



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## South Pima Regional Partnership Council

### Call to Order/Welcome and Council Introductions

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First South Pima Regional Partnership Council was held on February 13, 2014 at Desert Senita Community Health Center, 410 Malacate Street, Ajo, Arizona 85321.

Chair Connie Espinoza called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 a.m.

Members Present: Connie Espinoza, Tony Bruno, Fran Driver, and Debbie Palmer

Members Present telephonically: Susan Pace and Cyndi Barningham

Members Absent: Paul Ohm, Nathan McCann, and Cheryl McGlothlen

### Call to Public

Julie Friberg, *Make Way for Books*: Ms. Friberg provided a handout and information to the Regional council about recent and upcoming workshops, parent and child highlights, and upcoming professional development in Ajo March 12.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by member Tony Bruno that the South Pima Regional Partnership Council approve the minutes of the January 16, 2014 South Pima Regional Partnership Council meeting as presented, seconded by member Debbie Palmer. Motion carried.

### Healthy Steps Program Presentation

Chair Connie Espinoza introduced and turned the floor over to Healthy Steps Coordinator Cecilia Fernandez. Ms. Fernandez provided an overview of the Healthy Steps program. She started by stating that Healthy Steps is an expanding model in Arizona and that the Ajo program is the first time it is being implemented as a Home Visitation program-previously it was implemented as a care coordination model only. She informed the members that the program has less stringent guidelines in terms of qualifying families; any point in development is fine for families with children under five. Ms. Fernandez provided an overview of the trainings she has attended, including the Brazelton Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, as well as the partnerships already created and in progress. As families have been hesitant in accepting home visits, she has strengthened relationships at well child checks, created a dedicated phone line for assistance with development questions, and partnered with the library to begin story times. The program is currently working on being the host for The Parent Connection's Stay and Play in their new space on the plaza. She ended by stating that the program focus has become addressing the families with the question "where can we meet your needs?" The members thanked her and asked a couple of clarifying questions.

### Discussion and Possible Action: Benchmarking of School Readiness Indicator 10 for Pima Regions

Chair Connie Espinoza introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Regional Director Eleanor Droegemeier. Ms. Droegemeier provided an overview of the attachment related to the agenda item, reminding the members of the process so far with the cross-regional workgroup and the recommendations they have provided. Members asked questions about the community survey used to gauge the baseline, and Ms. Droegemeier responded that she would provide members with the nine questions related to the topic of parent competence and knowledge.

A motion was made by member Debbie Palmer that the South Pima Regional Council approve the following draft benchmark for School Readiness Indicator 10 to be publically vetted: 56% of families will feel competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being by 2020; seconded by member Tony Bruno. Motion carried.

### Discussion: Systems Building – Action Plan Development

Chair Connie Espinoza introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Ms. Droegemeier. Ms. Droegemeier directed their attention to the document provided on Systems Building. She reminded members of their previously identified specific topic: how the regional council could assist the KAPP program, beginning with the program in Ajo. She went over the progress made with that topic and program; the program implementer in Ajo would be attending the upcoming professional development opportunity being provided by Make Way for Books in Ajo and a meeting was occurring that day for further discussion. Ms. Droegemeier then reminded members of their next possible topic of public-private partnerships and engaging the local business community. She asked for action steps and if anyone had an idea for a community to on which to focus. Members determined they would like staff to determine the details of the program presented at the Summit, and reaching

out to see if they could share resources and experiences. Members also suggested the Green Valley, Sahuarita and Amado area as a starting community. Member Bruno shared his view that Amado lacks the number of businesses to be a starting point. Members concurred and had continued discussion and consensus about the focus of the partnerships being support and awareness.

**Presentation and Discussion: UCHC Transportation Grant**

Chair Connie Espinoza turned the floor over to member Tony Bruno. Member Bruno provided information about a three year grant United Community Health Centers (UCHC) had received and that has just been updated to include providing transportation to their clinics, including the dental clinic and pediatrics. He added that they will be embarking on behavioral health as well. Ms. Bruno gave an overview of the process for clients, stating that while it is no cost to the client, it is \$138 per ride one way for the clinic grant. Additionally, he informed the regional council that they were partnering by MOU with the food bank to bring clients to and from the food bank in their area and are looking for other potential partners in the targeted communities where transportation remains a barrier for families in accessing services.

**Regional Director's Report**

Ms. Droegemeier briefly went over the expenditure report, sharing the news that at this point in time for the first time, the overall expenditures are nearly at 50%. She went over the timeline labeled Attachment 8, providing updates on the regional council recruitment process, renewals, and other activities for spring. Members had questions about regional council recruitment, which Senior Director Erin Lyons addressed and answered. Ms. Droegemeier then gave an overview of the considerations before the FTF Board Financial Committee, and member Bruno asked if he could have council feedback before the next committee meeting. Ms. Lyons stated that was fine, while reminding the regional council that ultimately this was a decision for the state board based on the committee recommendations, not requiring regional council approval. Members concurred that the third option was the preferred of three options. Ms. Droegemeier then provided information about the narrative report summary included in the packet, and member Bruno thanked staff and grantees, stating that he learned about some things in his community that even he did not know. Ms. Droegemeier then provided a quick overview of the Harder and Company Study done on family support strategies for North and Central Pima, and shared highlights of their outcomes. She ended by drawing their attention to the community outreach report.

**General Discussion**

Member Tony Bruno shared information about the recent legislative move to change the Santa Cruz County line, which would move north on the east side of I-19 to Pima Mine Road. Vice Chair Fran Driver reminded the regional council about the Desert Senita Health Clinic Fun Run 5k fundraiser in Ajo on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and invited anyone interested to attend. Member Susan Pace provided information about a Women's Conference "Creating your Life by Design" Saturday and Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Unity in the Valley Church. Chair Connie Espinoza informed the regional council about an upcoming childcare conference being hosted by Child & Family Resources on June 28th, stating there is a call for presenters.

**Call to the Public**

Vanessa Felty, *United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona*: Ms. Felty provided information about the Annual Business Leaders Breakfast February 25<sup>th</sup>, the ECAS subcommittee of FFK, which is dedicated to business engagement and meets 11:30-1:30 the second Wednesday of the month. She provided updates about the Early Childhood Rural Provider Conference, *A hundred Champions for Children*; highlighted collaborative efforts already occurring in Green Valley as described on page 13 of the narrative summary; and provided information about work with the Pima County Parenting Coalition.

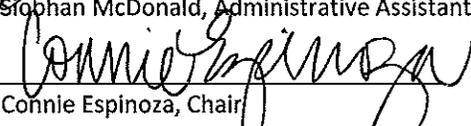
**Next Meeting – March 20, 2014 – Robles Elementary School, 10105 S Sasabe Rd, Tucson, Arizona 85736**

Chair Connie Espinoza reminded the council members of the next meeting in Three Points.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chair Connie Espinoza adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:18 p.m.

Submitted By   
Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approved By   
Connie Espinoza, Chair

Dated this 17 day of April, 2014.