



# 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 January 17, 2013, 4:30 p.m. at the Yuma Police Department, 1500 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

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

#### Members Present:

Chair Darren Hawkins  
Vice Chair Irene Garza  
Council Member Kim Fanning  
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra  
Council Member Laurie Gail Senko  
Council Member Mary Beth Turner  
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez  
Council Member Ricardo Perez

#### Members Absent:

Council Member Pilar Moreno  
Council Member Gloria Cisneros  
Council Member Judy Watkinson

#### **Consent Agenda**

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the December 20, 2012, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Ybarra to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Turner, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

Chair Hawkins provided the Regional Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. There were no conflicts declared at this time.

#### **CEO Update and Council Member Recognition**

First Things First Chief Executive Officer, Rhian Evans Allvin, addressed the Regional Council and provided a brief update on First Things First, System Building, Capacity Building and the Research & Evaluation Plan. CEO Allvin stated the Board's Executive Committee established a subcommittee that will focus on public private partnership around early childhood education. Further stating a very rigorous assessment tool is used by First Things First to measure quality childcare. One year service awards were presented to Members Cisneros, Turner, Senko and Fanning.

### **First Things First Award Presentation and Site Tour Update**

The First Things First Award Presentation and Site Tour were held on January 17, 2013, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Yuma, AZ. Members that attended the event shared their thoughts on the highlights of the event.

### **Grantee Leadership Update**

Regional Director Rudy Ortiz provided a brief summary of the Early Childhood System Leadership Team meeting. The summary included goals/needs/collaboration and or services the System Leadership Team would like to see become a reality in the Yuma region.

### **Discussion on Early Childhood System Building**

The Regional Council continued the discussion on the importance and purpose of system building in relation to early childhood program effectiveness. Regional Director Ortiz briefly shared focal points and or components to consider in building the system. Further stating the importance of not duplicating services, improving communication between partnerships, parent education, improving quality in non-Quality First centers and building partnerships. The Parent/Family Resource Guide continues to be a topic of utmost importance to the Regional Council. The Regional Council stated that once the guide is developed it needs to be shared with medical providers and the faith based community and other community leaders and that a one stop hub needs to be created where the community can have access to all the services in the region.

### **Regional Director's Report**

Grantee Meeting Update:

- Community Based Professional Development Sessions are scheduled during the months of January thru May 2013
- Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach Family Literacy Workshops scheduled on March 2013.
- Wellton Sunset Community Health Clinic is now a participant of the Reach Out and Read Program
- Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council and Yuma Regional Partnership Council will meet with State Board Members on February 25, 2013 in Yuma, Arizona.

### **Community Outreach Update**

"Raising Yuma" magazine will designate a monthly column for First Things First for calendar year 2013. It is the hope of Regional Director Ortiz that through partnership with the magazine a resource guide can be incorporated in the health section of the magazine.

### **Call to the Public**

Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach spokesperson, Kim Flack, reported on the upcoming Community Based Professional Development sessions scheduled to be held at the Arizona Western College Main Campus during the months of January thru May 2013. The Early Literacy Program will be delivering Family Literacy Workshops during the month of March 2013.

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements at this time.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on February 21, 2013, 4:30 p.m., Antioquia Assembly of God Church, 10409 Helen Street, Wellton, Arizona 85356.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

---

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
February 21, 2013

DRAFT