



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
**{{item.tracking\_number}}**

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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** June 25, 2024

**In Control:** Head Start Policy Council Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Human Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Melody Woosley

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Early Head Start Collaboration with University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Project EARLY (Evidenced-Based Action, Research and Learning to support Young children with or at risk for autism)

**SUMMARY:**

This item presents the following from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs for action by the Head Start Policy Council.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), 1302.14 Selection Process requires programs to reserve ten percent of their funded enrollment to select and serve children with suspected and identified disabilities. In addition, programs are required by the HSPPS 1302.92

Training and professional development, to assist staff in acquiring or increasing the knowledge and skills needed to provide high-quality, comprehensive services within the scope of their job responsibilities.

The Early Head Start (EHS) program is collaborating with UTSA through Project EARLY, a five-year grant from the Office of Special Education Program through the U. S. Department of Education. The goal of Project EARLY is to increase the quantity and quality of culturally responsive early childhood specialists by bringing two disciplines, Applied Behavior Analysis and School Psychology, together. Graduate students, called Scholars, apply and are selected to participate in Project EARLY. They are trained to identify and provide interventions for infants and toddlers at-risk for or diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Assigned to EHS classrooms, the Scholars provide evidence-based strategies and interventions for the classroom teachers and support the teachers' knowledge and awareness of serving children with suspect or identified disabilities.

**ISSUE:**

Rules and regulations for the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Start-Child Care Partnership grants as set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) require the Head Start Policy Council to review programmatic actions to oversee certain key responsibilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no anticipated impact to the general fund as a result of these actions.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The review of the items included in this memorandum are required for program compliance with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rules and regulations for Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership programs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff will present a briefing on this item subject to possible action by the HSPC Committee. Staff recommends review and approval of the items included in this memorandum.