



# Austin Public Health



## Annual Internal Review

**This report covers the time period of 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017**

(This report is covering the transition date to 10-1 and in accordance with Ordinance No. 20141211-204.

This report is due July 31, 2017. 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.**

- The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council approve the Workforce Solutions Quality Child Care Collaborative (QC3) Inter-local Agreement for early childhood services. Approval for execution of this agreement is scheduled as a Recommendation for Council Action on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the Austin City Council meeting.
- The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council approve the Austin Community College Inter-local Agreement for the Teacher and Director TRAC program. Approval for execution of this agreement is scheduled as a Recommendation for Council Action on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the Austin City Council meeting.
- The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council approve the Austin Independent School Inter-local Agreement for the Family Resource Centers program. Approval for execution of this agreement is scheduled as a Recommendation for Council Action on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the Austin City Council meeting.



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- The Early Childhood Council endorses the adoption of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.
- 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).
- The City of Austin Early Childhood Council recommends that the City Council support and fund supervised children's activities during community meetings; and that said supervised children's activities be implemented that are in compliance with suitable child care policies and procedures to maximize benefits for children participating in programs.
- The Early Childhood Council recommends that the following items be included in the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) 2017-2018 Action Plan:
  - 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 where appropriate;
  - The NHCD 2017-2018 Action Plan should align with the 2015-2018 School Readiness Action Plan where appropriate;
  - NHCD should recognize that the Early Childhood Council has made engagement with Affordable Housing stakeholders a priority in their work. Therefore, the Early Childhood Council should be invited to participate in community stakeholder discussions;
  - The Early Childhood Council supports, at minimum, the maintenance of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in tire amount of \$650,000 for child care services related to:
    - Early Head Start Child Care
    - Teen Parent Services
    - Teen Parent Child Care
    - Child Care Bridge Program; and
  - Target early childhood educators for Community Land Trust housing opportunities to preserve stable, affordable housing for this critical workforce.
- The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council continue funding for continuity of child care at or above the amounts currently invested.
- The Early Childhood Council recommends that the CodeNEXT Advisory Group and Opticos Design revisit the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan - specifically subsection "Children, Families, and Educational Policies, p.148 - and itemize the ways that the family-friendly ideals outlined in that plan have been codified in CodeNEXT. The CodeNEXT plan incentive construction of family-friendly units (for example, 3- and 4- bedroom units with proximity to child care and proximity to transportation) and construction of child care facilities that would serve families from a range of incomes. The Early Childhood Council will continue to provide input throughout the process of finalizing CodeNEXT.



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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 2017-2018 school year and subsequent school years.**