



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council was held on November 9, 2009 at the Safford Public Library, 808 S. 7th Ave., Safford, AZ 85546.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 1:06 p.m.

Members Present:

David Alford, Cindi Alva, Jan Elliott, Ryan Henry (telephonically), Ann Johnson, Donna McGaughey, Pam Patt, Retha Russell and Laurie Smith

Members Absent:

Stacy Kramer

First Things First Staff Present:

Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator; Edith Lee, Administrative Assistant; Marla Chamberlain, Central East Regional Manager

Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public.

Consent Agenda

A motion to approve minutes from the October 13, 2009 meeting made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Elliott. Motion carried.

Reach Out and Read Presentation

Carol Kochlin, Executive Director of Reach Out and Read Arizona, gave a presentation and provided information on the program. The program costs approximately \$40 per child each year.

Discussion & Possible Approval of SFY2011 Funding Plan

Chair Smith began discussions regarding the approval of the SFY2011 Funding Plan by asking members if anyone had a conflict of interest. The following members declared a conflict.

Member Alford declared conflict because he works for an organization that may apply for funding under the Graham/Greenlee Regional Funding Plan.

Member Elliott declared conflict because she is affiliated with an organization that may apply for funding under the Graham/Greenlee Regional Funding Plan.

Member Russell declared conflict because she works for an organization that may apply for funding under the Graham/Greenlee Regional Funding Plan.

Member Johnson declared conflict because she is executive director of a non-profit that could be applying for funding.

Member McGaughey declared conflict because she is directly involved with all Graham County schools, including those with preschools.

Member Patt declared conflict because she works for an organization that is participating in Quality First.

Member Alva declared conflict because her agency of employment might benefit from awards in the future.

Chair Smith announced that 7 present members, or a majority of the Regional Council, have declared a conflict of interest with the reconsideration of the Graham/Greenlee Regional 2011 Funding Plan. As a result, Chair Smith invoked the Rule of Impossibility which states that members can act, upon making their conflicts of interest known in the official agency record.

Chair Smith read the statute that refers to the Rule of Impossibility.

Chair Smith asked Ms. Elkins to present the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council 2011 Funding Plan. Ms. Elkins reviewed each allocation line item, and the Regional Council made modifications were necessary.

Ms. Elkins led the Regional Council in a discussion regarding Strategy #2b Access & Affordability (Child Care Stipends). Ms. Elkins inquired with the Regional Council as to whether they desired to leave the \$20,000 allocation in this strategy for child care stipends, or whether they wanted to participate in the statewide access and affordability strategy instead. The statewide access and affordability strategy is currently under development, and details have not yet been made available. The Regional Council expressed that, for now, they would like to hold off and see what the statewide access and affordability strategy has to offer.

The Regional Council discussed concerns with having too much money in carry forward, and inquired with Regional Manager Marla Chamberlain as to what was a suggested/reasonable amount of money to keep in carry forward. Ms. Chamberlain suggested \$20,000 - \$40,000.

The Regional Council further discussed Strategy #5 Early Childhood Literacy Project and added \$10,000 additional dollars to this strategy.

Ms. Elkins and Ms. Chamberlain explained to the Regional Council that the policy department has concerns with Strategy #9, and reminded the Regional Council that the goal of First Things First is to build the system. A recommendation was given that the Regional Council not label this strategy "Diaper Bank", but to instead fund food boxes, to include diapers. The Regional Council discussed this strategy

further and recommended that language be included in the funding plan to include and capture the intention of the Regional Council.

The Regional Council further discussed their concern with such a large amount of money being left in carry forward, and agreed to increase the amount for the Oral Health Strategy #10 to \$130,000. Ms. Chamberlain explained that it is easier to decrease the allocation if the Regional Council decides to do so down the road, than it is to increase the amount, as any increases in allocation have to go to the Board for approval.

Final allocations were as follows:

Strategy #1 Quality First -	\$86,670
Strategy #2 Access & Affordability -	(\$20,000)
Strategy#4 Parent Kits -	\$0
Strategy #5 Early Childhood Literacy Project -	\$110,000
Strategy #7 Therapist Incentive -	\$75,000
Strategy #8 Home Visitation -	\$300,000
Strategy #9 Food Boxes -	\$10,000
Strategy #10 Oral Health -	\$130,000
<i>Carry Forward -</i>	<i>\$19,762</i>

Member McGaughey made a motion to approve the SFY2011 Funding Plan to include the modifications made during Regional Council discussions. Member Patt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Coordinator Report

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins provided a coordinator's report.

- Ms. Elkins expressed her appreciation to the council for the outreach that they do on behalf of FTF within the community.
- The Health Services seat is still vacant and recruitment efforts are still being made.
- Ms. Elkins provided a Quality First and Emergency Scholarships presentation to the DES Home Providers. It was well received.
- The Safford Library has enrolled 1,076 children in the Imagination Library, and has held 49 community events to date.
- Child and Family Resources' home visitation program is currently serving 17 high risk families and 32 children.

Council Member Updates/Comments

None

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, December 14th at 1:00 p.m. at the Safford Library.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Johnson, and seconded by Member Russell. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator

Approved:

Laurie Smith, Chair