



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 11, 2017**

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Larry Elsner, Raul Alvarez, Mary Jane Burson, Aletha Huston, Roscoe Overton, Sr., Rhonda Paver, and Sebastian Wren. Staff in Attendance: Austin Public Health Department (APH) staff – Cindy Gamez, Laura Williamson, and Rachel Farley.

Chair Elsner called the Board Meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Member Huston moved to approve the September 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes and Member Alvarez seconded. Minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.
5. **PRESENTATIONS –**
 - a) Austin Public Health (APH) FY18 Budget Overview- John Miller, Financial Manager II, APH
 - \$3.5 million increase overall (3.4%) in the FY18 budget
 - Of that, there was a \$1.4 million increase to ongoing Social Service Contracts
 - Passages Childcare- last year the City continued it with ongoing funding.
 - AISD Parent Support Specialists support was converted to ongoing funding
 - Homeless contracts
 - Overview of Capital budget and projects
 - Issues on the horizon include the uncertainty of future grant funding and translation services and materials for diverse communities
 - Local match money to Workforce Solutions is in APH budget
 - Health Equity and social determinants of health are a major focus for APH
6. **WORK GROUP REPORTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS**
 - a) Executive Work Group – ECC Chair Elsner invited guest Suzanne Hershey representing United Way to lead a discussion about the next phase for ECC Workgroups.

- b) Cross Systems Work Group
 - Purpose- to make connections to other issue areas that impact families with young children
 - Accomplishments- Made connections with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development department; developed relationship with Austin Police Department and spurred collaboration with childcare centers
 - Need to find new meeting time that is not a conflict for United Way
- c) Policy Work Group – Member Huston
 - Accomplishments- ECC members met with council members about childcare continuity; CM Garza passed resolution for a needs/gaps assessment on high quality childcare and PK3; encouraged Council to pass several resolutions, created district-specific fliers about early childhood issues for Council members
 - Looking ahead- some overlap with Cross Systems workgroup; Code Next vote possible in spring; would like to gather ideas from members in ECC meetings
- d) Public Engagement Work Group
 - This group had only 2 members and Jacquie Porter is no longer on ECC; there was interest in this group, but have been challenges in setting meetings
- e) Discussion of related community initiatives and stakeholders
 - ECC is the main group implementing the Ready Communities section of the School Readiness Action Plan
 - Results Count effort being led by E3 Alliance
 - Mayor’s Community Workforce Plan- potential opportunity for Cross Systems workgroup to promote childcare as a support in workforce planning
 - Childcare Centers- In the past ECC had greater participation from Childcare providers; Some of their concerns are not addressed in the SRAP process. Ideas include ECC members participating in meetings of childcare directors and the Quality Childcare Collaborative and regularly surveying providers

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS: None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Continue discussion of ECC priorities and workgroup structure
- b) Vote on 2018 meeting dates and locations
- c) Presentation from WIC
- d) Proposed action- recommend recognition of Jacquie Porter’s contributions

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Elsner adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. without objection.