quality child care center in the 2018 City of Austin Bond referendum.

Description of Recommendation to Council

Council passed Resolution No. 20170928-057 which requested information on twelve separate deliverables related to community data, equity gaps, and potential policies and resources that could provide opportunities to expand existing affordable high quality child care services and access to Pre-K.

As part of the response process to this resolution, Austin Public Health convened a Quality Child Care and Pre-K 3 Resolution Work Group which was comprised of local community experts on high quality child care who worked together with City staff to gather and compile community wide data and provide input on policy, best practices, and funding priorities. Additionally, the Work Group developed four categories of items for Council Consideration, including a category for the 2018 City of Austin Bond referendum, which included the following:

Consideration: Include the proposed Dove Springs Health Center in the 2018 Bond Package, and expand the project scope and ongoing operational funding needed for the project to enable inclusion of an affordable, high quality child care center onsite.

Background: The current projected footprint and estimated cost for the project could accommodate a high-quality, affordable child care center that would serve approximately 74 children. The work group recommends that Council include a high quality child care center as part of the 2018 bond package, and commits to fund the associated ongoing operational and maintenance costs for the facility once the center is open.

The Early Childhood Council recommends the City Council include Dove Springs Health Center in the 2018 Bond Package, and expand the project scope and ongoing operational funding needed for the project to enable inclusion of an affordable, high quality child care center onsite.

Rationale:

The Work Group that developed these funding items for Council consideration included representation from the Early Childhood Council, and the Early Childhood Council received updates throughout the process regarding development of the items. As demonstrated in the child care map included in the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K 3 Report, Dove Springs is in

great need of high quality child care services, with inadequate services available to meet the needs of families in the area. This item for the 2018 City of Austin Bond Referendum has the potential to provide high quality services in an area with demonstrated need, improve school readiness and expand access to affordable and high quality early care and education, which is aligned with the goals of the Early Childhood Council and would benefit the community as a whole.

Vote

For: Chair Elsner, Members Alvarez, Burson-Polston, Conlin, Harrison, Hill, Huston, and Wren

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Absent: Vice Chair Sanchez and Members Garcia, Paver, and Semple

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*

Lawrence B. Wren, Chair, Early Childhood Council