

Quality of Life Study

QUALITY OF LIFE COMMISSION | CITY OF AUSTIN

Early Childhood Council

Quality of Life Study Guiding Questions

Recommended process for today's discussion.

- Discuss the 9 topics below, which were part of an outline that the LGBTQ+ QOL group used at the beginning of their work.
- Tom Hedrick to facilitate.
- Each topic has suggested time limit to ensure that we get through all/most of the issues. We will attempt to stick to those limits but do NOT want to limit discussion.

Blue = suggestions from SX6 Coalition Leadership Team Brainstorming

1) How do we define quality of life or find out what it is? *(15 minutes)*

- Can we have initial focus groups that help decide this?
- What parts of life are we trying to improve?
- Begin with a focus group, so the questions start with the community; starting the question with equity in mind.
- QOL overview from Wikipedia: **Quality of life (QOL)** is defined by the [World Health Organization](#) as "an individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns".^[1] Standard indicators of the quality of life include [wealth](#), [employment](#), the [environment](#), [physical](#) and [mental health](#), [education](#), [recreation](#) and [leisure time](#), [social belonging](#), [religious beliefs](#), [safety](#), [security](#) and [freedom](#).

2) Goals – what does success look like? What do we want out of the study? (15 minutes)

- Actionable: Need for concrete recommendations or a survey of strengths, gaps, desires?
- Do we want to align with COA strategic direction areas? For more detail: <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=341820>
- Accessible, readable story telling
- Strengths-based power Analysis

3) How do we define boundaries/ scope: Whose quality of life are we trying to learn about? (10 minutes)

- Who are the constituents that we are trying to study –
 - Age of children
 - Demographic characteristics (Family? Caregiver?)
 - Region
- Define subgroups:
 - Language - people who speak languages other than English
 - Age groups - infants, 0-3, preschool, school age
 - Income
- To what extent does lack of access leads families in our community to alter their career - how often would one parent choose to stay home? What aspect/ direction (Healthy beginnings, 0-3, specifically focusing on?)
- What does it look like for parents who wish they could be home, when they have pressure to figure out care. The stability piece (housing & affordability), how can we get at the impact. Navigating displacement and providing for your family.

4) Design / Design Principles/ Process (5 minutes)

- Use of RFP for expert survey construction/implementation?
- Separate RFP for Recommendations?
- Coordination with all or a subset of other JIC groups?
- Survey instrument design?
- Multiple modes of input/information gathering
- Quantitative & Qualitative, mixed methods (surveys, focus groups, etc.)
- Think about families with young children and time constraints, quick ways (text survey), letting them know what is happening in person

5) Deliverables *(10 minutes)*

- Data driven state of early childhood survey results
- Recommendations given the survey?

- Tell the story of the community (currently this is missing)
 - o Visuals
 - o Quotes & Testimonials
- Website
- Report & Exec Summary
- Video

6) Audience *(5 minutes)*

- Families
- Commission
- City council
- Schools
- Faith-based orgs
- Non-profits and service providers
- Media

7) Equity Office (EO) Resources

- Commission will own this process, EO will offer support
- Support includes
 - navigating bureaucracy of the City
 - Advice

8) Challenges *(10 minutes)*

Brevity vs. comprehensiveness

- Want to be comprehensive, but too long might deter some potential responders
- Must prioritize most critical purposes of survey

Reaching difficult-to-reach communities/people

- Those inactive in the “community”
- Those that do not take advantage of services

Creating an inclusive working group

- involve important voices

Open Data

- Tricky to balance with anonymity

9) Commitments *(10 minutes)*

Inclusivity & Accessibility

- Serve the most vulnerable populations
- Committed to hearing the historically, systemically unheard voices
- Be mindful of varying accessibility and the inadvertent exclusion of some (ex: only social media)
 - o Leverage agencies already providing services, canvas, community organize
- Make results accessible in multiple mediums and languages, formats, styles, etc.
- Use compelling, equitable incentives

Consistent terminology

- Include a glossary
- What data do we already know and how do we know? What is missing from that data?

Build a sense of purpose and trust

- Transparency of what data will be used for
- Both identify needs and provide with ways to address them
- This effort should be a useful tool/resource for the community
- Acknowledgment of limitations; This study is only one step of a long journey

Build a sense of community

Avoiding deficit model

- **Not** a “Needs” Assessment, but a POWER Analysis

Open-ended questions to let participants define needs

- “What do you need?”
- “How do you feel current services/orgs serve you?”
- Commitment to unpacking hard questions/answers vs. just reporting flat stats

Credibility

- Statistical validity
- Respectable standards of data collection, analysis, and presentation
- It should be usable by other organizations
- Avoid complication, unrealistic list of recommendations; prioritize for tangible progress; make compatible with policy/procedure of CoA
- Strong example: [Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities Task Force report](#)
- Produce both recommendations and principles

Next steps

Timeline from EO presentation:

- October and November 2022- Visioning, planning, and the ECC establishing a workgroup
- December 2022 and January 2023- Community engagement, town halls, establishing a scope of work for consultant, drafting a request for proposal (RFP)
- Spring 2023- Initiate RFP and finalize consultants.