



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

### South Phoenix Regional Council

#### Meeting Minutes

##### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council of the – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on March 10, 2009 at 4:30pm at Cartwright School District Offices, Governing Board Room located at 3401 N. 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85033.

##### Members Present:

Dr. Robert Donofrio, James Washington, Dr. Eva Marie Shivers, Dr. Patricia Merk, Dr. Rosalind Polston, Cindy Segotta-Jones, Mary Thomson.

##### Absent:

Moises Gallegos, Christopher Canelake, Dr. William Ellert.

Chairman Donofrio welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30a.m.

##### **Discussion and Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2009**

Chairman Donofrio called for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2009. Council member Merk motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2009. Seconded by Vice Chair Washington and the motion carried.

##### **Call to the public**

Chairman Donofrio made a call to the public. Suzanne Schunk, Southwest Human Development, Healthy Families Administrator, spoke about the proven effective program called Healthy Families Arizona and the 75% recent cuts they have faced. The result is that a large number of families that are at the highest risk for child abuse and neglect are suddenly without services.

##### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Board's Emergency Early Childhood Response Package**

Regional Coordinator Gonzales informed the Council that the State Board allocated \$23 million dollars after some baseline adjustments. The Board approved three measures to allocate these dollars:

- Childcare scholarships
- Food boxes
- Child abuse prevention strategies

Chairman Donofrio expressed that the Council supports the State using its discretionary funding in the three areas indicated. The Council also recognizes the crisis that the State is in and will direct Regional Coordinator Gonzales to go back and recalculate some of the strategies and divert some money. Chairman Donofrio requested Regional Coordinator Gonzales to recalculate the strategies as soon as possible. Regional Coordinator Gonzales commented that he had recommendations ready for the Council.

Chairman Donofrio asked for a motion to approve the Board's Emergency Early Childhood Response Package. Council member Thomson motioned to approve the Board's Emergency Early Childhood Response Package. Council member Shivers seconded and the motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Vote on Modification of Regional Funding Plan in response to the recalculation of Regional Coordinator T.E.A.C.H. costs per scholar**

Council discussed the increasing of dollars for T.E.A.C.H. to adjust for the increase projected cost to implement program per scholar. Council member Segotta-Jones made a motion to maintain current funding and adjust for increased costs and reduce the number of scholarships funded through regional dollars. The motion was seconded by Council member Thomson and the motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Vote on Modification of Regional Funding Plan in response to the Emergency Early Childhood Response Package**

The Council engaged in a lengthy discussion to consider the pressing economic needs of families within the region. Council member Merk motioned for the re-allocation of strategy dollars and was seconded by Council member Polston and passed changing the following:

The Council voted to pull the RFGA for home visitation, for Parents as Teachers—and requested that the RFGA is opened up to a wider range of evidence based models and be re-released.

**South Phoenix Council made a motion re-allocate dollars from the following areas:**

- Needs and Assets (Allocation: \$16, 252)
- Evaluation (Allocation: \$100,000)
- Communication (FTF is permitting up to 35% of allocation, Allocation: \$325,052; 35%= \$113,768)
- Carry Forward (2011 Carry Forward: \$82,500)
- Remaining \$50,000 for outreach coordination for home visitation strategy

**Total: \$362,520**

**South Phoenix Council voted to allocate through Bid-waiver to:**

Supplement an extra \$216,560 for two additional \$22 dollar food boxes (one box per month per family) for up to 4,922 families to enhance statewide emergency response to *prevent hunger*.

***Stabilize working families*** – utilize funding to provide scholarships to working families with children 0-5 and incomes at 200% or below FPL; \$600/month provides basic licensed child care for one child. Fund 81 scholarships for three months@ \$600 per month = **\$145,960**.

Council member Shivers motioned to pull the RFGA for home visitation, for Parents as Teachers—and requested that the RFGA be opened up to a wider range of evidence based models and be re-released. The motion was seconded by Council member Merk and the motion carried.

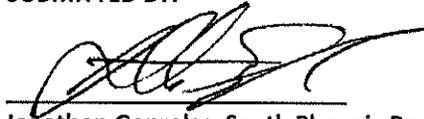
**Coordinator's Report**

Coordinator Gonzales reported on the success of the Big Check Presentation for the Phoenix region for which Chairman Donofrio spoke on behalf of the Council. Coordinator Gonzales also reported on the coming pre-conference dates where the Finance Division, along with coordinators, would provide the community the opportunity to hear about which needs are being addressed by the released RFGA's and to answer informal questions about the RFGA process and scopes of work. The Council was also asked to forward any names of potential parent applicants for the vacant South Phoenix parent seat.

**Adjournment**

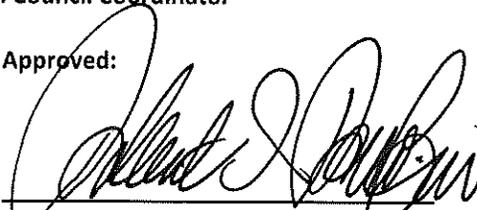
There being no further business, South Phoenix Vice Chair Washington called for a motion to adjourn the South Phoenix Regional Council Meeting at 10:05a.m. A motion made by Council member Merk, seconded by Council member Thomson and the motion carried.

SUBMITTED BY:



Jonathon Gonzales, South Phoenix Regional Council Coordinator

Approved:



Dr. Robert Donofrio, South Phoenix Regional Council Chair