



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Yuma Regional Partnership Council Meeting

Child & Family Resources, Inc

201 S. 3rd Avenue

Yuma, AZ 85364

February 18, 2010

Minutes

Welcome/Introduction/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Madeleine Coil.

Members Present:

Chair Madeleine Coil

Vice Chair Irene Garza

Council Member Lisa Lemos

Council Member Susan Pond

Council Member Francisco Vargas

Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra.

Council Member Judy Watkinson joined the meeting intermittently via a conference call.

Applied Survey Research Staff:

President Susan Brutschy, Project Managers Abbie Stevens and Tracy Keenan were also present by means of a conference call.

First Things First Staff: Regional Manager Gary P. Arnold, Regional Coordinator Roselia Ramirez and Administrative Assistant Marie Megui was also present.

Members Absent:

Council Member Coranne Swift Arrow

Council Member Pilar Moreno

Council Member Ricardo Perez

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Coil provided the Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda.

None declared.

Call to the Public

Child & Family Resources, Inc., Choices for Teen Parents Director Dede Wolf and Lourdes Encinas Director of Parent Awareness Program provided the Council with an update of the program. Department of Economic Security Regional Program Manager Child Care Administration Sandra J. Garrison and WACOG Head Start Program Specialist Bobbie Firebush also addressed the Council and presented a brief review of the Professional Development Core Group.

Consent Agenda

The items on the Consent Agenda included the Council Minutes of the December 17, 2009, and December 30, 2009 council meeting and the Council Minutes of the January 28, 2010 council meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Susan Pond to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Francisco Vargas. Motion passed.

The Play Project

Child & Family Resources Regional Director Lydia Medina provided a brief informative overview of "The Play Project". Lydia stated this program was geared towards children diagnosed with autism or within the spectrum of autism disorder and that autism is one of the fastest growing disabilities in the United States. Lydia also shared success stories from the program. The Council directed Coordinator Roselia Ramirez for further research into this project and possibly implementing the project into the funding plan. The Council asked for possible options available to be presented to the Council at the March meeting.

Chair/Vice Chair Meeting Update

Chair Coil provided the Council with an update of the Regional Council Chair and Vice Chair Leadership Forum that was held on February 4, 2010.

The following were among items of discussion at the Leadership Forum:

- i. Discussion on communication ideas for our vision
- ii. Outreach and Awareness Coordinator
- iii. Nominating Committee for Vacant Seats

Chair Coil informed Council Members that authorization was granted by the State Board to the Council to make changes on unexpended allocations and overall had more flexibility on the funding plan. Coordinator Ramirez reviewed the application process for the Yuma Regional Partnership Council. There were a total of 5 (2 year term) council seats that would expire on June 30, 2010.

Coordinator Ramirez also stated there would be a nominating committee appointed to help interview, evaluate and recommend applicants to the Council. Selected applicants will be appointed by the State Board on June 15, 2010 and will begin serving their term July 1, 2010. Council Member Lisa Lemos, Council Member Francisco Vargas and Sandra J. Garrison Department of Economic Security Regional Program Manager Child Care Administration volunteered to take part in the nominating committee.

Needs and Assets Vendor

Applied Survey Research Staff reviewed and engaged the Council in a discussion of the Yuma Proposed Indicators and the Timeline Report.

Grants and Financial Program Data Summary Report

Coordinator Ramirez reviewed the Grants Financial and Program Data Summary Report with the Council. Coordinator Ramirez stated that grantees were required to provide a quarterly report to the Council. It was the Council's wish that grantees be present for the March 18, 2010 Yuma Regional Partnership Council meeting to discuss the barriers and possibly address solutions to the challenges being faced by these programs.

Refunding Process

Coordinator Roselia Ramirez briefly reviewed the Key Activity Timeline document with the Council emphasizing the dates of relevance to the Council.

Strategies with Possibility of Expansion for FY2010

A review was provided by Coordinator Roselia Ramirez on the strategies with possibility of expansion and asked the Council for direction. Below is a review of the strategies and any actions taken:

Strategy 1 Recruitment & Retention of Therapists-No further action taken

Strategy 2 Promoting Inclusive Settings-RFGA was recently released

Strategy 3 Parent Coaching-Research for The Play Project will be provided by Coordinator Ramirez

Strategy 4 TEACH-30 scholarships-only 6 scholarships have been awarded

Strategy 5 Professional Development-Rolling out to reach up to 250 Early Childhood Educators through conferences in the region. Approved by State Board on August 25, 2009

Strategy 6 Coordination-Unfunded Strategy

Strategy 7 Family Support-Parent Awareness and Education-Not reaching targeted families. Council may consider possible additional funding.

Strategy 8 Early Prenatal Care-Awareness and Access- Council Member Francisco Vargas made a motion to increase funding to include up to 75% of the population in the East and South County of Yuma, seconded by Council Member Irene Garza. Motion passed.

Strategy 9 Pre-K Expansion-Current target was 80 slots- are presently at 78 slots for the region

Strategy 10 Home-Based Provider Incentives-Has not been released out-unable to determine impact or need

Strategy 11 Communications-On Hold

Strategy 12 Child Care Health Consultation-Has not been implemented, pending employment of Consultants

Strategy 13 Quality First-Council allocated for 3 centers and 10 home based Providers

Strategy 14 Professional Career Pathway Project (PCPP)-35 Scholarships allocated-have not been utilized

Emergency Food Boxes-Could provide more research if Council would like to allocate additional dollars

Emergency Child Care Scholarships-Council allocated an additional \$500,000

Expedited Home Visitation-Tied into Strategy 7 Family Support-Parent Awareness and Education

Coordinator's Report

Strategy 2- Request for Grant Application (RFGA) was released February 03, 2010 closing on March 17, 2010. Strategy 3-Continuing efforts on Standards of Practice (SOP). TEACH Representatives will be presenting at the March 18, 2010 meeting. Coordinator Ramirez reviewed the Banner Selection with the Council. Coordinator Ramirez asked the Council for guidance on Pre-K Expansion at the March 18, 2010 Yuma Regional Partnership Council meeting.

Announcements

Legislative Town Hall scheduled on February 19, 2010, 10:30am-12:00pm, Old City Hall Council Chambers, 180 West 1st Street, Yuma AZ 85364.

United Way Music Festival, March 20, 2010 at the Yuma West Wetlands Park.

Next Meeting

March 18, 2010, 4:30 p.m., Diagnostic Imaging Center Conference Room, located at 1501 W. 24th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



Madeleine Coil, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant II