FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

Call to Order and Introductions
The regular meeting of the First Things First – La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held **April 28, 2011** at 9:30 a.m. at The Social Services Interagency, 1940 Mesquite Avenue, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403.

Chairman Frei called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members present: Riley Frei, Catie Sondrol, Vijette Saari, Debra Weger, Betsy Lewis, Jose Garcia, Melissa J. Howell. Attending telephonically: Lenore Knudtson, Alisa Burroughs

Members Absent: Nancy Mongeau, Terri Holloway

Call to the Public:
There were no calls to the public.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest
Declaration of Conflicts of Interest regarding agenda item 5, *Discussion and Possible Action to Renew Grants for SFY2012* will be made as pertaining strategies are approached. No other conflicts of interest were declared.

Approval of March 24, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Member Weger made a motion to approve the March 24, 2011, meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Member Saari. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

Discussion & Possible Action to Renew Grants for SFY 2012
Director Beckett directed the Council's attention to the Revised Grantee Renewal Report and provided an overview of it. Director Beckett reminded the Council of how the state grant making process works. Most regional grant agreements funded through the Request for Grant Application (RFGA) process are offered for an initial 12 month period with the option to renew for two grant cycles depending on satisfactory performance and continued availability of funds. Director Beckett explained this is the final grant cycle for most of the Council's grantees and that the current renewal is the final renewal before state law requires that a new competitive process be conducted in order to continue the strategies for SFY 2013. The only strategy currently not going into the second and final renewal phase is the Pre-Kindergarten Expansion strategy. Director Beckett explained the requirement to release new RFGAs for SFY 2012 gives the Council the opportunity to look at the existing strategies in a new way, with the addition of two years of program implementation data and two Needs and Assets reports to use for consideration when developing a funding plan and determining which strategies will be most effective moving forward.
Staff recommendation for all grants is renewal. Director Beckett explained the recommendations are based on review of several sources including the renewal packet submitted by the grantee including a new budget and implementation plan, data submissions, and narrative reports, including SFY2011 Quarter 3 data. Director Beckett also explained that some of the grants have no staff recommendation because the strategies are statewide strategies and the Council indicated approval to continue these strategies when the SFY2012 funding plan was approved last December. Renewal decisions for statewide contracts, including Quality First, T.E.A.C.H., and Child Care Health Consultation, will be made by the Board at their June meeting. Director Beckett informed the Council that the new Grantee Renewal Report was produced on the Programs Grants Management System (PGMS) for the first time which allows all Regional Partnership Councils to view the data in the same format for every region. Senior Director Arnold told the Council the format for the new report came from recommendations made by different councils that included putting all the data on one page making it easier to see the data. Senior Director Arnold expressed that First Things First would like feedback from them on the report. Director Beckett explained the process for recommending renewal for grantees would involve going through each grant and voting separately on each one in order to address any conflicts of interest.

Expansion: Increase and/or Capital Strategy
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC): Expand Access to Quality Early Care – Director Beckett stated the staff recommends renewal of the grant. Member Weger made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Garcia seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Pre-K Scholarships Expansion Strategy

Before discussion of the Pre-K Expansion Strategy, Chair Frei, Member Weger, and Member Burroughs declared a conflict of interest. Chair Frei, Member Weger, and Member Burroughs abstained from all discussion and voting on the Pre-K Expansion strategy.

Littlefield Unified School District - Director Beckett informed the Council staff recommendation is renewal. Member Saari made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Lewis seconded the motion. All six voting members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Topock Unified School District - Director Beckett explained although report says there have been no reimbursements submitted, this is incorrect and reimbursements have been submitted. Director Beckett informed the Council staff recommendation is to renew. Vice Chair Knudtson made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Garcia seconded the motion. All six voting Council members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

E.Q. Scholars, Inc - Director Beckett explained to the Council that E.Q. Scholars are requesting a change from a 12 month program to a 9 month program, which is a change that reduces the total amount of the award. Director Beckett informed the Council that staff is recommending renewal. Member Sondrol made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Garcia seconded the motion. All six voting Council members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mohave Valley Elementary School District - Director Beckett informed the Council staff recommendation is to renew. Member Saari made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Sondrol seconded the motion. All six voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bullhead Elementary School District (BHESD) - Director Beckett reminded the Council this grant is new; therefore, SFY2011 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 data is not available. Director Beckett advised staff recommends renewal. Vice Chair Knudtson asked if renewal will be for a higher amount. Director Beckett explained that the amount is annualized, so the amount for renewal does appear higher, but is the same when calculated for the year. Member Saari made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Howell seconded the motion. All six voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Frei, Member Weger, and Member Burroughs rejoined the discussion at 10:06a.m.

