EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL **REGULAR MEETING**
MINUTES **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 301 West Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Peterson called the Early Childhood Council Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Peterson and Members Alvizo, Cárdenas, Grant Boneta, Latham-Sikes, McIllwain, McNary and Navarro

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Members Beauchemin and Rivas

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Early Child Council Regular Meeting on August 8, 2026.
   The minutes from the Early Childhood Council regular meeting on August 8, 2026, were approved on Member Latham Sikes's motion, Member McNary's second, on an 8-0 vote. Members Alvizo and Rivas were absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Possible action to establish a workgroup to draft recommendations regarding Early Child Council membership and meeting accessibility.
   A workgroup to draft recommendations regarding membership and meeting accessibility was established on Member Navarro's motion, Member McNary's second, on a 9-0 vote. Member Rivas was absent. Members Navarro, Beauchemin, and Cárdenas volunteered to be on the workgroup and plan to invite Go Austin Vamos Austin, the Success By 6 Coalition, and Austin Equity & Inclusion to be involved.

3. Possible action to appoint a primary representative and an alternate representative of the Early Childhood Council to the JIC.
   Member Alvizo will continue as a representative of the Joint Inclusion Committee. Member McNary unable to continue as a representative. Member Beauchemin was

appointed as a representative of the JIC on Member Navarro's motion, Member McNary's second, on a 10-0 vote.

4. Discussion regarding the City of Austin's early childhood quality of life study and possible action to appoint a workgroup to discuss next steps related to the quality of life study.
Members did not take action to establish a workgroup to discuss the quality of life study next steps. Members discussed taking possible action at a future meeting to form a workgroup to discuss the study along with budget recommendations and social service contracts.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Presentation by Ascension Texas regarding the Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP). Presented by Jenny Laing, Director of Strategic Operations, and LaPorshia Maloy, HVIP Responder.
Jenny Laing and LaPorshia Maloy, Ascension Texas, presented an overview of the Center of Violence Prevention & Policy's Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program, including what it is, who it serves, program impact, and partnerships with local organizations.

6. Discussion regarding the proposed 2027 Early Childhood Council regular meeting schedule.
Members discussed meeting time and location and about taking action at the November regular meeting to approve the schedule.

7. Austin ISD Pre-K and Head Start updates from Yvette Cárdenas, AISD Executive Director of Academic Programs.
Yvette Cárdenas and Jeremy Martorell, Director of AISD Child Care & Apple Blossom Programs, provided an update on Pre-K, Head Start, and Apple Blossom enrollment for the 2026-27 school year.

8. Raising Travis County implementation updates from Hilda Rivas, Travis County Health & Human Services Research & Planning Division Senior Planner.
Hilda Rivas provided updates on the status of the Raising Travis County investments to date, the rollout of small business grants, the upcoming launch of an online community engagement hub, and a virtual town hall on October 21st.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

9. Staff briefing regarding fiscal year 2027 social service investments related to early childhood. Presentation by Akeshia Johnson Smothers, MSW, Public Health Program Manager III, Austin Public Health, and by Ann Eaton, Assistant Director, Austin Economic Development.
Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Austin Public Health, gave a briefing on the status of social service investments for fiscal year 2027 managed by Austin Public Health and answered questions about social service contract solicitation for fiscal year 2028. Khotan Harmon, Acting Workforce Development and Childcare Division Manager at Austin Economic

Development, gave a briefing on behalf of Ann Eaton, regarding the fiscal year 2027 social service investments Economic Development manages.

10. Briefing with updates from related local early childhood groups such as Austin Chapter of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, Child Care Regulation, Success By 6 Coalition, and Workforce Solutions Capital Area. Briefing by Rachel Farley, Austin Public Health.

Rachel Farley provided an update from the Success By 6 Coalition regarding their October all-partner meeting and wellness day in November; an update from Child Care Regulation regarding fingerprint background check fee increase; and an update from the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Austin Chapter regarding their fall social event and the Austin PBS Family Fest.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members listed the following future agenda items:

- **Possible action to establish a workgroup to discuss and draft recommendations regarding the quality of life study, budget recommendations, and social service contracts.**
- **Presentation from the Safe Kids Austin Coalition.**

Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the November 18, 2026, meeting on Member McIllwain's motion, Member Navarro's second on a 10-0 vote.