



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

March Special Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 6th, 2009 @ 9:00am

1004 Hancock Road

Bullhead City, AZ 86443

Members Present:

William Allsbrooks
Alisa Burroughs
Ariana De Leon by phone
Riley Frei
Jose Garcia
Melissa Howell
Lenore Knudtson
Nancy Mongeau
Debra Weger

Guests Present:

Diana parker
Terri Holloway
Lynn Zubrick
Shirley Cunnigham
Annette Munoz
Kassy Norwood
Shelley Fischer
Rich Miers
Lisa Peters
Janie Scott
Laurie Holmquist
Margie McLaughlin
Yesenia Fernandez

Staff Present:

Merritt Beckett
Della Gray
Marla Chamberlain

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by **Chairman Allsbrooks** at 9:07 am. Guests were invited to introduce themselves.

Approval of February 26, 2009 Minutes

Member Mongeau made a motion to approve as written. Motion was seconded by **Member Howell**. The motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

Call to the Public

Rich Miers, Director of Interagency Council in Lake Havasu City, spoke to the Council about the cuts made by the Department of Economic Security (DES) to the Healthy Families Program. He expressed concern that their agency will be seeing more domestic violence and child abuse. Their agency is looking for funding to continue the services they have been providing.

Discussion of State Budget Cuts and Regional Impact

Coordinator Beckett reviewed analyses of recent State budget cuts and presented an overview of the available information on impact to services at the regional level. Results from 30 local service providers in the areas of access and affordability to child care, health and family support were shared with the Council. The analysis was not yet complete as many agencies do not yet know what the impact will be of the recent budget cuts.

Discussion on FTF Emergency Early Childhood Support Package

Coordinator Beckett presented the options the Council has to expedite funding under the competitive bid waiver. These include funding additional child care scholarships for working families at 200% or below the federal poverty, emergency food boxes for families with infants and toddlers, and home visitation that prevents child abuse and neglect. It is up to the Council's discretion to allocate additional regional resources to fund these strategies. The Council can fund additional emergency scholarships, food boxes and/or home visitation in the region by using the Frontier Adjustment, by redirecting funds from the existing Access and Affordability and/or Family Support strategies, or by using the funds set aside for the Needs and Assets Report or up to 35% of communications budget to add to the expedited strategies.

Chairman Allsbrooks stated that there should be more choices included in the bid waiver and that the state is limiting our options at the local level.

Vice Chair Knudtson stated that narrowly defining and targeting a program for funding will only help the legislature by identifying a similar program for them to sweep all the money. She also disclosed she is a former board member of the Interagency Council.

Member Frei stated that the priority now is to keep programs afloat.

Member Howell stated she would not like to duplicate programs that are already providing food to children and families.

Chairman Allsbrooks commented that he'd like to see the money get out to the children before the legislature takes any more of it.

Vice Chair Knudtson moved that the quorum of the Council will be the review community for the applications under the competitive bid waiver. Motion was seconded by **Member Garcia**. The motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

Member Howell moved to use regional funds, not to exceed the amount of the Frontier Adjustment, to participate in the FTF Emergency Response Package and to entertain applications in all areas included under the competitive bid-waiver. Motion was seconded by **Member Mongeau**. The motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

Member Howell moved to open the application process as soon as possible, to close it by March 30th and to move the regular Council Meeting date to April 2nd to have the Council review the applications. The motion was seconded by **Member Garcia**. The motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

Adjourn

Member Garcia made a motion to adjourn. Motion was **Member Howell** seconded by. Motion to adjourn carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

There being no further business, **Chairman Allsbrooks** adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.

Next Meeting: The next Council Meeting is April 2nd at 9am the Lake Havasu Unified School District Board Room located at 2000 Havasupai Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ.

Minutes **NOT** approved

William Allsbrooks, Chair

Della Gray, Administrative Assistant II