



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 8, 2018**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at City Hall, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Larry Elsner, Raul Alvarez, Mary Jane Burson-Polston, Serena Hill, Aletha Huston, Rhonda Paver, Monica Sanchez, and Sebastian Wren.

Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health Department (APH) staff –Laura Williamson and Cynthia Gamez.

Chair Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 9:09am.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: ECC members, guests, and presenters introduced themselves.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None
4. APROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Huston moved to approve the May 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes and Member Alvarez seconded. Minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0.
5. PRESENTATIONS:
 - a) Proposed fiscal year 2019 Austin Public Health (APH) budget- APH budget staff
 - i. Chris Riley, Financial Manager for Austin Public Health presented a general overview of the City Manager's proposed budget for Austin Public Health including sources of funding, where funds are proposed for investment, notable changes, and new investments. The total proposed budget for the department is \$113.6 million, including \$79.3 million in from the General Fund and \$34.2 million from various grants. The proposed budget includes \$128,000 for investments of startup costs for Pre-K 3 classrooms and \$75,000 for a consultant to explore incentives and public private partnerships for quality child care; both of these items were endorsed and recommended by the Early Childhood Council. All budget items are subject to changes and pending City Council approval.
 - b) Success By Six School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) 2019-2023
 - i. Sue Carpenter, United Way for Greater Austin presented, and

outlined the goal of the SRAP to support and advocate for young children. The first version of the SRAP was published for 2012-2015, the second version was published for 2015-2018, and the community development process is nearing completion for the next iteration which will span 2019-2023. The SRAP is a community plan with broad ownership and engagement. General overview was provided regarding partnerships and progress to date regarding services, coalition building, data collection. Three requests included 1) ECC representation to serve in key leadership role in activation of new plan; 2) ECC participation requested in final SRAP planning efforts; and 3) ECC endorsement of SRAP 3.0 was encouraged.

6. NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- a) Chair and Work Group Updates
 - i. Chair updates- Larry Elsner
 - 1. ECC member attendance – Attendance records were distributed, and the importance of regular attendance was discussed among the ECC Members
 - 2. Election of Officers
 - a. Member Huston moved to elect Larry Elsner as Chair and Raul Alvarez as Vice Chair, Member Paver seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 8-0
 - 3. Updates on plan to invite Council Member Delia Garza, Mayor Steve Adler, and City Manager Spencer Cronk to ECC to speak about their Early Childhood priorities and agenda
 - a. ECC Members discussed interest in moving forward with invitations for item, with each person at separate meetings and inclusion of an invite for the new Police Chief.
 - ii. Policy Work Group- Aletha Huston – no updates
 - iii. Finance Work Group- Raul Alvarez –no updates
- b) Community Partnerships and Engagement Work Group – no updates
- c) Updates and possible action on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 City of Austin Budget – no updates
- d) Updates and possible action on the 2018 City of Austin Bond Referendum – no updates

7. STAFF BRIEFING:

- a) Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) request for applications for child care services – Cindy Gamez from Austin Public Health discussed a recent meeting with staff of NHCD to develop solicitation for child care services that include high quality standards.

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 – no updates
- f) Workforce Solutions – Reimbursement rates have been increased as much as 30%

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Discussion regarding November Early Childhood Council retreat, including discussion of the School Readiness Action Plan
- b. Presentation on early childhood mental health
- c. Next meeting Wednesday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m., Location: Workforce Solutions, 6505 Airport Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. without objection.