



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

### Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

#### **Call to Order/Welcome/Introduction of Guests**

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on December 6, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Education Center, 1599 Plantation Road, Mohave Valley, Arizona 86440.

Chairman Frei called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

#### Members Present

Riley Frei, Howard Weiske, Terri Holloway, Nancy Mongeau, Alisa Burroughs, Debra Weger, Jose Garcia, Vijette Saari and Betsy Lewis.

#### Members Absent

Catie Sondrol and Lenore Knudtson

#### **Call to the Public**

There were no responses to the Call to the Public.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Member Mongeau made a motion to approve the October 18, 2012 meeting minutes. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Possible Approval of Proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule**

Director Beckett reviewed the proposed 2013 meeting schedule amended per the Council's recommendations. Member Saari made a motion to approve the proposed 2013 meeting schedule. Member Holloway seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Update from Pre-K/Quality First Meeting with School Districts**

Director Beckett summarized the discussion with representatives from the school districts at the November 26, 2012 meeting, which was held in response to this Council's concerns regarding the statewide alignment of the Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship strategies. La Paz/Mohave has a unique situation because our agreements are directly with the school districts, and our sites are just now enrolling in the Quality First program. All Pre-K districts sent representatives to the meeting, and while they were concerned about the timeline and reduction in funding, all agreed that improving quality is the right thing to do. The plan is to propose a one year extension on the 3-star requirement to the State Board, so the reimbursement rates would remain the same for SFY 2014. First Things First Chief Executive Officer Allvin added that she believes this Council will have the support of the State Board when they look at our funding plan in January. Senior Director Arnold echoed his confidence that the schools are committed to quality.

#### **Possible Approval of SFY 2014 Funding Plan Recommendations**

Director Beckett reviewed the draft funding plan, which includes the three recommendations from the funding plan workgroup. Member Lewis declared a conflict of interest on the home visitation strategy, and members Weger and Burroughs declared conflicts of interest on the Pre-K and Quality First strategies. Member Mongeau made a motion to approve the SFY 2014 Funding Plan except the home visitation, Pre-K and Quality First recommendations, allowing staff to make minor edits as needed. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The members with conflicts were excused and left the room. Member Holloway made a motion to approve the SFY 2014 Funding Plan home visitation, Pre-K and Quality First recommendations, allowing staff to make minor edits as needed. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Members Lewis, Weger and Burroughs rejoined the meeting.

**Discussion on La Paz/Mohave Regional Boundaries**

Director Beckett explained that every two years the Board revisits the subject of regional boundaries, and that Member Frei is on the current taskforce. Several members expressed a concern that if La Paz County was separated from the La Paz/Mohave Region that they would not have the funding to support their three current pre-K sites, potentially affecting 412 children. Many members felt that the current boundaries are working. CEO Allvin stated the Board is unlikely to change the current La Paz/Mohave boundaries.

**CEO Update**

Chief Executive Officer Allvin has enjoyed being in the area since Tuesday, visiting the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council in Parker, Smoketree Elementary Pre-K in Lake Havasu City, and now the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council. She emphasized the importance of local voices being involved in the decision-making at First Things First. CEO Allvin noted that the tobacco tax revenue stream continues to grow, and FTF is using our funds to help draw down federal funds for child care, but there are still 7,000 kids on the waiting list for child care subsidies. She urges council members to continue to reach out to elected officials to get support for First Things First priorities. Mrs. Allvin provided an update on evaluation and research, advising the longitudinal studies were suspended last year in favor of recommendations from a national advisory panel. They are looking to develop data dashboards, and want to know what type of data council members would like to see. There will be a validation study of the Quality First rating scale in the spring, and there are plans for a statewide kindergarten developmental inventory. CEO Allvin encouraged council members to continue to look for ways to keep First Things First moving forward.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 9:30 am at the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Boys & Girls Club located at 1603 Plantation Road in Mohave Valley, AZ 86440. Member Frei requested an update on the therapist recruitment program at that meeting.

**Adjourn**

Member Mongeau made a motion to adjourn at 10:42 a.m. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUBMITTED BY:****APPROVED BY:**

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**Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant**

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**Riley Frei, Chair**