



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Yuma Regional Partnership Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

## Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Yuma Regional Partnership Council was held on February 19, 2015, 4:30 p.m. at the Foothills Library Branch, 13226 E. South Frontage Rd., Yuma, Arizona 85367.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

## Members Present:

Chair Darren Hawkins  
Vice Chair Irene Garza  
Member Kim Fanning  
Member Rebecca Ramirez

## Present via Conference Call

Member Janell F. Johnson  
Member Dr. Mario Ybarra

## Members Absent:

Member Gloria Cisneros  
Member Judy Watkinson  
Member Mary Beth Turner  
Member Pilar Moreno  
Member Ricardo Perez

## Conflict of Interest

None declared at this time.

## Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the January 15, 2015, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chair Garza to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Fanning. Motion carried.

## Update on State Board & SFY2016 Funding Plan Presentations

Chair Hawkins attended the January 20, 2015 Board meeting and presented the Yuma Regional Partnership Council SFY2016 Funding Plan. Furthermore congratulated the Regional Council for their commitment and hard work during the strategic funding plan process and stated the work was not overlooked at state level and had received positive feedback/praise on the accomplishments achieved in the Yuma region.

#### **Update on Faith Based Forum**

The February 4, 2015 Faith Forum was attended by Chair Hawkins. Discussions on the role of the faith based representative and being inclusive of the faith based community to site visits was an area of discussion at the Faith Forum.

#### **Update on Unfunded Approach, Family resource Fairs with Early Identification**

Vice Chair Garza provided an update on the Day of the Young Child event. There is a possibility of early identification screenings being included and early literacy will be an area of focus for the event this year.

#### **Request for Grant Application (RFGA) and Renewal Process**

Regional Director provided some insight on the RFGA, Grant Agreement, and Renewal process. He also included each grant's current lifespan within the three year cycle.

#### **Presentation by Easter Seals Blake Foundation**

Raquel Muñoz of Easter Seals Blake Foundation shared information on the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs strategy. Ms. Muñoz stated the purpose of the Early Care and Education Inclusion Plus (ECEI+) Program is to help child care providers support children, ages birth to five, with differing abilities/special needs, provide guidance and support child care providers in the inclusion of all children in regularly scheduled activities including children with special needs, identify children that may need additional support through observation, screening and parental input.

Ms. Muñoz also shared the results of the First Things First Quality Assurance visit conducted during the months of March 2013 and January 2015.

#### **Preschool Development Grant**

Regional Director Rudy J. Ortiz attended the Preschool Development Grant Informational meeting on February 18, 2015. The Preschool Development Grant outlines Arizona's plan to make high-quality preschool programs more available and accessible in 15 high needs communities as well as to support preschool infrastructure-building and quality enhancements. Arizona was the recipient of the \$20,000, 000 grant for up to 4 years. He stated that 65% of the funding will go directly to the Arizona sub grantees to provide high-quality, comprehensive preschool program services for eligible children. Mr. Ortiz provided additional information on the grant which included but not limited to: infrastructure, child eligibility, implementation standards, intensity of service, child assessment and comprehensive services required and/or optional.

#### **Community Outreach Update**

Magdalena Garcia shared the Business Fact Sheet with the Regional Council giving recognition to Member Perez for his work in the development of the Fact Sheet. Ms. Garcia asked the Regional Council to consider the next steps necessary to reach out to the Business community and share any feedback with her.

#### **Regional Director's Update**

The update included information on: upcoming Yuma County Early Childhood Collaboration meeting: February 24, Quality First Scholarship Meeting: March 4, Yuma County Early Childhood Conference: April 11, Regional Council and State Board Regional Forum: April 13-14, and the upcoming First Things First Early Childhood summit: August 24-25.

#### **Announcements**

None at this time.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on March 19, 2015, 4:30 p.m., Goodwill of Central Arizona, 3097 S. 8th Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

  
Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

  
Rev. Dr. Darren C. Hawkins, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015