



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board Yavapai Regional Partnership Council **DRAFT** Minutes

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the First Things First Yavapai Regional Partnership Council was held on February 16th, 2011 at the Yavapai College, Building 2, Room 216, 1100 E. Sheldon Street, Prescott, AZ 86301. Anne Babinsky Rawlings, Regional Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Members Present: Barbara Jorgensen, Mica LaBellarte Williams, Sherry Birch, Sara Lienau, and Becky Ruffner, Heidi Atkinson.

Members Absent: Ophelia Tewawina and Julie Clark.

Review and Approval of the Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Barbara Jorgensen made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2011 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mica Williams and passed unanimously.

Council Member Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Council Member Sara Lienau declared a conflict of interest with regard to deliberations concerning Quality First because her agency is a Quality First site. Council Member Lienau also declared a conflict of interest with TEACH because her agency and staff members are recipients of the scholarships.

Council Member Barbara Jorgensen declared a conflict of interest with regard to deliberations concerning a current contract with First things First and involvement of renewal of contracts and presentations of grantees because she works for an organization that receives funding for these services.

Vice Chair, Mica LaBellarte Williams declared a conflict of interest with regard to deliberations concerning Childcare Scholarships because she works for an organization that receives scholarships. Council Member Williams also declared a conflict of interest with the TEACH program as one of her employees has applied to the TEACH program, and the Mental Health Consultation program. Council Member Williams also declared a conflict of interest with Quality First as her agency is a site. Council Member Sherry Birch declared a conflict of interest with regard to deliberations concerning TEACH scholarships and Regional TEACH because she, as well as her staff members, are a recipient of scholarships, and the Mental Health Consultation program. Council Member Birch also declared a conflict of interest with Quality First because her agency is a Quality First site. Council Member Becky Ruffner declared a conflict of interest with regard to deliberations concerning Never Shake A Baby, Court Teams and Mental Health Consultation because she is the Executive Director of an organization that receives funding for these services.

Renewals

Regional Coordinator Lori Deutsch led the discussion by providing information regarding renewals. Sr. Grants and Contracts Specialist Kathy Rice and Regional Program Administrator Jennifer Johnson were available for clarifications telephonically. A power point slide was presented to the Regional Council for review. The grantee contract renewal process and the grant life cycle was presented. The discussion led the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council to determine whether the council will make a recommendation to send renewal applications to the grantee. This decision will not guarantee whether the grant will be renewed. Member Ruffner asked what the alternative would be for a grant to be renewed. Jennifer Johnson described the process of not sending an invitation to grantees with an explanation that would be sound and fair. Regional Coordinator Deutsch suggested an additional May meeting date be determined to submit and prepare grant renewal evaluations. Chair Anne Babinsky Rawlings asked the council members if they would like to hear additional information regarding financial information. It was agreed by the council members that the financial presentation was necessary to make a determination of grant renewal decisions.

Finance Presentation

Sr. Grants and Contracts Specialist Kathy Rice provided information pertaining to finance documents and updates. The Yavapai Contract Detail with Service Units report provided detailed information about expended, awarded, quarter data summaries, and performance to date. Data reports provided achieved goals for each grantee. Council Member Atkinson inquired about grantees who spend their funds down exceeding expenditures faster than the timelines allowed. Clarifications were discussed in terms of barriers by Regional Program Administrator Jennifer Johnson. Regional Coordinator Lori Deutsch discussed each grant including the cycles of the grants and target number achievements. Vice Chair LaBellarte Williams requested clarifications and information pertaining to the status of the statewide strategies. Administrator Johnson provided information at a state level in terms of delivery. Council Members discussed and agreed to make a recommendation to send an application to all grantees. Chair Babinsky Rawlings recommended to the Regional Coordinator that renewal application invitations be sent to all grantees.

Presentation and Discussion of 2011 Strategies

Regional Coordinator Lori Deutsch presented an overview of the Parent Education Community-Based Training: Never Shake a Baby. The Yavapai Regional Council has funded Never Shake a Baby which is a program that is delivered in hospitals and began late fall of 2010. Coordinator Deutsch provided facts based on a babies brain development that has suffered from Shaken Baby in comparison to a healthy babies brain. Mechanisms of brain development were discussed. Never Shake a Baby program was developed in 2003 to educate parents and caregivers about infant crying and the dangers of shaking a baby, improve parents coping skills and assist parents. 27 out of 53 hospitals are currently being educated. In the Yavapai Region, 2,000 parents will have been trained by June 30, 2011.

Community Health Nurse Diane Knighton presented on the Court Teams for Infants and Toddlers Strategy. The Yavapai Best for Babies project began in 2004 in partnership with the Yavapai Juvenile Court. Today there are 104 infants and toddlers in foster care in Yavapai County. Babies in foster care statistics show that approximately 80% were exposed to drugs in utero and 40% have a low birth rate. Developmental delays are 4 to 5 times greater than other children. More than half suffer from serious difficult health problems. Trauma and babies in foster care were discussed in terms of trauma caused by separation from parents, cognition, too many changes in caregivers, and difficult experiences in placement. Nurturing is essential for a healthy child. Best For Babies created systems change in Yavapai by service coordination, integration, increasing a shared knowledge early childhood science and best practice. Essential service lists have been developed for children 0 to 3 including developmental

screenings, behavioral health assessment, health screenings and monitoring medical problems. Best for Babies ensure access to mental health assessment, comprehensive medical and dental care, and the monitoring of medical problems. Monthly meetings are conducted for providers and CASA's who are assigned to half the cases, by providing case support. Learning community trainings, Nurse Home Visitation trainings, and foster parent trainings are available.

