



## EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, March 8, 2017

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at City Hall Boards and Commissions Room, located at 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Larry Elsner, Vice Chair Monica Sanchez and Commissioners Raul Alvarez, Rebecca Harrison, Kyle Holder, Aletha Huston, Rhonda Paver, Jacquie Porter, Brook Son, and Sebastian Wren. Board Members not in attendance: Roscoe Overton, Sr. Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health (APH) staff – Cindy Gamez and Laura Williamson.

Chair Larry Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Commissioners Son recused herself on Item 6aiii and Commissioner Huston abstained on Item 6aiii.
3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: No speakers present.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Huston motioned to approve the February 8, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Holder seconded. Minutes were approved with a 9-0-0 vote with Commissioner Paver off the dais.
5. PRESENTATIONS – Jonathan Tomko with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) presented the 2017-2018 NHCD Action Plan. NHCD is conducting a community needs assessment through May. Two public comment periods will be available in June 2017. Final action and adoption of the plan will take place on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017. The ECC Cross Systems workgroup will take up this issue at their next meeting.
6. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –
  - a) Cross Systems Work Group -
    - i. APD Community Policing Progress – the Cross Systems work group met with Chief Manley and Lieutenant Vallejo in January. Since then, Lt. Vallejo has been in contact with APH staff. Contact info for three child care centers was sent to him. APH staff informed Lt. Vallejo that ECE stakeholders would like for the visits to be intentional and that stakeholders could join if needed.
    - ii. CodeNEXT Advisory Group – Commissioners Wren and Sanchez attended boards and commissions meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The land code is being revised to be more aligned with Imagine Austin. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback to the Advisory Group in April. Most change will be along transit corridors where bus lines go. Properties near these will have changes to entitlements (i.e. what you can build on your property). Policy and Cross-Systems workgroups will join together for ECC response.
    - iii. Texas Home Visiting RFA – Discussion took place and Commissioner Holder moved to approve the following Recommendation: *The City of Austin Early Childhood Council supports and recommends the Austin City Council be in support of the collaborative Travis County application for Texas Home Visiting Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood*

***Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funding (HHSC RFA No. 530180003) and to approve Letter of Support for the RFA.*** Motion was seconded by Commissioner Porter. Motion passed on an 8-0-2 vote with Commissioners Son and Huston abstaining.

b) Policy Work Group -

- i. Project HOPES – Discussion took place and ***motion from Policy work group to approve a resolution directing the City Council support proposals in the House and Senate for Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Exceptional item 6c to expand Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services; and support continuing funding for proven prevention programs, including the expansion of Project HOPES in new counties and current sites, Texas Home Visiting and Nurse-Family Partnership.*** Motion was seconded by Commissioner Holder. Motion passed on a 10-0-0 vote.

c) Public Engagement Work Group update – Did not meet. March meeting date is TBD.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –

- a) Child Care During Community Meetings - Larry Schooler with the PIO briefed the ECC on the Supervised Children’s Activities resolution. The plan is to give Council different levels of funding scenarios. Emphasis is on supervised activities and not child care. PIO would like to partner with the community to offer intentional and appropriate activities. PIO would like input from ECC regarding who in the community would be a potential partner as well as what standards would PIO hold these providers to. PIO will report back to Council at the end of Spring. ECC can provide formal input during April or May meeting. Public Engagement workgroup will take this issue up at their next meeting. Commissioner Porter can provide the workgroup with current Austin ISD standards. PIO can provide what Parks and Recreation Department currently does as well.
- b) ECC Vacancies – Discussion took place and a motion was made by Commissioner Sanchez to support and authorize Chair Elsner to send a letter to Mayor and Council Members regarding ECC appointments. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Harrison. Motion passed on a 10-0-0 vote.
- c) New ECC appointee, Raul Alvarez (District 3) was introduced

8. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – Sue Carpenter reported on the Greater Austin Community Schools Coalition meeting held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sue facilitated the Early Childhood work group at the meeting and group addressed four questions:

- What are some ways that early childhood is connected to academic achievement/positive child development?
- What would it look like for early childhood to be part of an effective community school?
- What are some of the barriers that stand in the way of early childhood being part of an effective community school?
- What resources in early childhood do you know that could be leveraged?

Next meeting will be in May and Commissioner Alvarez can provide an update at that meeting.

9. RELATED GROUPS –

- a) Austin Association for the Education of Young Children
- b) Child Care Licensing
- c) Child Incorporated
- d) E3 Alliance
- e) Workforce Solutions

f) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Sanctuary City Resolution

**ADJOURNMENT** –Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m. without objection.