



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Coconino Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Coconino Regional Partnership Council was held on March 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was located at the United Way of Northern Arizona Conference Room, 1515 E. Cedar Ave. Suite D-1, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Mary McLellan, Vice Chair for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Members Present:

Mary McLellan, Noreen Sakiestewa (joined at 4:10 p.m.), Samantha Cowan, Beth Johndrow, Barbara Worgess

Members Present by Phone:

Debbie Winlock, Colette Cox, Seobaghn Arambula

Members Absent:

Agnes Chamberlain, Julianne Hartzell, Tony Gonzales

First Things First Staff Present:

Ellen Majure, Coconino Regional Director; AdiShakti Khalsa, Northeast Senior Director; Jennifer Johnson, Regional Program Administrator; Charlene Surber, Senior Fiscal Specialist (by phone); Amanda Kristinat, Northeast Administrative Assistant; Amy Callahan, Parent Awareness and Community Outreach Coordinator

Call to the Public

Beth Frost, Director of Foresight Learning Center, thanked the Regional Council for the Emergency Scholarships last year. She requested clarification on the process for becoming a Quality First Center. She shared that she has had difficulty getting her questions answered. Ms. Majure invited Ms. Frost to contact her for answers to any questions Ms. Frost may have.

Robert Kelty, Coconino County Superintendent of Schools, stated that the educational achievement gap is his top priority and that early education is important to build a strong foundation. He is willing to make himself available in any capacity to make the Kindergarten Transition program happen.

Kerry Blume, President of United Way of Northern Arizona, addressed the Regional Council first by saying thank you to AdiShakti Khalsa for all her work and for building such a strong foundation for early education. Ms. Blume then gave an overview of the KinderCamp Kindergarten Transition program. It was developed by the Alliance for Children's Early Success and has been a proven model. Children who have attended the program have shown significant improvements in social and academic skills. United Way believes very strongly in this program and is willing to provide funding along with First Things First to get the program up and running by July 2011.

Sylvia Johnson, Director of Educational Enrichment for Flagstaff Unified School District, addressed the Regional Council. Ms. Johnson explained that a child care licensing process for the KinderCamp program is very involved, expensive and is a hurdle that will have to be overcome to start the KinderCamp program. An alternative would be to use a Head Start facility that already has the licensing for 2011, and to then have the child care licensing in place

by 2012 instead. Ms. Johnson also relayed the selection criteria for KinderCamp which differs from First Things First's criteria for poverty.

Disclosure of Conflicts

Member Cowan declared a conflict on the discussion and vote regarding the Kindergarten Transition Strategy and Approval of the Funding Mechanism.

Member Worgess declared a conflict on the discussion regarding Home Visitation Funding Allotments.

Consent Agenda

Member Worgess moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Johndrow seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Coconino Regional Expenditure Reports and Quarterly Data Reports Discussion

Ms. Majure notified the Regional Council that Charlene Surber, Senior Fiscal Specialist, from First Things First was on the phone to answer any questions. Ms. Majure presented the data reports and explained all changes and updates from the previous month.

Discussion Regarding the Kindergarten Transition Strategy and Possible Approval of the Funding Mechanism

Ms. Majure explained that in order for the Kindergarten Strategy to be implemented, the Regional Partnership Council needs to decide on the appropriate funding mechanism. The two options for entering into an agreement are a Government to Government Agreement Process or a Request for Grant Application (RFGA) Process. There was a brief discussion about the different funding mechanisms.

Member Worgess motioned to do a government to government process as long as we can work everything out with the Coconino County Superintendent of Schools to implement the strategy, preferably subcontracting with Navajo County so we do not have a second agreement. Member Sakiestewa seconded the motion. Member Cowan abstained from the discussion and vote. Motioned approved.

Discussion Regarding Home Visitation Strategy Funding Allotments

Ms. Majure explained that the two Home Visitation programs, Coconino County Public Health District - Healthy Families program and Parenting Arizona - Parent Connection program, contracts were renewed for FY2011 with a start date of September 1, 2010 which meant that they both have a grant for FY2011 that is for ten months instead of the standard 12 month contract. When the 2012 Funding Plan was completed and level funding was chosen this was not taken into account. The result is these two programs will have the same funding level in FY2012 as they did in FY2011, however the funding will be for 12 months instead of 10 months. In the future, the Regional Council could re-examine the FY2012 funding level for these program. There are funds available if the Regional Council decides to add funding to the Home Visitation strategy

Vice Chair McLellan asked Barbara Wightman of Coconino County Public Health District what kind of impact this would have on the program. Ms. Wightman responded stating that it would create a hardship and that they would have to drop families from the program and may lose a staff member. Member Worgess interjected that the program would definitely lose a staff member and an entire case load of 10-14 families.

Member Cox asked Ms. Wightman if she had considered modifying the delivery model for services to cut costs. Ms. Wightman replied that if they deviated from the Healthy Families model they would loss even more funding.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Vendor for the 2012 Needs and Assets Project

Ms. Majure briefly shared some information on the two available vendors, Applied Survey Research and MGT of America. There was a brief discussion regarding the 2010 Needs and Assets Report vendor Applied Survey Research and their previous performance.

Member Arambula moved to contract with Applied Survey Research to conduct the Coconino Regional Partnership Council's 2012 Needs and Assets report. Member Cox seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Council Member Updates

At the request of Ms. Majure, member Cox informed the Regional Council that the Kaibab Paiute Family Support Survey was conducted on February 22, 2011. Thirteen surveys were gathered and the information has been compiled and the report is being prepared. The Kaibab Paiute child care center should open in May, 2011. They are in the process of getting licensed right now.

Community Outreach Coordinator Update

Ms. Callahan submitted a written report to the Regional Partnership Council and reviewed all the activities and deliverables. She also thanked the Regional Partnership Council for participating in the Community Outreach Survey and gave a brief reminder of the items for discussion at the upcoming Community Outreach Forum on April 6, 2011 in Show Low, AZ.

Member Cox exited the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Member Johndrow exited the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Member Worgess exited the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Regional Director Report

No discussion due to loss of quorum.

Discussion of Next Possible Meeting Date: April 25, 2011

No discussion due to loss of quorum.

Meeting Adjourned

No longer having a quorum, Vice Chair McLellan adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:37 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Ellen Majure, Coconino Coordinator

APPROVED BY:

Mary McLellan, Vice Chair