**Stakeholder Meeting Notes**

**Celebrations:**

**Austin Chapter of TX AEYC Awards:**

* Jeanette Watson Advocacy Awards: Council Member Alison Alter & Austin Public Health (Donna Sundstrom & team)
* Teacher of the Year: Loretta Johnson (Family Child Care )
* Trainer of the Year: Leslie Fierro (AVANCE, Inc)
* Administrator of the Year: Kristina Lovell
* Leadership Award: Theresa Dodd

**Austin Child Guidance Center:**

* Launched an Infant/Early Childhood Warmline after a year of hard work, patience, and support from many partners like United Way ATX
* IEC staff reached over 400 participants through presentations for First 3 Year’s Baby Day this year!

**Austin Public Library** opens its doors to customers on May 10th!

**AVANCE-Austin** was able to expand (virtually) to serve 120 additional families in North East Austin / Pflugerville during the pandemic.

5 Austin churches are participating in the first ever **Blue Sunday** this weekend for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**BookSpring** mailed over 1000 books to homes across Central Texas in the last quarter as part of it’s pandemic pivot!

The **City of Austin** identified quality early care and education as one of it’s top 4 priorities for American Rescue Plan investments.

**Family Connects** received certification in January 2021

**LifeWorks Teen Parent Services** is celebrating over a year of working remotely with teen parents and their children, providing basic needs while continuing to develop parenting skills and moving closer to self-sufficiency

**Open Door Preschools** received its first major gift and grant commitment to help launch the new location on North Lamar!

**United Way ATX CLASS Coaching Program** presented at the National Teachstone InterAct Summitt and has another group of fantastic teachers.

**Very proud of the Strong Start Team (SAFE)**

* sharing parenting tips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcSFIZrHR2Y>
* holding a successful and robust virtual open house for community to learn about the services

**PACES Project - Francisco Gallegos, United Way for Greater Austin**

Francisco presented an overview of this project: Preventing ACEs through Collaboration and Economic Supports, which is a joint effort between Foundation Communities, United Way ATX, and the Child and Family Research Partnership at the UT LBJ School.

Goals include:

* Build awareness of EITC/CTC
* Increase access to tax credit
* Study the impact of tax credits as a protective factors against ACE's
* Target working parents of color with young children in Austin's Eastern Crescent

SX6 Coalition Organizations can help by:

* Serve as a venue for EITC/CTC awareness campaigns
* Refer clients to FREE tax preparation services
* Encourage front-line staff to undergo ACE's/EITC training
* Spread the word!

Contact: *Francisco.Gallegos@uwatx.org*

Ben Kramer noted: [Sesame Street in Communities](https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/) are free bilingual resources to assist families and care providers in addressing ACES. Their brand-new series on [racial equity](https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/racial-justice/) has garnered over 60m views in 1 month

**Community and Strategic Plan Deep Dive on Data - Dr. Alison Bentley**

Dr. Alison Bentley, Director of Data & Evaluation at United Way for Greater Austin provided information about community level data - Austin: A Tale of Two Cities, and a review of the 2020 Strategic Plan data including updates to our Success By 6 Strategic Plan data dashboard. Data collection has been uniquely challenging this year because of COVID-19. Please refer to the PPT for details.

Dr. Bentley is available to provide this data overview to other community organizations and agencies, which may be helpful in elevating early childhood as a community priority. Austin Public Library is considering a presentation for their entire staff.

There was interesting conversation about the high cost of living and challenges of staff living in Austin, as well as comparing Travis County to other areas in Texas.

A question was asked about police reforms, use of 3-1-1 and if there are opportunities for connection to 2-1-1. Our 2-1-1 staff indicated: *Since 2-1-1 calls are routed statewide, (we take about 15% of our local calls) and HHSC's hesitation to partner with local municipalities, it's not very realistic.* However, with 3-1-1’s new procedures, there may be opportunity for follow up for social services through ConnectATX.org

**Enrollment in Early Childhood Programs**

Based on the data that all early childhood programs have experienced significant declines in enrollment during COVID-19, the Coalition members separated into Breakout Groups to discuss the following questions:

* What are barriers stakeholders see and hear from families they work with for agencies & workgroups to consider?
* What are stakeholder ideas for ECE Program Leaders/Agencies for communicating with families about enrollment?
* What are the ways the Coalition can support enrollment efforts?

Notes are available [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13O24Gqi68KqEKxDfNGRfK_1hJGlGDmGNN-CQcHRR7U8/edit?usp=sharing). The discussion will be synthesized and shared back with the SX6 Leadership Team as well as organizations/agencies.

**Coalition Announcements:**

* The City of Austin and Travis County are currently in the process of developing plans for American Rescue Plan funding priorities. The Success By 6 Recommendations are available for review here:
	+ [Success By 6 Recommendations](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h_d3N5CB1sm4U0lBdfFmj-umnUd01ygH/view?usp=sharing)
	+ [Family Connects Supplement](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g2pwmiNbmvCWjsZ6T5JiaxK2JnwkZZcZ/view?usp=sharing)
* ConnectATX is now offering: [Ride United Short-Term Rides through ConnectATX](%E2%80%A2%09https%3A/connectatx.unitedwayaustin.org/united-way-for-greater-austin--austin-tx--ride-united-short-term-rides-/5821307740225536?postal=78704)

**Ongoing Coalition Meetings:**

* [City of Austin Early Childhood Council](https://www.austintexas.gov/content/early-childhood-council)  - public meeting, 2nd Wed monthly
* **Child Care Provider Forum** -  Weekly, Wed at 1 p.m./6 p.m., contact  dleach@austincc.edu for information
* **SX6 Communications Workgroup** -  Help us improve internal and external communications for the SX6 Coalition, meets Monthly,  contact Morgan.Messick@uwatx.org
* [SX6 Advocacy Volunteers](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxw-aWTgnhuhOtuZ4NTn3RNdGYW7cFvaPnsuw1tXiHAKI5Wg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1) – Sign up for email alerts to take action at the federal, state, and local level.

**Other Upcoming Meetings & Events:**

* [Blue Sunday April 25th](https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/join-us-for-blue-sunday/) Participating Congregations:

Ebenezer BaptistSt. James Missionary BaptistGreater Mt. Zion ChurchGreater St. John’s Church of God in ChristNew Zion Hill Church of God in Christ

* [City of Austin Winter Storm Review Task Force:](http://austintexas.gov/content/winter-storm-review-task-force)   Aletha Huston (Early Childhood Council Rep)
* [Save the Date](https://library.austintexas.gov/KBP)  - **Austin Public Library Kids Block Party – Starting May 10th**

Learning Through Play. The Kids Block Party is Austin Public Library’s annual celebration of all the ways kids learn through play – by doing, creating, reading, listening, and exploring. The Kids Block Party 2021 is virtual this year. Check out our page starting May 10 for fun ideas for kids ages 0 - 12. Activity bags can be picked up at all Express Service library locations, while supplies last, starting May 10.

[Join us for a LIVE author session with Raúl The Third.](https://library.austintexas.gov/event/meet-author/live-ra-l-third-759215) We will enjoy a reading and interactive art demonstration before live Q&A. Youth from all over Austin will have a chance to submit questions in advance or ask questions live! **Sunday, May 16, 2 PM -**[Please register for this event.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/austin-public-library-welcomes-raul-the-third-tickets-150534112583)