

First Things First Coconino Regional Partnership Council

Minutes of a Meeting

March 30, 2009

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Coconino Regional Partnership Council commenced at 3:05pm on March 30, 2009. The meeting was located at the United Way of Northern Arizona conference room 1515 E. Cedar Ave. Suite D-1, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Julianne Hartzell, the Chairwoman for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Members Present:

Kerry Blume, Barbara Worgess, Josh Allen, Julianne Hartzell, Seobaghn Arambula, Tony Gonzales, Ken Edes

Vacancy – Member at Large

Members Absent:

Noreen Sakiestewa, Mary McLellan, Agnes Chamberlain

Staff Present

Michelle Katona, Trudy Rogers, Cristi Mallery, Ellen Majure

Call to the Public

Jennifer O'Connor, mother of four children, addressed the Council regarding her strong need for child care assistance. She does not qualify for Department of Economic Security (DES) assistance and cannot pay for daycare due to expense.

Vivien Mann of Northland Family Help Center addressed the Council regarding child care concerns. Ms. Mann is the shelter manager for the domestic violence women's and children's shelter and expressed concern over how child care cuts impact the women of the shelter who wish to work and become self sufficient.

Cheryl Byars of Hope Cottage addressed the Council. Hope Cottage provides services for homeless women and children. The women at Hope Cottage are trying to find work and are difficulty with finding child care given the recent budget cuts.

Robin Begay, the shelter specialist of Northland Family Help Center, addressed the Council about the much needed child care support for women at their shelter.

Consent Agenda

Member Edes moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Arambula seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Presentation and Discussion on Emergency Child Care Scholarships

Kathy Turner, the Vice President of Community Initiatives at United Way of Northern Arizona, discussed how on March 5, 2009, United Way of Northern Arizona, under the administrative arm of the Valley of the Sun United Way and in collaboration with Tucson United Way, all entered into an agreement where they could serve the state of Arizona by providing emergency scholarships for four months for families who experience a poverty level up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level who do not qualify for other means of assistance. The scholarships in Northern Arizona will serve 90 centers and homes that are regulated, in good standing with their regulatory agency, certified and licensed, and will cover up to three children per household. For the Coconino Region alone, the current scholarships (\$397,000.00 of First Things First State Funds) would equate to approximately 190 children being served for four months at an average of \$537.00 per month per child. Priority will be given to families who have experienced job losses, decrease in income and who have children aged birth to five not already enrolled in Kindergarten. The dollars will go directly to centers and homes and they will disseminate them out to families based on a very simple application that will be provided to the parents.

Discussion, Review and Possible Approval of Review Committee Recommendations

Council Member Mary McLellan joined the meeting at 3:25pm. Member Worgess made a motion to go into Executive Session. Member McLellan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Member McLellan moved to return from Executive Session. Member Blume seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chair Hartzell and Member Worgess recused themselves from any discussion or decisions on Home Visitation.

Member Blume moved that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council accept the review committee's recommendations for award of \$409,758.00, 2 grants for April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 to provide home visitation programs in the First Things First early childhood response program. The home visitation grants recommended are as follows: A is for \$324,212 and B is for \$85,546.00. Member Edes seconded the motion. A discussion was raised. Member Allen offered a friendly amendment to the motion: that these dollars would be used to expand the home visitation program if they become fully funded. Member Blume accepted the friendly amendment. Member Edes seconded the friendly amendment. The amended motion was put to a vote. Member Blume, Member Edes, Member Allen, Member Gonzales, and Member McLellan voted yes. Member Arambula abstained. Motion failed due to lack of quorum.

The next item discussed was emergency food box recommendations. Member Edes moved that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council accept the recommendations for the award of six grants starting April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 to provide food distributions for the First Things First Early Childhood Response program. Food distribution grants recommended are as follows: the first is Food to the

amount of \$6500; the second is food to the amount of \$3000; the third one is Food to the amount of \$8000; the fourth is Food to the amount of \$10,500; the fifth is Food to the amount of \$6500; the sixth is Food to the amount of \$5000 for a total of \$39,500 to include the Frontier allotment of \$29,917. Member McLellan seconded the motion. Member Worgess offered a friendly amendment to require a nutrition education program that includes a Registered Dietician (RDH) to ensure that they provide nutrition educational information as well as how to best, including specifically, how to best spend your food dollar and how to make the most of the contents of the food box in terms of feeding your family healthy meals. Member Blume seconded the friendly amendment. Member Edes accepted the friendly amendment. Member McLellan also accepted the friendly amendment. The original motion with the addition of the friendly amendment passed.

The Council returned to Family Support for another motion. Chair Hartzell and Member Worgess recused themselves. Member Blume moved that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council accept the recommendations for the award of two grants from April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 to provide home visitation programs in the First Things First early childhood response program. The home visitation grants recommended are as follows: A in the amount of \$324,212, B in the amount of \$85,546 and that we award these grants with the understanding that if the state funding formulas and availability of funds for home visitations change, that the dollars would be used to expand services. Member McLellan seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Member Gonzales left at 4:13pm.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Use of Frontier Allocations

Member Edes moved that the Council hold the funds until they can discuss the impact on the economic situation and just keep it available and make it an agenda item. Member Arambula seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned

4:17pm

SUBMITTED BY:

Cristi Mallery, Admin Asst II

APPROVED BY:

Julianne Hartzell, Chairman