



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023**

**The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Austin Public Library University Hills Branch, 4721 Loyola Lane in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair McHorse called the Early Childhood Council Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance: Chair McHorse and Members Bliss Lima, Gordon, Green-Otero, Hedrick, Huston, Hosking Pulido, McCollum, and Vargas**

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Member Jaime**

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

**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.

**No public comment**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Early Childhood Council Regular Meeting on March 8, 2023  
**The minutes from the meeting of 3/8/2023 were approved unanimously on Member Gordon's motion, Member Huston's second, on a 10-0 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  
**Chair McHorse shared an update about the Success By 6 (SX6) Coalition Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting on April 27, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The meeting will be in person at the Austin Community College (ACC) Highland Business Center. There will be a virtual**

**option. The purpose of the meeting is to work on the 2024 strategic plan and co-construct strategic plan goals.**

3. Presentation by the Intergenerational Resource & Activity Center (IRAC) Advisory Group regarding a proposal for the Nash Hernandez, Sr. Building

*Presenters:*

- Dr. Amy Bryan, Human Development and Family Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin
- Dr. Jacqueline Angel, Health & Social Policy and Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin

**Members of the IRAC Advisory Group presented their vision and high-level plan for combining support services for older adults in Austin with an early learning program. The presentation team outlined the desire to use the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building for the efforts, which they consider to be the area in which people have the most needs across generations. If approved and implemented, this proposal would be the first IRAC in Austin. The Nash Hernandez property is on land owned by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) and is in the Holly Shores area, near the RBJ senior housing center and other resources in the community. PARC had proposed using the building for PARC administrative offices. City Council [Resolution No. 20221208-059](#) directed the City Manager “to study the feasibility and fiscal impact of housing an IRAC program in the Nash Hernandez, Sr. Building.” The proposed renovation budget and floor plans created by the Advisory Group are included in the backup presentation document, as is the estimated start-up cost of \$5.5 million that the Advisory Group plans to fund through public and private investment. The pilot child care program proposed by the presenters would start with 3 classrooms of toddlers through pre-K- aged children, with a goal of ultimately serving 60-75 children. UT Lab School students and other University of Texas at Austin students would likely conduct program evaluations of the IRAC model. A list of potential IRAC operational partners include wellness services from Meals on Wheels and Central Texas Community Care; child care services from Open Door Preschools; development of intergenerational pilot curriculum by UT Austin Child and Family Laboratory; involvement of students from Martin Middle School; adult day health services from AGE of Central Texas; and service coordination and transportation from Family Eldercare and Chariot. They also envision having tele-behavioral health services available for seniors. The Advisory Group is asking for stakeholders, like the ECC, to provide letters of support for the proposal, to be shared with the City of Austin.**

**The ECC members requested the Advisory Group keep the ECC informed of community engagement opportunities. ECC members encouraged the presentation team to also consider the following in their plans:**

- **Ways to reduce the burden on families of having to go through multiple enrollment processes for the multiple services and programs offered by the IRAC;**
  - **Non-traditional hour child care;**
  - **Potential sensitivity among some community members to being researched should be considered in how program evaluation and research components that UT Austin students may conduct are communicated; and**
  - **Providing services for older adults who may be homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and their young grandchildren.**
4. **Updates from Cathy McHorse regarding the Austin-Travis County Children's Funding Project**  
**Chair McHorse shared an update on the work that Austin-Travis County and the Success By Six Coalition are doing with the Children's Funding Project, a national organization that does cost modeling, fiscal mapping, and helps municipalities potentially create dedicated children's funds. The City of Austin approved \$60,000 of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for United Way for Greater Austin to subcontract with the Children's Funding Project. The goal is to determine the gap between what is being invested into early childhood services and what is needed to cover the early care and education needs of the target population of children ages 0-5 from households that have an income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The cost model looks at the cost of care to support these children in home visiting and parenting education programs, home- and center-based child care, Early Head Start, Head Start, and pre-K. The cost model will also consider nontraditional hour child care. To understand the costs of operating a child care program, United Way is launching a child care survey. Providers are being asked to complete it by April 28<sup>th</sup> and will receive a \$100 gift card for their participation. There will also be surveys to understand the costs associated with home visiting, pre-K, and Head Start programs. Concurrently, research is being done into revenue generation to cover the gap identified by the cost models. Examples of revenue generation include San Antonio's Pre-K 4 SA and the Yes for NOLA Kids program that funds infant and toddler child care seats.**

#### **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

5. **Updates from Caitlin Oliver, Austin Public Health, regarding the Early Childhood Social Service Contract Solicitation process**  
**Staff liaison Caitlin Oliver provided an update that the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Early Childhood Issue Area Social Service Contracts is being postponed. The intention for the postponement is to incorporate adjustments made during the fiscal year (FY) 2024 City of Austin budget recommendations process. There is not a projected release date, but it is anticipated Austin Public Health will release it after the approval of the FY 2024 Budget. ECC members requested that Austin Public Health (APH) release the results**

**of the 2023 APH Early Childhood Services Survey of community members that is being used to inform the contents of the RFP.**

### **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

6. Update from the Quality-of-Life (QoL) Study Workgroup regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP)  
**Jeremy Garza, Equity Office program coordinator, is working with the city's financial services Procurement Manager on the ECC RFP and is awaiting feedback on the Scope of Work document that the ECC QoL Study Workgroup shared with the Equity Office and other quality-of-life commissions. Jeremy Garza also updated the ECC on a plan to bring together the ECC, the Commission on Women, and the Commission on Aging together in a virtual meeting to discuss languages the studies should be distributed in and what demographic data should be collected.**

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the Early Childhood Council QoL Study RFP and workgroup membership  
**No action was taken regarding the ECC QoL Study. Member Huston provided an update that Member McCollum will become the main ECC contact for the QoL Study Workgroup. Members Huston, Hosking Pulido, and Alvarez, whose ECC terms end in April, plan to continue to participate in the workgroup as community members.**
8. Discussion and possible action to endorse the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission Budget [Recommendation 20230313-2a](#) for increased emergency housing assistance  
**The members endorsed LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission Budget [Recommendation 20230313-2a](#) unanimously on a 10-0 vote, on Member Hedrick's motion and Member Gordon's second.**
9. Discussion and vote to approve Early Childhood Council 2023 chair and vice chair  
**The Early Childhood Council nominating committee nominated Cathy McHorse and John Green-Otero for Chair and Vice Chair of the ECC, respectively. No other nominations were made. Chair McHorse was re-elected as Chair by a unanimous vote of 10-0, on Member Hedrick's motion and Member McCollum's second. Member Green-Otero was elected as Vice Chair by a unanimous vote of 10-0, on Member Hedrick's motion and Member Gordon's second.**
10. Discussion and possible action to appoint a liaison to the Joint Inclusion Committee  
**Member Huston moved to appoint Member Vargas as Joint Inclusion Committee representative and Member Gordon as alternate. Member Hedrick seconded, and the motion passed on a 9-0 vote. Member Jaime was not present at the time of the vote.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**ECC members listed the following future agenda item(s):**

- **Presentation on the results of the Nontraditional-Hour Child Care in Austin/Travis County Study**

**Chair McHorse adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved at the May 10, 2023, meeting on Member Tom Hedrick's motion and Member Corie Cormie's second, on a 7-0 vote.**