

# EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

10:00 AM

PLAZA ROOM B, MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING

**Members Present:** Councilmember Rey A. Saldaña, Chair, *District 4*  
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*  
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*  
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*  
Councilmember Chan, *District 9*

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**Members Absent:** None

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**Staff Present:** Richard Keith, *Interim Assistant Director, Department of Human Services*; Gloria Hurtado, *Assistant City Manager*; Kristine Duff, *Assistant City Attorney*; Rosalinda Diaz, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Maricella Borreal, *Director, Early Childhood Services, KLRN-TV*

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## 1. Citizens To Be Heard

There were no items addressed by citizens.

## 2. Approval of minutes of the June 11, 2013 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the June 11, 2013 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

## 3. Review and discussion of committee charge and City-funded educational programs by area [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager]

Gloria Hurtado stated that the Education Excellence Council Committee was officially charged with creating policies related to Education focusing on Early Childhood Education, After School Programming, graduation rates, college access, dropout prevention, and SA2020 goals and mentors related to Education. She referred to the handout on City-Supported Education Programs by Area and invited Councilmembers to identify those in their district that they were interested in hearing from. She referred to the handout titled "Educational Excellence Committee Forecast" in which a schedule of meetings from September 2013 through April 2014 was contained. She noted that KLRN-TV was invited to today's meeting and stated that the City has providing funding to them for a number of years. She indicated that the Educational Excellence Council Committee, along with the Head Start Policy Council, is the governing body for the City's Head Start Program. She noted that the Head Start Policy Council is made up of parents and specific stakeholder groups. She indicated that policy items from the Head Start Policy Council and items from the educational programs within the City structure would be brought before the Educational Excellence Council Committee.

Chairman Saldaña confirmed that the four categories of focus for the Educational Excellence Council Committee were After School Programming, Early Childhood Education, College Access, and Drop-Out Prevention. He asked Committee members to identify Programs that they are interested in knowing more about and to give the names of those identified to Ms. Hurtado. He stated that those Programs would be presented to the Committee.

Councilmember Chan asked how the charge to the Committee would fit in with the Consolidated Funding Process. Ms. Hurtado stated that said Programs would be asked to identify the SA2020 metrics associated with their Program.

The Committee discussed strategies to achieve the goals for the four categories of focus.

No action was required for Item 3.

**4. Briefing on KLRN early childhood education programs** [Maricella Borreal, Director, Early Childhood Services, KLRN-TV]

Maricella Borreal stated that KLRN's early childhood programs serve as a bridge for very young children and their caregivers to formal education and eases the transition to the new setting resulting in more positive attitudes toward school. She noted that one of the Code and Performance Measures on the SA2020 score cards was to improve kinder readiness through promotion and access to quality early childhood education. She indicated that the target population for KLRN program activities includes children birth to age five, their parents, informal caregivers, and childcare providers. She stated that the focus area for the Early On Program has been in Districts 8, 9, and 10 since 2007 and in District 2 since 2012. She indicated that said focus areas were within a three mile radius of Stafford and Tynan Very Early Childhood Centers. She stated that one of the current Performance Measures was to improve Kinder-Readiness by offering a variety of bi-lingual experiences through individualized instruction and collaborative groups for children and caregivers. She indicated that there were approximately 610 children under the age of five who are at home with someone and not connected to a formal school setting. She noted that these children would be engaged through enrichment workshops, play & learn groups, school readiness activities, family fun events, and professional development (training through television). She stated that KLRN believes when caregivers understand more about child development, they learn how to promote literacy and school readiness through everyday activities. She stated that the curriculum was aligned with the 2008 Texas Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Kindergarten and utilized resources from Ready to Learn.

Ms. Borreal noted that one community event was held per Council District and their largest event was held on April 20, 2013 at Kid's Day in the Park in District 1. She indicated that KLRN partnered with the San Antonio Association for the Education of Young Children (SAAEYC) and the United Way (UW) to sponsor this event. She added that over 7,000 people and 70 agencies were present at said event. She noted that in the future; KLRN intends to offer more life training experiences for providers. She indicated that results of two instruments have shown that all 37 children have shown an increase in school-readiness skills. She noted that an additional three instruments would be collected by the end of the month. She indicated that when data was collected for the ASQ-3 (Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition) Instrument, it indicated that a large portion of the population was transient or they disconnect their telephones. She added that new technology would be integrated into their programs this

year. She stated that ongoing Professional Development would be offered to the KLRN staff. Lastly, she distributed KLRN's current Performance Measures.

