



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at Workforce Solutions.

Board Members in Attendance: Acting Chair Alvarez and Members Hosking Pulido, Worthington, Wren, Huston, Bliss Lima, McHorse, Burson, Cortes-Castillo, Conlin

Staff in attendance: Rachel Farley, Donna Sundstrom, Cindy Gamez, Mary Jamsek, Estella Kirscht

Acting Chair Alvarez called the Meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS** - ECC members and guests introduced themselves
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - none
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**
 - a. Carrie Schonaerts – Petite Ecole Internationale Montessori school shared challenges with the school’s new space which they purchased from a church; property is not zoned as a church but as a single-family residence; they are trying to work with the City of Austin to acquire permits, but this has been a challenge; families have left the center and they have had to let some staff go because of these challenges and delays; she is looking for an interim building as they have to be out of their current building by October 2019; Acting Chair Alvarez offered to talk more offline on this issue; they could use help navigating how to get their permit changed in a more timely manner
 - b. Jaime Garcia, Operations Director for Extend A Care for Kids discussed the organization’s 50th year anniversary and their upcoming merger with YMCA in January 2020
 - c. Jelina Tunstill with Community Advancement Network (CAN) presented their 10th anniversary data dashboard report and handed out hard copy to ECC members, along with a CAN Child Poverty Report that was also given to City Council
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The June 12, 2019, and August 14, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes by a vote of 7-0 (Members Houston, Bliss Lima, Cortes-Castillo were not present during the vote).
5. **PRESENTATION**
 - a. **Paola Silvestre Porras, Director of Family Pathways, United Way for Greater Austin (UWATX)**- Power point presentation on the 2- Generation Strategic Plan, regarding removing barriers to higher wages for financially stressed families. The successes so far include: drop-in child care at ACC’s at Highland campus in partnership with the YMCA, new community partnerships, aligned funding, and the 2-gen plan serving as a model for other communities. A policy committee meets quarterly. Over the next year, the group will focusing on how to better serve immigrant families, address mental health needs, and provide financial coaching.
6. **NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:**
 - a. **Chair updates, Acting Chair Raul Alvarez**
 - ECC work plans- ECC work groups should review and prioritize next steps; can update monthly
 - Joint Inclusion Committee- Chair Janee Briesemeister has reached out; ECC may take up a recommendation that ECC have a representative on the committee at a future meeting

- b. **Policy work group updates, Anna Lisa Conlin and Cathy McHorse**
 - Dove Springs Health Center and Child Care Center- Cathy McHorse–bond election to build a health center with a high-quality child-care center –Matt Worthington spoke to the Parks Board in support of moving forward with using park land for the health center and Success By 6 (SX6) submitted a letter of support – Parks Board approved mitigation plan
 - Work group to invite Nicole Robinson from Workforce Solutions to next meeting to discuss Continuity of Care
 - An ECC representative can sit on the SX6 policy committee
- c. **Community Partnership and Engagement work group updates-** No updates, meetings currently scheduled for 4th Thursday at Kneaded Pleasures at 9AM
- d. **Success By 6 Coalition leadership team updates-** No updates

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- a. City budget
 - The FY2020 budget includes funding for a high quality child care center for City employees and community members, and a drop-in child care space for people coming to the municipal court for court business at Bergstrom Tech Center; where the City is leasing office space
 - Other early childhood funding remains the same for FY2020
 - End of FY2019 funds are supporting:
 - \$128K for Pre-K classroom start-up costs- 5 in AISD, 3 in DelValle
 - Child Inc. with \$36k for teacher training and educational materials
 - UWATX with \$50K for teacher training and educational materials for child care centers participating in Pre-K partnerships
 - Undoing Racism training for SX6 Coalition leadership team and other early childhood stakeholders
 - Equity strategy session for SX6 coalition leadership team
- b. Prenatal to 3 work/National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers
 - Family Connects nurses have conducted 467 postpartum family visits; visits are highlighting challenges and needs facing families, such as transportation to appointments
 - African American Youth Harvest Foundation doing a survey of parents of young children; please help get the word out

8. RELATED GROUPS

- Nicole Robinson with Workforce Solutions – New child care contractor, Baker Ripley, starts October 1; there is a child care subsidy wait list, but enrollment is open, Travis County has increased funding for Continuity of Care

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. October 16 at City Hall- Go! Austin /¡Vamos! Austin (GAVA)
- b. November 13 at City Hall- Police Chief Manley confirmed; Workforce Solutions Capital Area
- c. Possible presentations to schedule:
 - Family Connects
 - Head Start/Early Head Start providers
 - Rose Coleman- teen parent program and child care centers in Austin ISD

ADJOURNMENT- Acting Chair Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 10:33 without objection.