



JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE
Austin City Council
Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees
Travis County Commissioners Court

Joint Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 10, 2024
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Travis County Commissioners Court
700 Lavaca, Austin, Texas 78701

Joint Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Austin (AISD) Independent School District

Arati Singh, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 9, Board President

Noelita Lugo, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 8

Ofelia Zapata, AISD Board Trustee, District 2

Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, and Policy Oversight

City of Austin

Alison Alter, Council Member, District 10

Jose Velásquez, Council Member, District 3

Ryan Alter, Council Member, District 5

Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager

Travis County

Jeff Travillion, County Commissioner, Pct 1

Brigid Shea, County Commissioner, Pct 2

Pilar Sanchez, County Executive for Travis County Health and Human Services

The meeting was called to order at 11:44 a.m. by Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up for public comment.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made to approve JSC meeting minutes from April 1, 2024, by Commissioner Travillion, second by Councilmember Alison Alter. Motion passed unanimously.

III. **CHILDCARE & AFTER-SCHOOL TRE UPDATE**

HHS Research and Planning Director, Korey Darling and HHS Senior Planner, Hilda Rivas informed the committee on the potential TRE for childcare and after-school/summer programming. Updates included the latest on the CARES Resolution passed by TC Commissioner's Court, with focus on expansion of affordability to local childcare and after-school and summer services. Community outreach and education will be conducted by the Children's Funding Project. TC HHS will serve as the lead administering entity to execute the procurement and contract process with Travis County Purchasing. Through HHS, implementing and planning methods will include program design, establishing an advisory council, legal review, procurement planning and solicitation. If the new tax rate is passed by the voters, implementation could begin as early as summer 2025, with a focus on serving indigent populations, workforce, and economic development.

Next steps will include an agenda item for Commissioners Court, scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Commissioner Travillion again reminded that the County Attorney's Office needs to be involved, to ensure all requirements are met at the state level. A comment was made that the committee should collectively align public education, mental health, and training as part of the supportive measures. Trustee Singh asked if teachers would be eligible. Trustee Lugo asked we consider adding public servants as eligible. Commissioner Travillion asked if teachers could get an exception. County Executive Sanchez stated that eligibility will be based on income and based on latest AISD report on staff income, many AISD employees would be eligible. County Executive Sanchez also clarified that living in Travis County will be required. Commissioner Shea stated that clear communication and a policy regarding qualifications must be established. Exceptions allowed should only be permissible under state law. Lastly, Commissioner Shea addressed the concern on the mechanics of the implementation. One of the questions asked was how many children will be served with the childcare initiative? She also queried the exactitude between the childcare and business community partnership and asked if there was any data reflecting early childcare slot availability. Councilmember Alison Alter commented on the numbers and how the initiatives will increase opportunities beyond the number of children served by TC. CM A. Alter mentioned that the City of Austin Economic policy includes childcare. Christy Moffett stated TC will update their economic policy as well. CM Alter mentioned the restaurant association is leaning into the non-traditional hours opportunities. The waitlist continues to grow to over 4,500 as of June; two thousand of those are infants and toddlers (0-3). Commissioner Shea inquired whether private or parochial schools would be eligible. Commissioner Travillion mentioned we want to serve poor children wherever they are. Commissioner Shea requested to have this as a standing item with updates at the next meeting in September.

IV. COUNTY HOUSING PORTFOLIO

The TC Economic Development Director, Christy Moffett gave an update on the Travis County Housing Corporation portfolio and the services that are provided at these properties. Information was provided on the current and future housing expansion.

V. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability presenters provided an overview on the impact of extreme weather and climate change in Central Texas. Zach Baumer, Chief Sustainability Officer with City of Austin stated their focus is on climate change, the cause of climate change, and greenhouse emissions. In addition, they also focused on sustainable food issues. They are in the final stages of completing the Austin-Travis County Food Plan, the first of its kind in the area. The plan will address concerns with the local food system. This is going to be brought to Austin City Council for approval in July.

Darien Clary, Director of Sustainability with Austin Independent School District, provided a brief history on the connection between climate change and sustainability, and how it impacts students and facilities, and the actions that AISD has taken.

VI. POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS

TRE Update

Intergovernmental Relations in the Fall

School District plans for \$60M decrease

Update on Special Education and Mendez Middle School

Meet the new City Manager

VII. ADJOURNED at 1:39 PM