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Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Welcome/Introduction of Guests

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on February 28, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Boys & Girls Club, 1603 Plantation Road, Mohave Valley, Arizona 86440.

Chairman Frei called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced the person to their right.

Members Present

Alisa Burroughs, Riley Frei, Jose Garcia, Lenore Knudtson, Catie Sondrol, Debra Weger and Howard Weiske.

Members Absent

Terri Holloway, Betsy Lewis, Nancy Mongeau and Vijette Saari.

Call to the Public

Donna Davis, Expect More Arizona spoke about the Expect More Excellence Tour. This will allow the public to see what condition our education system is in. You can vote online on submissions to their contest.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Weiske made a motion to approve the December 6, 2012 meeting minutes. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Grantee Presentation on Health Strategies

Department of Health Services – Therapist Recruitment – Ana Lyn Roscetti

Possible Approval of Vendor for 2014 Regional Needs & Assets Report

Director Beckett explained the council is required by statute to approve a needs and assets vendor by September 1 in even numbered years. She reviewed the three vendors who have indicated an interest, and recommended the University of Arizona due to their experience and for continuity. Member Sondrol commented that the University of Arizona was very responsive in the past. Member Weiske made a motion to select the University of Arizona to be awarded the contract for 2014 not to exceed \$17,000. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Approval to Move Funds in SFY 2013 from Pre-Kindergarten Strategy to Start-up/Expansion Strategy

Director Beckett explained that Salome and Quartzsite will be better served under the start-up/expansion/capital expense strategy, and she recommends moving funds from the pre-kindergarten strategy. Due to the delay getting these pre-kindergarten programs in place, she recommends moving the full amount of \$264,300 left in the pre-kindergarten strategy. Senior Director Arnold added that the existing strategy funds scholarships only, so the change would help these programs with things like fencing, playground improvements and licensing assistance. Member Knudtson asked why there is a difference in the current administrative cost and the new cost of 11% being charged by the Arizona Department of Education. Director Beckett explained that beginning SFY14, all preschools will be contracted through the Arizona Department of Education. The Regional Partnership Council can no longer contract directly with school districts. Currently, the school districts get that administrative money. Member Weiske made a motion to redirect the allocation of funding to cover the expansion/start-up/capital expense as recommended in the amount of \$264,300. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Chair Frei expressed his frustration that the 11% administration cost is going to the Arizona Department of Education. Member Knudtson agreed. Director Beckett advised that she has heard from other regions that the highly qualified mentors whose salaries are paid by this cost are very helpful.

Member Burroughs pointed out that the school districts will still have to do the same administrative tasks. Members Knudtson and Weger agreed and added that this duplicates the work of the Quality First coach. Senior Director Arnold stated that those mentors already in place have really helped the programs, and they are highly qualified and have made marked differences. Member Knudtson stated that for preschools that do not need that level of mentoring, we have added another level of government. She feels we are back-filling the state's budget cuts, and asked how they can charge 11%, when every other agency is limited to 10%. Member Weiske asked if we could limit it to 10%. Director Beckett explained that the 11% includes both administrative/indirect costs and program costs, such as mentors. Senior Director Arnold pointed out it is a statewide contract. Member Knudtson feels we are tasked as stewards of this money to ask these questions. Chair Frei commented that the positive is that we are getting preschools into Salome and Quartzsite. Motion carried unanimously.

Grantee Presentations - continued

Grantee Presentations & Possible Discussion on Family Support Strategies

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe – Home Visitation – Merritt Beckett

Child and Family Resources, Inc. – Healthy Families – Nina Lavine

Child and Family Resources, Inc. – Children with Special Needs – Holley King, Vanessa Sandoval and Casey Fry

Arizona Children's Association – Parents as Teachers – Virginia Hout, Shelley Fischer and Jackie Kaser-Ruano

The Learning Center for Families – Home-Based Early Head Start – Merritt Beckett

Chair Frei adjourned the meeting for a brief intermission from 11:18 – 11:28 a.m.

Grantee Presentations and Possible Discussion on Coordination Strategies

Mohave County Superior Court – Court Team – Tonya Ford

Grantee Presentations & Possible Discussion on Early Learning Strategies

Child and Family Resources, Inc. – Quality First – Shirley Cunningham

Topock Elementary School District – Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships – April Thornton and Angela Burns

Member Weger left the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Bullhead City Elementary School District – Prekindergarten Scholarships – Catie Vondrak

Mohave Valley Elementary School District – Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships – Mandy Waxler

Kingman Unified School District – Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships – Julie Beyer

Association for Supportive Child Care – Kith and Kin – Sarah Ocampo

Grantee Presentations & Possible Discussion on Professional Development Strategies

Association for Supportive Child Care – ECE Professional Development Program – Margaret Taylor

Association for Supportive Child Care – TEACH – John Cregg

Grantee Presentations and Possible Discussion on Health Strategies

Child Care Health Consultation (FTF Staff-Directed) – Ann Kaskel

Director's Report

Director Beckett thanked Member Knudtson for co-presenting at the Grantee Coordination meeting, and advised that five council members attended. The topic was development of a system-building action plan. The Week of the Young Child is April 14-20, 2013. Director Beckett thanked Member Weiske for promoting this event with retailers, banks and churches in the area. There is no regional council meeting in March; however, Director Beckett advised the renewal process will be starting and packets are going out March 1. The SFY2013 Financial and Program Data Reports were included in the meeting packets for members' review.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 9:30 am on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the Arizona Western College Quartzsite Learning Center located at 695 Kofa Avenue in Quartzsite, Arizona 85346.

Adjourn

Member Garcia made a motion to adjourn at 1:01 p.m. Member Weiske seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:

Riley Frei, Chair