Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020

Early Childhood Council

The Board/Commission mission statement (per section 2-1-123 of the City Code) is:
The Early Childhood Council shall:

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 wellbeing 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.**
   (Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)

On March 11, 2020, the Early Childhood Council took the following actions:

- Recommended that City Council:

  o include representation from the Early Childhood Council on the Joint Inclusion Committee.

- Recommended that City Council:

  o encourage AISD to maintain $3M funding in the AISD budget for approximately 170 full time Pre-K teacher assistants.

- Recommended that City Council:

  o the estimated $3M in new property tax revenue from the "Manana Fund" be directed to early childhood initiatives as outlined in Resolution #20190620-089. Funding will help scale proven and effective programs aimed at improving access to and quality of early care and education, and advance coordination and navigation for families and service providers.

On May 6, 2020, the Early Childhood Council took the following actions:

- Recommended that City Council:

  o adopt the draft recommendations for the U.S. HUD Coronavirus Response Recommendations for use of Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) fund including:

      - approximately $2.6 million for emergency rental assistance for low-and moderate income

      - approximately $1 million for the child care workforce to sustain jobs necessary for the response to coronavirus, avoid job loss caused by decreased enrollment of children in child care; incentivize overnight and weekend child care for essential workers by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low-and moderate-income persons; respite care for children whose parents or guardians are hospitalized or quarantined; and health and safety supplies needed for child care programs to operate during COVID-19 pandemic.

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- [Recommended](#) that City Council:

  o approve the May 7, 2020, Council agenda item #23 specifically designating a Child Care Relief Support Fund of $1 million that would provide grants to childcare centers in Austin that (1) serve families that receive childcare subsidies, (2) have at least a 2-Star Texas Rising Star quality rating, and (3) have not received Paycheck Protection Program money through the CARES Act.

- [Recommended](#) that City Council:
  o approve maintain the current funding support to Austin ISD for Parent Support Specialists and explore supporting similar programs in other area school districts within the City of Austin if there is a need.

2. **Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**
   (If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)
   Yes, the board's actions comply with the ECC mission statement.

List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.
(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

Goal: Support/expand the City's early childhood efforts and support the community's Success by 6 Strategic Plan
   ❖ Support strategies within the **Safe & Stimulating Communities** section of the Success by 6 Strategic Plan
   ❖ Support strategies within the **Supported Families** section of the Success by 6 Strategic Plan
   ❖ Support strategies within the **High-Quality Care and Education** section of the Success by 6 Strategic Plan
   ❖ Support strategies within the **Healthy Beginnings** section of the Success by 6 Strategic Plan

Goal: Expand ECC representation on boards and committees
   ❖ Participate in any Dove Springs Health Center planning committees and/or receive updates about the project
   ❖ Explore ECC becoming part of Joint Inclusion Commission
   ❖ Appoint an ECC member to APH work group if it reconvenes

Goal: Ensure ECC members and their City Council Sponsor are well-informed about early childhood issues

- ❖ Create fact/data sheet for each Council district in partnership with Success by 6
- ❖ Develop orientation process/materials for new ECC members
- ❖ Appointees build relationships with their council members by checking in with them regularly
- ❖ Encourage dialogue about recommendations that haven't been acted on yet
- ❖ Receive regular updates from SX6 data committee