Community Health Nurse Diane Knighton presented on Nurse Home Visitation. The purpose of the Nurse Home Visitation program is to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers in the foster care system by increasing knowledge of the Child Family Team about their unique needs. A Child and Family Team consists of everyone who is involved with a family or child of the foster care system or CPS such as, infant toddler mental health specialist who conduct 0 to 3 assessment, family involvement specialist from guidance clinics, CPS case managers, parent aides who transport the child visitation, attorneys, case managers of drug treatment programs, and the public health nurse. At any given time up to 15 people attend the monthly meetings for one child. These meetings are used to work with the families to parent effectively. As of January, 2011 There are 57 families with 68 children birth through age three who have received services. Currently there are 38 families enrolled with five new referrals pending. The planning stages include: intake processes, developing a nursing plan, provide resources to foster and birth parents, collaborate with other service providers, and to best meet the child's needs. Providing a Nurse Home Visitor for children involved is one component of providing child-focused services to this most vulnerable population. Child-focused services incorporated into the case plan ensures that the child's well being is of primary consideration in case resolution.

Coordinators Report

Regional Coordinator, Lori Deutch reported on a number of updates with the following information: the two new strategies for Literacy and Prenatal Outreach have been submitted along with a financial summary to the State Board. A special meeting will be held by the State Board on March 2, 2011 to address the strategies along with a recommendation for a council seat; a recommendation has been made for a Council Member to fill the At-Large seat vacancy. Council members have received announcements about continuing education and video opportunity trainings are available at the Yavapai Regional office. Coordinator Deutsch will provide email correspondences regarding the RFGA releases. A data information sheet for 2010 has been sent for the Council members to review. Updates also included: on February 17th there will be a presentation sponsored by the Home Visitation Coalition; the Family Support Collaborative newsletter is available; a Child Care Coalition Conference will be held Saturday April 9, 2011; and the Parenting Education Coalition will be hosting a bullying event targeting multiple age groups on April 30th. The Grantee meeting will take place on March 10th, 2011. Reminders and details will be sent out. Little kids books are now available please contact Outreach Coordinator Cindy Pemberton for more information.

Communications Update paragraph

Community Outreach Liaison Claire Louge reported on a number of updates. Through the help of the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council the Chino Valley Head Start received \$250,000.00 to keep the Chino Valley Head Start. Since then, Chino Valley Head Start has conducted many opportunities for parents to attend evening workshops such as, Excited to Learn, Dad's Night, Succeeding from the Start, and The Best Start for our Kids. Liaison Louge participated in Court Teams – Empowering and Education Advocates. Liaison Louge referenced 3 media opportunities which can be viewed on Access 13, The Caring Presence Show, The Prescott City Council Meeting on 2/1/2011 and United Way in Action. Discussion points for the month of February were addressed to the Council. "Children who are exposed to positive early educational experiences are 70% less likely to commit a violent crime by the age of 18. Therefore, it is a public safety issue to invest in young kids."

Call to the Public

Community Member Sherie Gifford spoke to the Council Members regarding Arizona’s Children Association - Brite Start Home Visiting Program. Ms. Gifford informed the Council there is something unique about Brite Start. In comparison to other Home Visiting Programs, most Home Visiting Programs are close to or above expectations in their 1 st quarter data reporting. Brite Start’s curriculum is based on the Success Curriculum program, which is a relatively short term program. Other Home Visting Programs require a 2-6 year involvement in terms of the data that has been presented. Ms. Gifford asked the Council to take into consideration when reviewing Home Visiting data.

Council Member Reports and Updates

Council Member Becky Ruffner will be making two visits next week to meet with State Legislators Karen Fann and Steve Pierce in Phoenix. Member Ruffner is also participating on the First Things First Family Support and Early Literacy Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the State Board in the development of family support goals, measures and outcomes. Vice Chair LaBellarte Williams informed the council that her foster care and license has been officially activated. Chair Anne Babinsky Rawlings addressed the need of future meeting which may require an additional meeting beside the regularly scheduled Regional Partnership Council Meeting. A special meeting will need to be conducted on May 11th, 2011 from 9:00am-10:30am in Prescott or telephonically to review renewals.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Partnership Council is a regular meeting scheduled for March 23, 2011 in Prescott.

Adjourn

Regional Council Chair Anne Babinsky Rawlings entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Ruffner made a motion to adjourn the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jorgensen and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.



Lori Deutsch, Yavapai Regional Coordinator

Approved:

Anne Babinsky Rawling, Chair

March 23, 2011