



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 12, 2018

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at Workforce Solutions Capital Area in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Elsner and Members Hill, Sanchez, Alvarez, Wren, Huston, Harrison, Burson-Polston, and Cortes-Castillo

Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health Department (APH) Staff- Rachel Farley, Cindy Gamez, Donna Sundstrom, Laura Williamson

Chair Elsner called the Meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: ECC members, guests, and presenters introduced themselves.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: Kelly Nichols, Woodward, Nichols, and Associates. Nichols is working with AISD on a 5-year plan for the district's vision for early childhood. This will be a 6-month process and they may reach out to the ECC and to individual members for input.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Huston moved to approve the August 8, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes with no changes and Member Harrison seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.
5. PRESENTATION: None
6. NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:
 - a. Chair Updates- Larry Elsner
 - i. Work group meeting times and membership
 - Policy Work Group** works closely with the Success by Six School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) and in the past has taken the lead on some goals from the Ready Communities section of the SRAP. Members worked closely with Austin Public Health on the High Quality Child Care/Pre-K 3 City Council Resolution Work Group recommendations. The last meeting was held in the evening so all members could attend.
 - Chair: Anna Lisa
 - Current Members: Anna Lisa, Aletha, Serena, Sebastian, Larry
 - Community Members: Cathy McHorse and Sue Carpenter, United Way
 - Interested in joining: Monica
 - Finance Work Group** weighs in on items that have a fiscal impact, such as the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development annual plan and bonds and budget

items. Next year's budget has passed and the bond package is set. Next year NHCD will adopt a new 5-year consolidated plan. Meetings are generally the first Tuesday at 3:00.

- Chair: Raul
- Current Members: Raul, Larry
- Community Members: Cathy
- Interested in joining: Ami

Community partnerships and engagement work group needs help identifying goals and purpose of group. Group does not have specific vision or common understanding and has had trouble scheduling time to meet. Last year's work group wanted to get more people to come to share citizen's communication, and tell more community members about the ECC and its role. In the past the ECC had a child care provider group. At the January 2018 retreat members envisioned this group liaising with other boards and commissions to align, when possible, priorities and Council recommendations. Other ideas: help with community engagement strategy around the SRAP, attend Workforce Solutions child care directors' meetings and quality meetings. Members could reach out to past chair Brook Son. This will be revisited at the November meeting.

- Chair: Needed
- Current Members: Rebecca, Rhonda, Jennifer
- Community Members: None currently
- Interested in joining: Mary Jane, Monica, Serena

ii. November 14 meeting

1. Location change to Workforce Solutions Capital Area, Lone Star Room
2. Agenda- planning retreat, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
 - a. Discuss how ECC can align with the Success by 6 SRAP for 2019-2023
 - b. Review of High Quality Child Care/Pre-K3 Resolution Recommendations
 - c. Plan ECC priorities for 2019- **Homework** before meeting- Read SRAP 3.0 goals and strategies and think about how ECC can align, especially the Community Engagement Work Group; Read the Resolution Work Group recommendations and think about what work groups could focus on particular items

b. Policy Work Group- Aletha Huston

- i. Recommendation for ECC to endorse United Way for Greater Austin's adoption of a public policy agenda. Member Wren moved to endorse the agenda, Member Harrison seconded, motion passed by a vote of 9-0.
- ii. Success by 6 School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) 2019-2023
 1. Update from Cathy McHorse, Early Childhood Education Director, Success By 6, United Way for Greater Austin. SRAP 3.0 about to launch a 5-year plan with the overall goal of kids in our community being happy, healthy, and ready to learn. Working now to add action steps to the plan and get endorsements from the Mayor and others.
 2. Work group recommendation for ECC to endorse SRAP 2019-2023. Endorsement signifies commitment to work on the plan. Member Harrison moves to endorse it, Member Burson-Polston seconded, motion passed 9-0.
- iii. ECC member as standing representative on the SRAP Leadership Team (LT). Member Cortes-Castillo attends as an AISD representative, Member Conlin attends as a Travis County representative. SRAP LT to meet every month. Member Burson-Polston to join as ECC representative.

c. Finance Work Group- Raul Alvarez- No further updates.

d. Community Partnerships and Engagement Work Group- No further updates.

7. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. Update on High Quality Child Care/Pre-K3 Resolution Recommendations- Laura Williamson and Donna Sundstrom, Austin Public Health: The FY2019 City budget is aligned with the City's Strategic Outcomes. The 1st and 4th funding considerations were passed in the budget. One provides \$128,000 in start-up costs for additional Pre-K 3 classrooms in area school districts. It was asked whether the funds can be used for community-based partnership classrooms. The City can explore that. The other provides \$75,000 to hire a consultant to work with the Economic Development Department, APH, and community partners to study options for incentives and public-private partnerships related to quality child care. Council included on the 2018 bond package a new child care center in the proposed new Dove Springs Health Center, which would also include a food pantry, WIC, immunizations, and basic needs assistance. Casar is still pushing for a neighborhood center and onsite child care center at Gus Garcia.
- b. Update on Prenatal to 3 work and Family Connects- Rachel Farley, Austin Public Health. APH has hired Mary Jamsek as the Pritzker Early Childhood Fellow for 2 years to work on developing a coordinated enrollment system for early care and education services through child care subsidies, public Pre-K, and Early Head Start. APH has been promoting Bright By Text to the public and through other City departments. UWATX held a Family Connects launch event. APH Family Connects staff are hired and awaiting finalization of agreement with St. David's South to start serving clients from that hospital.

8. RELATED GROUPS (Only as needed)

- 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, Cathy McHorse from United Way- Early Matters Greater Austin business alliance is launching a family friendly workplace toolkit this fall to help businesses support families with young children. They hope to share it with the ECC and have ECC help in disseminating it in the community.
- f. Workforce Solutions, Nicole Robinson- Intake is currently open, WFS has been outreaching to families on wait list since mid-June. There are currently 1,271 families with 1,900 children on the wait list. There has been an increase in reimbursement rates. WFS goal is to add 500 new families. Some new rules related to absences and parent share of cost took effect August 1 that will affect attrition.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Invitations for Mayor Adler, City Manager Cronk, Council Members Garza and Alter, and Police Chief Manley to speak about their early childhood priorities
- b. Presentation on Texas Family Connects
- c. Information on Early Matters Greater Austin family friendly workplace toolkit

ADJOURNMENT- Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m. without objection.