Councilmember Taylor asked if KLRN had partnered with anyone with Nutrition Expertise. Ms. Borreal stated that they had access to curriculum that addresses Nutrition. She noted that they sponsor the Healthy Kids Project along with the San Antonio Medical Foundation Society which will be piloted in the Edgewood and Harlandale Independent School Districts this fall. She noted that healthier options have been offered at lunch. Councilmember Taylor asked how KLRN works with faith-based partners. Ms. Borreal stated that KLRN currently does not partner with faith-based groups but would like to explore this option. Councilmember Taylor offered to facilitate said partnerships.

Chairman Saldaña asked of the biggest expense for the Early Childhood Programs. Ms. Borreal stated that salaries were the biggest expense followed by equipment. She noted that they have been given access to two areas in the Stafford Very Early Childhood Centers at no charge. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the number of families that participate in said Programs. Ms. Borreal stated that there are 48 families participating in the Early Childhood Centers and over 1,400 are currently participating in the Early On Program.

No action was required on Item 4.

5. **Briefing and possible action on the Head Start program related to: revised Head Start Policy Council bylaws, 2013-2014 School Year Center Enrollment Plan, Program budget revision for the period of July 1, 2013 through January 31, 2014, and Program Governance Screener** [Melody Woosley, Interim Director, Department of Human Services; Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager]

Melody Woosley stated that the Head Start Program (Program) was an Early Childhood Program funded by the Federal Government and administrated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). She noted that said Program provides high quality early education and support services to children. She indicated that the National Grant Competition Process was initiated in 2011 and prior to competition; the City was the sole grantee in Bexar County. She stated that beginning July 1, 2013, the City became one of six grantees in Bexar County serving 2,861 children. She noted that the Department of Human Services provides direct program management, oversight, governance, family support and mental wellness services. She stated that the City contracts to provide educational services to the San Antonio and Edgewood Independent School Districts. She stated that Dental Services are contracted with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and Health Services are contracted with the University Health System. She reported that in July 2013 the City received a Notice of Award (NOA) from HHS that reflected funding of \$730,383, which was less than the projected pro-rated award due to sequestration and reduced funding at the Grantor Level. She indicated that the Educational Excellence Council Committee acts as the governing body for the Program and participates in decision making for the Program along with the Head Start Policy Council, which is primarily composed of elected Head Start Parent Representatives. She indicated that revisions to the bylaws were necessary to reflect the grantee name change and to revise membership composition based on a reduced service area. She stated that the 2013-2014 Center Enrollment Plans, which include 26 centers and 181 classrooms, were revised. She noted that the Policy Council approved the revised Policy Council Bylaws and 2013-2014 Center Enrollment Plans at their meeting on August 6, 2013. She stated that a part of the new post-award requirements for 2013-

2014 included use of a Governance Screener, whose purpose was to ensure strong grantee governance systems to safeguard federal funds and provide effective program oversight. She indicated that the Policy Council reviewed and approved the screener at their meeting on September 10, 2013. She added that said screener was due to HHS by September 27, 2013. She reviewed the June 2013 Program Report and stated that staff recommends approval of the revised Head Start Policy Council Bylaws, the 2013-2014 School Year Center Enrollment Plans, the Head Start Program Budget Revision for July 1, 2013 through January 31, 2014, and the Head Start Program Governance, Leadership, and Oversight Capacity Screener.

