



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at City Hall, Board and Commission Room #1101, 301 West Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair McHorse called the Early Childhood Council Meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair McHorse and Members Bliss Lima, Hedrick, Hosking Pulido, Huston, and McCollum

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Members Alvarez, Gordon, Paver, and Schennum

Staff in Attendance: Caitlin Oliver, Rachel Farley, and Cindy Gamez

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first five speakers to register prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Early Childhood Council Regular Meeting on October 12, 2022

The minutes from the meeting of 10/12/2022 were approved on Member Hedrick's motion, Member Huston's second, on a unanimous 7-0 vote. Members Alvarez, McCollum, and Paver were not present at time of the vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Updates from related groups (as needed), including Austin Chapter of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, Austin ISD, Child Care Regulation, Child Inc, E3 Alliance, Success By 6 Coalition, Workforce Solutions Capital Area, and other groups in attendance

Nicole Robinson provided an update on behalf of Workforce Solutions Capital Area. The tentative date for the Start Early report presentation about community engagement is December 14, 2022. Chair McHorse gave an update on the recent Success By 6 Coalition quarterly stakeholder meeting and encouraged people to take the poll in the SX6 newsletter to provide feedback on when to schedule the next meeting.

3. **Presentation by Warner Cook and Shanisha Johnson from the Housing and Planning Department regarding the draft Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Policy Plan Warner Cook, principal planner with the Housing and Planning Department leading the ETOD team, and Shanisha Johnson, a senior planner working on the ETOD team, presented an overview of the draft policy plan and sections of the plan that may be most relevant to early childhood. The purpose of the plan is to provide a comprehensive framework to help the Austin community ensure that future development around the Project Connect transit system supports residents of all incomes and backgrounds, especially those who have been disproportionately burdened by past transportation and land use decisions, namely people with low incomes and BIPOC populations. The plan began with a City Council resolution passed in June 2021. The ETOD strategy is made up of a partnership between several agencies, each with a different role:**
- **CapMetro- Study & toolbox**
 - **City of Austin- Policy implementation**
 - **Austin Transit Partnership- Design & construction**
 - **Community engagement and feedback from community members**

The ETOD Policy Plan includes ETOD goals; a snapshot of how current TODs are performing; station area typologies and planning prioritization; equity-based policy toolkit with success metrics; and a work plan for station area specific planning and regulatory changes. The ETOD goals were informed by the June 2021 City Council resolution that had 30 goals; the Nothing About Us Without Us Racial Equity Displacement Tool; and community engagement in the first round of feedback. The six goals are:

- **Enable all residents to benefit from safe, sustainable, and accessible transportation**
- **Help to close racial health and wealth gaps**
- **Preserve and increase housing opportunities that are affordable and attainable**
- **Expand access to high-quality jobs and career opportunities**
- **Support healthy neighborhoods that meet daily needs**
- **Expand Austin's diverse cultural heritage and small BIPOC-owned and legacy businesses**

The ETOD typologies look at how many people live in the area today and how the population has changed over time. The eight colored boxes are the final categories and will help with planning strategies when the plan goes into the implementation phase. Per City Council direction, staff has created a Station Area Planning Prioritization approach that assigns a high, medium, or low rating to each of the stations along the rail and bus rapid transit lines. Criteria for high priority station areas are:

- **Lack of existing transit-supportive regulations**
- **Presence of City- and CapMetro-owned land**
- **Presence of “underutilized” land**

The ETOD Policy Toolkit is a menu of 46 policy tools. Some policy tools will apply to all station areas, some to only a few. Early childhood and family-supportive policy tools were compiled for this presentation based on discussion with the ECC staff liaison, including:

- **Workforce Development Programs**
- **Homeownership and Tenant Support**
- **Universal Basic Mobility Pilot**
- **Community Car Program**
- **Development Incentives, Standards, or Regulations**

The Childcare Grants policy tool recommends expanding funding for child care scholarships; incentives to include child care in ground floor space in transit station areas; CapMetro continuing to provide high-quality child care to employees; and a pilot program to subsidize transportation costs for qualifying households to get to child care.

Community members are encouraged to use the Speak Up Austin! page (<https://www.speakupaustin.org/etodpolicyplan>) to submit feedback on the draft policy plan, through December 2, 2022. The ETOD team is presenting the draft plan, feedback, and back up materials to City Council on December 8, 2022. City Council will be voting whether to approve the plan by a resolution and may initiate some next steps. Some policy tools may need further approval by Council, for instance, if the tool requires budget investments and/or code changes.

An ECC member asked whether CapMetro considers families using public transportation to get to child care when routes are changed. Warner Cook responded that routes are reviewed 3 times a year, and environmental justice analyses look at rides of people with low income and feedback from community engagement before routes are changed. The routes for the Project Connect system were adopted by the City Council and the board, so those routes are set and will not change.

The ECC members discussed recommendations regarding the draft policy plan and took action. See Item 9.

