



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 9, 2019**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at City Hall.

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

Staff in attendance: Rachel Farley, Laura Williamson, Donna Sundstrom

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: GENERAL-** None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Member Harrison moved to approve the November 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes with no changes and Member Paver seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0.
5. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - a. **Early Matters Greater Austin (EMGA) business alliance and Family Friendly Workplace Toolkit- Cathy McHorse, United Way for Greater Austin**
 - EMGA is a joint venture between UWATX and E3 Alliance to engage business leaders around early childhood issues. Mark Williams is the chair of the steering committee. Members understand the importance of early learning and Pre-K. They visited Mainspring to see a high quality child care center in action and are interested in advocating for affordable high-quality child care in the community.
 - EMGA members will advocate for early childhood policies and funding priorities. They provided testimony about the COA budget to City Council and emailed Council to express support for start-up costs for additional public Pre-K classrooms. They are also interested in advocacy at the state level around early education and Pre-K funding.
 - EMGA members want to find innovations that support early care and education. They are working with Dell Medical School and an innovation group in California and are planning for a potential early education innovation conference.
 - EMGA developed a family friendly workplace toolkit that makes the case for why early childhood should matter to businesses, helps businesses assess how family friendly they are, and gives them options of ways to become more family friendly in areas such as health benefits, family leave, and support for finding child care. Includes resources for families.

6. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. Updates on: 2019 ECC meeting locations, Council Resolution 20181004-36, invites to City officials to speak with ECC in 2019, Family Connects, and Prenatal to 3 work- Rachel Farley, Austin Public Health (APH)
 - As of now, all 2019 regular meetings will be at City Hall except 9/11/19 meeting which will be at alternate location
 - COA Development Services and Planning and Zoning Departments staff working on CR 20181004-036 to explore options for COA to reduce barriers to opening, operating, or expanding child care centers with high quality ratings that serve children on subsidies through potential fee waivers and or zoning changes; seeking input from child care centers through a questionnaire
 - Mayor Pro Tem Garza will come to the February ECC meeting; Council Member Garza will come in June; No responses yet on invites to Mayor Adler, City Manager Cronk, or Police Chief Manley
 - Family Connects agreement with St. David's South was finalized and the program has started scheduling a postpartum nurse home visit with families before discharge
 - Work continues on a project to develop a coordinated entry system for public pre-K, child care subsidies, and Early Head Start and Head Start. TEA received a federal Preschool Development Grant and will be providing technical assistance to this project and another coordinated enrollment project in Dallas.
- b. **Update on consultant hired to study potential incentive programs and public-private partnerships that could be effectively implemented in Austin around quality child care- Laura Williamson, APH**
 - This was a Child Care Resolution work group recommendation endorsed by the ECC that was approved by Council.
 - APH has hired Jon Hockenyos from TXP consulting to work with APH, United Way and EMGA. He is exploring options for incentive programs and public-private partnerships that would expand access to affordable high quality early care and education. He is researching best practices from other cities. He is also working with the Economic Development Department which recently got approval for the Chapter 380 state incentive program, and is looking what could be included in that to support expanded child care access. Additional recommendations could be implemented during a policy review of Chapter 380 when Council is considering the budget. TXP's final report will be submitted to Council in early June. The agreement with TXP extends through then end of the fiscal year in case there are budget implications.

7. NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

- a. Chair Updates- Larry Elsner
 - i. **ECC members and vacancies**
 - There are not yet appointees for districts 1 or 8. Appointees for these districts will start in February at the earliest. There is a vacancy for the Mayor's appointee.
 - ii. **Plans for orienting new members to the ECC**
- ECC members decided that an ECC mentor should have a 1:1 meeting with new members that includes the following information:
 - Purpose, role, and foci of the ECC (give them the ECC by-laws)
 - City sets policies and makes funding decisions, the ECC works to ensure the interests of families with young children are taken into account
 - ECC work groups and their foci

- How ECC aligns with and supports the community's Success By 6 School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP)
- Volunteers mentors- Aletha, Mary Jane, Sebastian,
- Rachel can connect new member with mentors asap
- New members should also be given information about:
 - Challenges in Austin related to accessing affordable high quality child care (could provide them links to the Child Care/Pre-K 3 resolution report with work group recommendations, the map, and the table with the status of the work group recommendations)
 - Early Matters Greater Austin and the family-friendly toolkit so they can learn about recommendations ECC could make to the City regarding family-friendly business practices
 - Some history about the ECC, its focus in the past, history of SRAP and its relationship to ECC (SB6 assumed many of the responsibilities that this body could not do but wanted to, we can think of the ECC and SRAP as two parts of a system working toward the same goals), and the work of the ECC in the past (provide links to minutes from recent meetings, annual reports from recent years, SRAP)
 - Overview of City budget process, including how the Strategic Direction 2023 is the framework used
 - List of acronyms
- Orientation ad hoc work group to meet to plan the process and put together a new member packet; Members- Mary Jane, Aletha, Rebecca, Sebastian, Larry, Rachel (Rhonda has paper docs to contribute)

iii. Work groups- Policy, Community Partnerships and Engagement, Group preparing for City officials coming to ECC

1. Group meetings and membership

- Policy work group members: Anna Lisa (lead), Aletha, Ami, Raul, Sebastian
- Community Partnerships and Engagement work group members: Rebecca (lead), Mary Jane, Monica, Rhonda
- b. Updates from work group on ECC priorities to share with City officials who come to ECC- None
- c. Policy Work Group Updates- Anna Lisa Conlin- - None
- d. Community Partnerships and Engagement Work Group Updates- Rebecca
 - **How can this group work with other boards and commissions-** ECC can request being added to other commissions' meeting agendas or can speak during citizen's communication; if speaking officially as ECC rep, ECC would need to approve it
- e. Updates from ECC representative on the Success by 6 School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) Leadership Team- Mary Jane Burson- - None
- f. Updates on Success By 6 School Readiness Action Plan data committee- Anna Lisa- - None

8. RELATED GROUPS UPDATES (Only as needed)

- a. Austin Chapter of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TXAEYC)- None
- b. Child Care Licensing- None
- c. Child Inc.- None
- d. E3 Alliance- None
- e. Success by 6- None
- f. **Workforce Solutions-** Workforce Solutions Capital Area does not have a standing wait list at this time and is recruiting and outreaching to families for open enrollment.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Presentations
 - i. Workforce Solutions Capital Area- How additional funding for quality and subsidies is being used
 - ii. Community 2-gen work and strategic plan
 - iii. United Way's family engagement initiative
 - iv. Texas Family Connects
 - v. Staff to ask Equity office to present on race equity
- b. Next meeting- Wednesday, February 13, City Hall, 9:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT- Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at Adjourned at 10:40 without objection.