Councilmember Chan asked of the other five grantees in Bexar County serving children. Ms. Woosley stated that the Family Services Association, South San Antonio Independent School District, Parent-Child, Inc., Avance San Antonio, and the Region 20 Education Service Center were Grantees. Councilmember Chan asked of the reason for the reduction in size of the grant. Ms. Hurtado indicated that the City was found to be in non-compliance by HHS and was forced to re-compete for funding at a time when the federal government was seeking to award grants to smaller providers.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if the costs for family support, mental wellness, dental, and health services were included in the budget. Ms. Woosley confirmed that said costs were included in the budget. Councilmember Gonzales asked if the other grantees were required to provide said services. Ms. Woosley indicated that they were required to provide said services.

Councilmember Chan moved to forward the revised Head Start Policy Council Bylaws, the 2013-2014 School Year Center Enrollment Plan, the Head Start Program Budget Revision for July 1, 2013 through January 31, 2014, and the Head Start Program Governance, Leadership, and Oversight Capacity Screener to the full City Council for approval. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

#### **6. Briefing and possible action on San Antonio Education Partnership Scholarship Program [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager]**

Gloria Hurtado stated that the San Antonio Education Partnership Scholarship (Scholarship) was established in 1989 and funded by the City of San Antonio for \$2,000,000. She stated that scholarships, which were administered by the San Antonio Education Partnership (SAEP), were available to students at 25 high schools served by SAEP. She indicated that scholarships were awarded to students with a 3.0 grade point average (GPA), a 95% attendance rate, and a demonstrated financial need. She noted that awardees were required attend a College or University in San Antonio. She reported that scholarship awards were limited to \$350 per year for colleges, \$500 per year for public universities, and 1,000 per year for private universities per student. She stated that the funding awarded could only be used in the Fall or Spring semesters and was limited to eight semesters within a maximum five-year period. She reported that a committee was established to review current policies and noted the members. She noted that projections show that current policies would result in exceeding the \$2,000,000 budget by 2014. She stated that the committee held meetings to gather background and input prior to the development of recommendations. She reported that the committee recommended that the Scholarship: 1) Build on the Café College brand; 2) Modify the scholarship award amounts; 3) Set uniform academic eligibility requirements; 4) Require that students attend workshops and are active in the community; 5) Enhance colleges' institutional accountability; 6) Enhance high schools' accountability; 7) Explore expansion to all San Antonio residents; 8) Augment City

funds with private donations; 9) Set mechanisms to equitably allocate funds; and 10) Use technology to automate processes and increase student outreach. She indicated that staff developed three recommendations which are: 1) Renaming the Scholarship to Café College Scholarship; 2) Requiring awardees to attend two Café College Workshops prior to college enrollment; and 3) Modifying the scholarship award amounts. She stated that staff recommends that the scholarship award amounts be revised to \$600 per year for community colleges, \$850 per year for public universities, and \$1,500 per year for private universities.

Councilmember Chan stated that she did not think it was necessary for the awardees to attend two Café College Workshops and indicated that the award amounts presented would not be impactful.

Councilmember Taylor asked of data measuring the impact of said scholarships. Ms. Hurtado stated that said data is limited. Councilmember Taylor suggested that pursuing private funds be made a top priority. She asked of the rationale for limiting awardees to those attending college in San Antonio. She stated that she feels that this is very limiting.

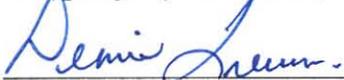
Chairman Saldaña indicated that the proposed recommendations would be brought before the San Antonio Education Partnership for approval. He noted that he supports awarding scholarships to those eligible who attend college outside of San Antonio.

No action was required for Item 6.

#### 7. Adjournment

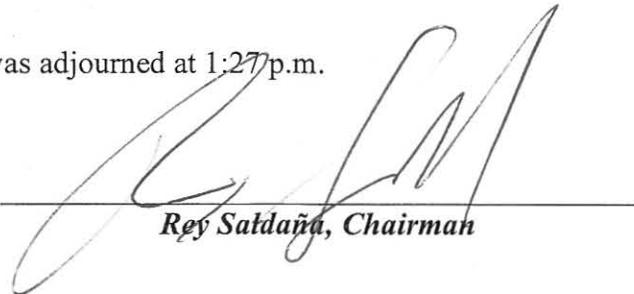
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Denice Treviño*

*Office of the City Clerk*



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*Rey Saldaña, Chairman*