



FIRST THINGS FIRST
The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on January 21, 2009 at Ben Furlong Education Building – 8700 S. Kyrene Rd., Tempe AZ 85284.

Jackie Garner, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Members Present

Andrea Colby, Angela Capone, Bonni Pomush, Genoveva Acosta-Bueno, Glenn Waterkotte, Hope Dillon, Jackie Garner, Karen Emery, Kathy Halter, Maureen Duane

Members Absent

Trinity Donovan

Guests

Sandy Carpenter, First Things First Governmental Affairs Specialist
Sharon Brady, Director of T.E.A.C.H. Program
Wendy Sabatini, First Things First Manager for Maricopa Region
Three members from the public

Consent Agendas

This item was tabled until the February 18th Council meeting.

Call to the Public

None

Request for Grant Applications Phase In Schedule

The Phase I January 30 release date is no longer the deadline but the intent is to roll it out as soon as possible after the 30th.

Grant Review Process

Council Chair Garner and Coordinator Floth will put together talking points for the Council to petition volunteers. There was a question and answer session with Ms. Brady – Director of the T.E.A.C.H. project and the Council. Coordinator Floth reminded the Council to continue sending her their ideas around funding guidelines.

Member Waterkotte motioned to select reviewers for the RFGA from an independent, voluntary pool. Member Emery seconded the motion. There was a discussion of the question for clarification by Member Capone who stated the reviewers should have expertise in the area of the RFGA they will be reviewing, or some other type of criteria in place. First Things First Manager for the Maricopa Region, Wendy Sabatini, shared with the Council options that are being used by the other Regions.

Member Halter motioned to authorize Coordinator Floth to act on the Council's behalf to ensure that qualified reviewers are chosen and that she can utilize the expertise from other Regional Councils and other interested/qualified parties. Member Waterkotte seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Legislative Updates

Ms. Carpenter updated the Council on the legislative process regarding First Things First dollars and the State's budget deficit. She walked the Council through the legislative website pointing out links to find information related to Education bills. She shared how the Council could respond to a bill by emailing or by requesting to speak. Members can also sign up for email notices on topics of interest. Ms. Carpenter provided the Council with Advocacy Strategies and her business card.

Member Halter shared with the Council that should they make a comment, the first line of the comment is what the legislators hear and the last line is what they remember. She also suggested mentioning any constituents you represent.

Retreat Planning

Members Emery and Pomush presented ideas for the retreat. They discussed whether Council business should be included. They are in the process of acquiring a facilitator whose schedule could possibly dictate the date of the retreat.

Coordinator Updates

- Statewide, 300 applications have been received for Quality First!
- The Roadshow was well received with over 120 attendees. The Council thanked the First Things First staff for their efforts during the RFGA Roadshow.

Reports/Updates

- Member Colby: The Tempe Impact Education Foundation and the Tempe Elementary School District are having their yearly preschool fundraiser on February 27, 2009, from 6p – 9p. Tickets are \$30 and raffle items will be sold. Also, Member Colby will host an informational meeting about Quality First at 2 pm on February 5 and during the evening on February 6. She has mailed invitations to all licensed providers in the region.
- Member Halter attended a board meeting for the Arizona Childcare Association. Advocacy activities were discussed.
- Member Pomush participated in the East Valley Regional Partnership via conference call. The East Valley First Things First strategies were discussed.
- Member Dillon shared information regarding Valley of the Sun Association for the Education of Young Children's informational meetings covering First Things First in general and the Quality First! project.

Coordinator Floth is available to attend any of these events.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Council Vice Chair Dillon adjourned the meeting at 5:27 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY:

Sharon Smith, Administrative Assistant III

Approved:
