



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

March 19, 2013 – *Draft* Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at Avondale City Hall, 11465 West Civic Center, Avondale, Arizona 85323.

Chair Dr. Dawson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Members Present:

Patty Avery-Schuster, Dora Barrio, Carlian Dawson, Colleen Day Mach, Amanda Reyes and David Schwake

Members Absent:

Kelli Cordova Wright, Kimberly Flack, Wendy Krisik, Susan Laurita, Marithe Denys Sandoval,

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Family Resource Centers:

Council Chair Dr. Dawson moved the order of the agenda due to there being only 6 Council Members present and some Members have to leave the meeting early.

- **Pendergast Family Resource Center**

Regional Director Santiago talked about the proposal from the Pendergast School District to create a Resource Center along with other programs at a new site allocating the School District. This proposal will entail cross regional partnership with the South Phoenix and Northwest Maricopa Councils. Pendergast School District will provide Council with a presentation on details of the program.

Maureen Erickson, Coordinator for Early Childhood Education, Pendergast School District – Ms. Erickson updated Council on the status of the Pendergast Information Center Proposal and provided Council with a copy of the PowerPoint and information sheet. This project will fall under Ms. Erickson's domain and the purpose of the PEEC program is to pull community members together and have things happening in one place. The PEEC (Pendergast Early Learning Campus) is a model early childhood program with a solid framework built upon strength in early childhood education, parent education and community outreach and is designed to integrate schools, families and communities, thereby preparing all children to work at the peak of their potential throughout their lives. Ms. Erickson touched on some of the early childhood programs and headstart programs that they currently have and shared the PIC (Pendergast Information Center) Vision, Mission, Philosophy, Model and benefits of investing in the Pendergast Information Center. Staff will be responsible for various aspects of the program such as, providing neighborhood outreach and providing resources and referrals to families throughout the school district and greater community. Ms. Erickson shared information on the amount of funding being allotted from each Council and mentioned that this program can make a difference.

Regional Director Santiago asked Council if they were comfortable with the information that was provided to approve this proposal.

Council Member Schwake directed staff to email information on the Pendergast Family Resource Center Proposal to Council Members who were not present at the meeting.

Regional Director will send out an email with the PowerPoint that was presented with information on the Pendergast Family Resource Center Proposal before the next Council meeting.

Council Member Reyes made a motion to accept the proposal from the Pendergast School District to fund a new resource center in the amount of up to \$100,000.00. Motion was seconded by Council Member Barrio and carried out by unanimous vote.

Grantees Presentation:

- City of Avondale

Stephanie Small – Family Services Manager, City of Avondale

Ms. Small provided Council with information about the Care1st Avondale Resource and Housing Center and talked about the history of the Resource Center. Some of their key partnerships have been around since the inception of the center and First Things Things is very key in terms of their Family Education and Resource program. In terms of the center's operations there are 20 plus agencies that are actively providing resources at the resource center. Some Community Outreach that is taking place at the center are Hometown Holidays and Health, Resource and Job Fairs. The Mission of the center is to establish a variety of human services that educate and strengthen the community. Ms. Small informed Council that their Cap office is moving on Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

Chair Dr. Dawson asked Council to hold questions until after the next Grantee presentation due to time constraints. Council agreed.

Council Member Day Mach directed Regional Director Santiago to email contact information for the City of Avondale, Care1st Avondale Resource and Housing Center to Council.

Regional Director Santiago will email contact information to Council.

- City of Avondale

Diane Dempsey, Social Services Director, Town of Gila Bend –

Ms. Dempsey provided Council with information about the Gila Bend Resource Center and talked about the history of the Resource Center and how it got started. With the partnership of First Things First and the City of Avondale the resource center has been successful. Ms. Dempsey shared information about some of the programs and Sub Contractors at the Resource Center and introduced Juanica Ortiz who is Application Assistor for the Helping Families in Need (HFIN) Program.

Juanica Ortiz, Application Assistor, Helping Families in Need Program (HFIN) – The HFIN Program provides AHCCCS – Enrollments and Benefits for parents and children in the Gila Bena and Tonopah areas. Ms. Ortiz has been with the agency since September of 2011 and has helped approximately 1500 individuals get coverage for medical and nutrition assistance. Clients from various cities in the surrounding area come to receive help.

Dr. Marj Jones, Executive Director, Arizona Learning Institute (ALI) – Dr. Jones introduced Angelica Rodruquez and Raul Jorquera, Readiness Basket Facilitators. They are a husband and wife team and this is their fourth year in parent education and community development. Some of the programs that are offered through the Readiness Basket are support groups, continuing in depth parent education, literacy, socialization, networking, advocacy, leadership training, community literacy nights, follow-up resources and the hope is to expand these areas. The Local Readiness Basket gives back to the community and they are employing people in the community. Dr. Jones shared statistics that were gained from the screenings offered through the program and a sample of collaboration efforts.

Flor Olivas, Resource Center Coordinator, Gila Bend Resource Center – Ms. Olivas talked about the S.N.A.C.K. Program and mentioned that Gila Bend Resource Center and Readiness Basket Staff coordinate with parents from Gila Bend and Paloma for car safety and training. Ms. Olivas shared information about other partners that they are working together including the First Teeth First Oral Health Program, Adelante Healthcare, Southwest Institute for Families and Children, Choices for Families, Southwest Behavioral Health, T.O.P.S. and many others. Ms. Olivas shared information about additional services that are provided at the Resource Center and mentioned that it can be used as a Community Hub for meetings and other activities. Their Vision continues and services for families and children are expanding.

Chair Dr. Dawson tabled all other items on the agenda due to loss of quorum. All other items will be presented to Council at the next Council meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Dr. Dawson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.