



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

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

Board Members in Attendance: Sebastian Wren, Ashley Bliss Lima, Cathy McHorse, Matt Worthington, Anna Lisa Conlin, Rhonda Paver, Eliza Gordon, Dr. Aletha Huston, Mary Jane Burson

Austin Public Health staff in attendance: Rachel Farley, Mary Jamsek, Estella Kirscht

Cathy McHorse called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS** - ECC members and Austin Public Health staff introduced themselves
2. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION** – Jackie Goodman spoke about item 6.a.i suggesting the ECC community engagement work group ask parents and caregivers what meeting times and locations would work for them. Locations could include libraries or the Dove Springs Health Center when completed.
3. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Member Huston moved to approve the September 11, 2019, regular meeting minutes with no changes and Member Gordon seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.
5. **PRESENTATION**
 - a. **Go Austin! Vamos Austin! (GAVA) Overview, Early Childhood Priorities, and Future Opportunities-** GAVA Deputy Director Jackie Goodman, Coordinated School and Childhood Health Specialist, and Laura Olsen, Early Childhood Community Organizer Michelle Mejia presented on GAVA which is a 501c3 that was created to combat child obesity in the eastern crescent. Key points included:
 - GAVA works in 78744, 78745, 78752, 78753, 78758
 - Foci: Systemic health inequities; physical activity and nutrition, building community power, fostering permanency for residents
 - Activities include training resident leaders and engaging early childhood centers and home providers about outdoor learning environments, physical activity, parent engagement
 - Suggestions to ECC: post ECC policy priorities and how community can get involved, rebuild awareness around early childhood issues, engage in community input on the Dove Springs Health Center, participate in Week of the Young Child, advocate for safe routes to school, collaborate with GAVA on Council visits to include resident leaders
 - GAVA will create list of community requests and input on Dove Springs Health Center for ECC as requested
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Chair Updates, Vice Chair Cathy McHorse**
 - i. 2020 Calendar of ECC meetings- Some interest in having evening meetings so early childhood professionals or parents could attend; others prefer day time meetings; meetings do not need to meet at City Hall; Proposal to maintain current time for 8

meetings and 2 evening meetings in other locations in April and fall; to vote on calendar November 13

- b. **Policy work group updates** - work group is now full; September meeting information:
 - Nicole Robinson from Workforce Solutions attended; policy work group will share regular updates on key child care metrics to ECC
 - Discussion of paid parental/medical leave for families in Austin; Early Matters Greater Austin toolkit a good starting place to highlight this issue; City passed resolution encouraging business to adopt family friendly workplace policies and procedures
 - ECC annual review's goals for coming year will be updated and reviewed by Community Engagement Work Group
 - Regular update emails ECC members could send to City Council Members
- c. **Community Partnership and Engagement work group updates**- Rhonda Paver and Mary Jane Burson willing to lead the work group; next meeting date not yet set
- d. Success By 6 Coalition leadership team updates- APH sponsoring an Undoing Racism Training for coalition members December 3, 4, 5

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Rachel Farley, Austin Public Health
 - i. **Child Care Centers on City of Austin owned and leased land**- Staff in initial stages of work on plans for child care at Dove Springs Health Center; APH staff working with Office of Real Estate Services to include a child care center in space City is leasing at Bergstrom Tech Center
 - ii. **Prenatal to 3 work/National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers**- APH looking for candidates for full-time, 1-year Early Childhood VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) position; seeking someone who is bilingual and has early childhood background or interest

8. RELATED GROUPS

There is an opportunity for the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children to collaborate with Success By 6 and Austin Public Library

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. November 13 at City Hall
 - Police Chief Manley
 - Child Care Subsidies- Nicole Robinson, Workforce Solutions Capital Area
 - Vote on 2020 ECC meeting calendar
- b. No meeting in December
- 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
- d. Select someone to represent ECC in community engagement on Dove Springs Health Center

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.