



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016

(This report is covering the transition date to 10-1 and in accordance with Ordinance No. 20141211-204. This report is due July 31, 2016. Please note that this is to be completed by the Chair of the board or commission. While a board action is not required to complete this form, I highly recommend this be a collaborative effort of the board.)

Early Childhood Council **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

- (1) make recommendations to the city council for the creation, development, and implementation of programs that promote optimal development for young children;
- (2) develop, for recommendation to city council, programs and activities that contribute to the continued development of a system of high-quality early care and education and after-school programs for Austin's children;
- (3) explore and develop, for recommendation to city council, cooperative arrangements with area governments in the metropolitan region to support a system of quality early care and education;
- (4) encourage volunteerism and philanthropic efforts in order to generate broad-based community involvement and support for quality early care and education and promote the well being of families of young children; and
- (5) develop, for recommendation to city council, strategies encouraging individuals and agencies to continually improve the quality of their services for young children; and
- (6) support innovative approaches to quality early care and education and leadership development in fields relating to the optimal development of young children.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

- **10/14/15 Council Committee Agenda Item Request #201541014-6bi - :**
Request for \$500,000 of current unallocated FY2016 social services funding from the Health

Annual Review and Work Plan

Year

Page #

and Human Services Department for the Continuity of Care Program. The program provides childcare to children of low income parents in two particular circumstances: during gaps in subsidy eligibility resulting from job loss or other circumstances and also “up front” while parents hunt for a job. The program is currently funded by Travis County and this funding would help to increase the number of children served.

- **10/14/15** – Board passed a motion to send letter to City of Austin Health and Human Services Sub-Committee in support of the Continuity of Care funding by HHSD to accompany Council Committee Agenda Item Request #20151014-6bi
- **Fall 2015** – Worked with City of Austin HHSD and Mayor’s Office to coordinate Austin ISD specific Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) flyers to public libraries, WIC offices, Office of Vital Records and Neighborhood Centers to promote Pre-K.
- **2/18/16** – Board Chair and board member attended the City Council meeting and spoke during public comment in support of the Passages Program related to Ordinance No. 20160225-015 which was approved for \$160K in funding for The Salvation Army to provide child care to vulnerable families with young children who are facing homelessness.
- **6/10/16 – Recommendation #20160608-5bi:** The Early Childhood Council recommends that the following items be included in the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) 2016-2017 Action Plan:
 1. Any new development for Affordable Housing should be built in proximity to quality child care centers or include on-site quality child care as part of the development;
 2. The NHCD 2016-2017 Action Plan should align with the 2015-2018 School Readiness Action Plan where appropriate;
 3. NHCD should recognize that the Early Childhood Council has made engagement with Affordable Housing stakeholders a priority in their 2016-2017 Work Plan. Therefore, the Early Childhood Council should be invited to participate in community stakeholder discussions
 4. The Early Childhood Council supports maintenance of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$650,000 for child care services related to:
 - a. Early Head Start Child Care
 - b. Teen Parent Services
 - c. Teen Parent Child Care
 - d. Child Care Bridge Program
- **6/10/16 – Recommendation #20160608-5bii:** The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council support the proposed Child Care Rules from the Texas Workforce Commission related to eligibility re-determination of child care services. The Early Childhood Council is in support of the change to re-determine eligibility

for child care services no sooner than 12 months from initial determination.

- **6/10/16 – Recommendation #20160608-5biii:** The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council allocate funding for the Child Care Continuity Services program in the upcoming 2016-2017 budget process as outlined in the City Manager’s report to Council.
- **6/10/16 – Board** passed a motion to send a letter to City Council recommending that City Council allocate substantial funding for the Child Care Continuity Services program in the upcoming budget process. The letter referenced Resolution No. 20160414-004- Child Care Continuity Services (CCCS).
- **06/22/16 -** As directed by Resolution No. 20160414-004, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services (HHSD) staff worked with the Early Childhood Council, Travis County HHS&VS, and Workforce Solutions to gather current CCCS data on performance, funding levels, and impact of current services.

The following data was requested to be included in the City Manager’s report to Council:

- Current number of children served by CCCS
- Existing unmet need for these services in the community
- Outputs (i.e. number of children that would be served at each funding level)
- Anticipated performance measures for each proposed funding level
- Additional guidelines or recommendations pertaining to CCCS

2. Determine if the board’s actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

Yes

3. List the board’s goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- **Complete the activities outlined in the Ready Communities tactics section of the School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP):**
 - i. Identify the top three community planning processes and systems with which to connect, including those that address health and safety; and, designate an early childhood liaison to each planning entity/system leader group.
 - ii. Develop a toolkit for educating and sharing information about the SRAP (updated annually).
 - iii. Make presentations about the importance of early childhood and the SRAP to each identified group.
 - iv. Identify specific strategies each group might help us advance (e.g., strategies must related to the group’s existing goals)

- v. Meet with City Council Members, Travis County Commissioners, the Mayor and Travis County Judge at least two times per year to educate them about current early childhood issues, the work of the Early Childhood Council, the School Readiness Action Plan, and opportunities for staff to support the SRAP goals.
- vi. Meet with City & County staff at least two times per year to educate them about current early childhood issues, the work of the Early Childhood Council, the School Readiness Action Plan, and opportunities for staff to support the SRAP goals.
- vii. Meet with private funders about early childhood issues and the School Readiness Action Plan (meeting may include tour of local program).
- viii. Partner with public library staff to sustain existing story time offerings and expand offerings in low income neighborhoods.
- **Promote the SRAP and its goals and priority strategies via the Early Childhood Council**
- **Promote Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) enrollment efforts for the 2016-2017 school year and subsequent school years.**