4. Presentation by Chair McHorse about a local public-private commission that is mapping early childhood education funding in consultation with the Children’s Funding Project **Chair McHorse proposed this agenda item be moved to a future meeting.**
5. Presentation by Member Huston about the Texas policy summary from the 2022 Prenatal-to-3 (PN-3) State Policy Roadmap

Member Huston encouraged the ECC members to visit the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center website at pn3policy.org to review the early childhood policy roadmap for Texas. A recording of the October webinar about the 2022 State Policy Roadmap is also on the website. A new roadmap with recommended early childhood policies is posted annually. So far, Texas has not implemented any of the recommended effective state policies, which are expanding income eligibility for health care, reducing administrative burdens to access SNAP, paid family leave, raising the state minimum wage to at least \$10, and state earned income tax credit.

6. Updates from Jeremy Garza, Equity Office, regarding the Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) quality of life studies and FY23 budget recommendations
- Jeremy Garza provided updates on the three upcoming Joint Inclusion Committee town halls. All the town halls will be hybrid meetings, so people can attend in person or online.**
- **East Austin Town Hall**
 - **Thursday, December 15th**
 - **Time: 12:00 - 1:30 pm**
 - **Location: Montopolis Recreation Center**
 - **South Austin Town Hall**
 - **Wednesday, January 11th**
 - **Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm**
 - **Location: Southeast Branch Library**
 - **North Austin Town Hall**
 - **Saturday, January 14th**
 - **Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**
 - **Location: Asian American Resource Center**

The town halls will be advertised as family-friendly events. Child activities will be provided, but child care will not. Jeremy requested that each commissioner invite at least two community members to attend the town halls. The meeting audio will be recorded. The feedback can help inform both the ECC Quality of Life Study and the budget recommendations. Budget recommendations are due by March 30, 2023.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

7. Update from the Quality-of-Life Study Work Group about membership and timeline
- Member Huston gave an update that the work group has scheduled bi-weekly meetings through the end of the year. So far, five community members have been recruited, including:**
- **Nicole Robinson, Workforce Solutions Capital Area**
 - **Nicole Cummings-Lewis, United Way for Greater Austin & Success By 6 Equity Workgroup**
 - **Alison Bentley, United Way for Greater Austin**
 - **Leonor Vargas, Wisdom En Familias consulting, retired AISD Administrative Supervisor of Parent Programs**

- **Michele Mejia, GoAustin/VamosAustin**

The work group plans to recruit at least two more people, preferably primary caregivers of young children. The target date for recruitment is the end of November, with the full work group on board for December. To assist with recruitment, the work group has drafted a description of commitments for work group members. The description needs to be translated into Spanish. The work group would like to explore having live interpretation offered at work group meetings. Chair McHorse shared that she may have some family leaders through Success by 6 that she can invite to be in the work group. Members Hosking Pulido and McCollum also know some parents that may be interested. The work group will report back any decisions made about member recruitment at the next regular ECC meeting in January 2023.

8. Update from the FY 2023-24 Budget Work Group about the Joint Inclusion Committee Budget Workshop on November 5, 2022
Member Hedrick shared that some of the budget work group members attend the budget town hall, and he suggested that the work group plan to meet again after the Joint Inclusion Committee's Quality-of-Life/Budget Town Hall on January 14, 2023. The feedback gathered at the town hall can help inform the draft budget recommendations, along with the Success By 6 Coalition recommendations. The workgroup scheduled the next budget work group meeting for Wednesday, January 18, 2022, at noon.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

9. Discussion and possible recommendation on the draft ETOD Policy Plan
Member Huston moved to authorize a one-time workgroup to meet before December 2, 2022, to write a resolution and submit on behalf of the Early Childhood Council that recommends the following be added to the Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Policy Plan:
 - **In affordable housing developments, consider capacity for including affordable, high-quality child care**
 - **Prioritize home-/family-based child care providers in homeowner and tenant support services**
 - **Include child care staff in the universal mobility pilot program**
 - **Incorporate access to child care as a community benefit on the equity score card**
 - **Consider adding child care facilities in the development of station areas**

Member Hedrick seconded the motion. Chair McHorse and Member Alvarez volunteered to sit on the workgroup. The motion passed unanimously on a 9-0 vote. Member Paver was not present at time of the vote.

10. Discussion and possible action on the Quality-of-Life Study, including work group membership and timeline
Member McCollum moved to adopt the work group member description and commitments. Member Huston seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously on a vote of 8-0. Member Paver was not present at time of the vote.
11. Discussion and possible action related to FY 2023-24 budget recommendations process, including work group membership and timeline
The ECC members did not take action related to the budget recommendations process.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

12. COVID-19 and other respiratory illness updates from Caitlin Oliver, Austin Public Health
Austin Public Health (APH) did not provide updates.
13. Updates from Caitlin Oliver, Austin Public Health, about the KinderCare at Bergstrom Tech accreditation and about the site planned for the Dove Springs Public Health Center child care program
APH did not provide updates.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ECC members listed the following future agenda items:

- **Presentation by Chair McHorse about a local public-private commission that is mapping early childhood education funding in consultation with the Children's Funding Project**

Chair McHorse adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the January 11, 2023, meeting on Member Aletha Huston's motion, Member Tom Hedrick's second, on a 9-0 vote.