



## **JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**Austin City Council**

**Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees**

**Travis County Commissioners Court**

Monday, April 1, 2024

11:30am-1:30pm

Austin ISD, 4000 S IH-35 Frontage Rd., Austin, TX 78704

Some members of the Joint Subcommittee may participate by video conference.

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### **Joint Subcommittee Members in Attendance:**

#### **Austin Independent School District (AISD):**

- Arati Singh, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 9, Board President
- Ofelia Zapata, District 2
- Matias Segura, Superintendent
- Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, and Policy Oversight

#### **City of Austin:**

- Alison Alter, Council Member, District 10
- 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: 11:52 AM by Board President Arati Singh

#### **I. Public Comment**

*There were no speakers*

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**



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The minutes were approved on Commissioner Shea's motion with a second by Council Member Alison Alter, and a unanimous vote.

### **III. After School Care**

Jeremy Martorell, AISD Director, 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Child Care Program, reported that AISD operates after-school child care at 26 campuses for students who are 4 to 12 years of age, as well as family and community child care programs at eight campuses for children who are 6 weeks to 4 years of age. Additionally, AISD offers summer camps that are open to the entire district at four campuses for students who are 4 to 12 years old. 3<sup>rd</sup> Base students have over 2 percent better attendance than their peers. A comparison of tuition costs was provided showing AISD tuition to be the lowest. The AISD child care centers are licensed and accredited through Texas Rising Star, maintaining a ratio of 18:1. Waitlists are due to the shortage of hourly child care workers. Mr. Martorell indicated AISD recruits through Austin Community College, Workforce Solutions and Huston Tillotson.

A list of each campus, its enrollment and waiting list was provided as well as a list of the campuses that will offer child care in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, for a total of 78 campuses by 2026.

Kimberly McNeely, Director of Austin Parks and Recreation, reported on the City of Austin's Out-of-School Time programs which include after school, C day camps, summer camps and teen programs. After school programs are offered at 15 recreation centers, where 600 children are enrolled. Summer camps are offered at 15 recreation centers and have a capacity for 720 students. Teen outreach provides 1,332 hours of free programs including public relations, sports leadership, skill development, cooking essentials, civic engagement and emerging technology.

A written report describing financial support from the City of Austin and Travis County for after school and other student support programs was provided.

### **IV. Childcare working group update**

Council Member Alison Alter provided an update from the childcare working group. She reported the Austin City Council approved a City property tax break for child care centers following the passage of Proposition 2 in November 2023. Austin is the first municipality in Texas taking action, demonstrating a commitment to children, families and the essential child care sector. An affidavit from the landlord indicating the savings from the tax break has been passed down to the child care facility is required.



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#### **V. Mental Health**

Dr. Twyla Williams, Executive Director, Counseling Crisis and Mental Health, and Dr. Kimberly Wilson, Director, Mental Health and Crisis Management, described the Tier One, Tier Two and Tier Three Mental Health Services provided to AISD students. AISD employs approximately 200 school counselors, 16 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Cultural Proficiency & Inclusiveness (CPI) specialists, and 17.5 school wellness counselors. Thirty-one licensed mental health professionals (LMHPs) provide intensive case management, connection to community resources, short-term therapy and other support on 88 campuses. Additionally, Communities in Schools provides services at 56 campuses. The Austin ISD Police Crisis Intervention Team, which consists of four officers, responds to emergency calls involving a mental health crisis within AISD. Dr. Wilson indicated that many core issues involving the need for mental health counseling grow out of poverty.

Travis County provided a written overview of Fiscal Year 2024 Behavioral Health Services.

#### **VI. Written report on the Summer Youth Employment Program**

Pilar Sanchez reported that Travis County has begun preliminary discussions with the City of Austin, AISD, and Workforce Solutions on how the entities can best collaborate to offer a more efficient and robust program for students. She also indicated that the program will be open to 500 students over two sessions, for a seven week period.

#### **VII. Standing Items (set at previous meetings)**

- A. Unfinished Business and New Business
- B. Future Agendas and Meeting Dates:

- Commissioner Shea would like to discuss education on climate change and how to help families prepare.
- Council Member Alison Alter would like an update on after-school care and a better picture of the subsidies available.
- The next meeting is Monday, June 10 at Travis County.

#### **VIII. Adjourned at 1:28 pm**