



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 10, 2018**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

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

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

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

1. INTRODUCTION- ECC members, guests, and presenters introduced themselves.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST- None
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: Amy Woodward from Child Care Licensing at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission said that they are working to get the word out to child care providers about the Provider Portal. Providers should know that starting in January all providers are required to register with Child Care Licensing and provide an email address. All communications and background checks will be done via email and the provider portal. There are revised minimum standards effective in January with an 8 month grace period. They include more stringent requirements for CPR for both center-based and home-based providers.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Alvarez moved to approve the September 12, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes with no changes and Member Huston seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.
5. PRESENTATIONS: None
6. NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:
 - a. Update on Travis County funding for early childhood services- Anna Lisa Conlin
Over past 5 years, County funding for contracted early childhood services has been stable and remained with the same contractors. The County is starting the process again and will release an RFA in fall 2020. The County is working with the Commissioners to determine funding amounts by issue area and on December 11, there will be a public meeting to discuss this. Currently children and youth have more funding than any other issue area. Travis County funding for Continuity of Care, which supports child care subsidies, has increased by \$250,000 for 2019.
 - b. Chair Updates- Larry Elsner
 - i. Review and approve calendar of 2019 regular meetings
Members reviewed draft calendar. ECC may seek a location other than City Hall

for the March 2019 meeting to avoid SXSW. Member Paver moved to approve the calendar with one change- having the October meeting on the 16th. Member Wren seconded the motion and the calendar was approved by a vote of 9-0.

November 14 meeting- retreat to plan ECC priorities for 2019

1. Agenda: Members will discuss realistic priorities for next year and think about what work groups would be helpful based on those priorities. Chair asks members to think about how the ECC can be most effective ahead of the retreat. An update to the community's Success By 6 School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) 2019-2023 is in progress and was endorsed by the ECC. SRAP work groups are now developing action plans. Members will also discuss how ECC can align with the Success By 6 School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) 2019-2023 goals and strategies and what aspects of the SRAP relate to the City that the ECC could support. Staff will review the City's Strategic Outcomes which guides the City's work and members will discuss sections relevant to early childhood. Members will also review progress on recommendations to Council that were part of the High Quality Child Care/Pre-K3 resolution. Members will discuss key points to highlight with City officials invited to speak to ECC in 2019. Members will decide on ways to systematically orient and onboard new ECC members.
 2. Note on location, early start time, extended meeting time (see item 9.c)
- c. Policy Work Group Updates- Anna Lisa Conlin and Aletha Huston
- i. Recommendation for ECC to endorse United Way for Greater Austin proposal to the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) to incorporate high quality child care centers in new property designs
Cathy McHorse from United Way for Greater Austin (UWATX) provided background. UWATX is working on a 2-gen strategic plan to align and link family economic security goals with high quality early childhood programs. This has included conversations about the potential to co-locate child care centers with housing for families with low income. HACA is looking at building new properties and we want to encourage them to include child care centers in designs. Member Huston moved that the ECC endorse the UWATX proposal to HACA and Member Burson-Poslton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.
 - ii. ECC comment submission for a retrospective review pilot program to assess existing policies, rules, and regulations related to the City's Economic Opportunity and Affordability strategic outcome
Chair Elsner sent an email to ECC members inviting them to submit input if they wanted, especially as it relates to the recommendation ECC has previously endorsed about fees and zoning for child care centers.

d. Finance Work Group Updates- Raul Alvarez

The NHCD will work next year to update the 5 year consolidated plan for using a variety of federal funding sources. They will begin a community engagement process in January. NCHD will use the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint as a framework for their consolidated plan. We need to determine how to make recommendations related to child care to be included in that plan. Members learned that the public does not have an easy where to know where the affordable housing units are at this time.

NHCD is trying to create a real-time system for this purpose which has been recommended by the Anti-Displacement Task Force. Agencies working with families looking for housing, such as Child Inc., also need more information on housing options for families.

- e. Community Partnerships and Engagement Work Group Updates- No update. Cathy McHorse is happy to work with members of this group.
- f. Updates from ECC representative on the Success by 6 School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) Leadership Team- Mary Jane Burson-Polston. Member Burson-Polston will continue to serve as the ECC rep to the SRAP Leadership Team and explore how ECC can support the SRAP.

7. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. Update on child care resolution considered by Council on 10/4/18- Laura Williamson, Austin Public Health
CM Garza sponsored Resolution Number 20181004-36 directing the City Manager to evaluate fee and zoning regulations relating to opening, expanding and operating high quality child care centers; present council with options for removing financial and operational burdens on high quality centers; and to review and provide recommendations to Council on where to increase zoning categories where child care is a permitted use or provide waivers for permitting or permit fees for high quality centers. The resolution was co-sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, Mayor Adler, and CM Alter, and passed on consent. The resolution came out of a work group recommendation to Council in response to Resolution No. 20170928-057 on High Quality Child Care and Pre-K.
- b. Update on Prenatal to 3 work and Family Connects- Rachel Farley, Austin Public Health
Family Connects nurses have been doing outreach and engagement with obstetricians and pediatricians offices and are accepting referrals from OB offices for postpartum families who delivered at St. David's South Medical Center. They are also using social media to drive families to the web site to schedule home visits. Family Connects is awaiting finalization of the contract with St. David's South to begin direct outreach to postpartum families in the hospital.

8. RELATED GROUPS- no updates

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Invitations for City officials to speak about their early childhood priorities
- b. Presentations on: 2-Gen Strategic Plan, Early Matters Greater Austin business alliance, Family Connects
- c. Next meeting- Wednesday, November 14, **Location-** Workforce Solutions Capital Area, Lone Star Room, 6505 Airport Blvd., **8:30-11:30 a.m.**

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