Quality First Strategy & Quality T.E.A.C.H. Strategy

Director Beckett explained to the Council that the statewide Quality First Strategy was sent out to the RFGA process this year, and the recommendation is confidential until the board votes on it in June. Director Beckett further explained since Quality First is a statewide strategy, the Council is not required to take action on it at this time. Director Beckett also explained this applies for T.E.A.C.H, as well.

Community-based Early Childhood Education Strategy

ASCC: Professional Development – Director Beckett informed the Council staff recommendation is to renew. The grantee has exceeded the proposed service numbers. Director Beckett also informed the Council that the grantee is proposing some modifications to the grant for next year, including adding an online addition of the Tier 1 training series which would allow 10 participants who would otherwise be unable to join Tier 1 the opportunity to do so online. The grantee is also proposing an increase in the allowed attendees for the professional development conference, and a second strand for the Tier 3 training that will specifically target home child care directors. Director Beckett explained these modifications do not result in an increase in cost for First Things First. Director Beckett informed the Council that staff recommends renewal for this grant. Member Sondrol made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Child Care Health Consultation Strategy

Director Beckett explained the Council voted to continue participating in the statewide Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) when the 2012 Regional Funding Plan was approved. Director Beckett informed the Council the board will vote on this renewal in June, and no further action is required by the Council at this time.

Development and Health Screening Strategy

Before discussion of the Development and Health Screening Strategy, Member Saari and Member Sondrol declared a conflict of interest. Member Saari and Member Sondrol abstained from all discussion and voting on the Development and Health Screening Strategies.

Milemarkers Therapy - Director Beckett informed the Council that staff is recommending renewal but there are some barriers that the grantee has experienced. Director Beckett explained the service numbers were increased last year at the grantee's request because it was expected that participation would increase; however, based on SFY2011 Quarter 1 and 2 data reports, it seems attendance is inconsistent. Staff is proposing a reduction back to the original Year 1 service numbers. Director Beckett also explained that during the renewal last year, the grantee was asked to add Child Find Coalition to their grant; however, feedback they received indicated that a single, region-wide Child Find Coalition was not the best model for the region, and that Child Find efforts needed to be more localized. Director Beckett explained staff suggests the Child Find Coalition component to be removed from the grant in order to further assess the need and best model. This change will result in a decrease in the amount of funding for the grant to remove the portion of funds associated with creating the coalition. Vice Chair Knudtson asked for clarification on the numbers and funding. Director Beckett clarified the changes in service numbers and the amount of funding does return to the same levels as in

year one of the grant. Director Beckett further clarified the first year was annualized for 8 months, so the funding does appear higher in year two, but that was just to provide 12 months of services rather than eight. Member Weger made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Garcia seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
River Cities Community Clinic - Director Beckett informed the Council that staff is recommending renewal. Member Garcia made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Lewis seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members approved the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Member Saari and Member Sondrol rejoined the discussion at 10:17a.m.

Mental Health Consultation Strategy
Director Beckett gave an update on Southwest Human Development's Mental Health Consultation Strategy. Director Beckett reminded the Council this is a statewide agreement, and the Council voted to continue the strategy when the funding plan was approved in December. Director Beckett informed the Council no action is required at this time.

Home Visitation Strategy
Before discussion of the Family Support Home Visitation Strategies, Member Weger and Member Lewis declared a conflict of interest. Member Weger and Member Lewis abstained from all discussion and voting on the Family Support Home Visitation strategies.
Child Family Resources: Healthy Families (Expedited) – Director Beckett informed the Council staff is recommending renewal. Member Saari made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Sondrol seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Director Beckett clarified why Child Family Resources and Interagency appear to have two separate grants for the same strategy. This is due to the expedited process that occurred in year 1.
Interagency: Healthy Families (Expedited) – Director Beckett informed the Council staff is recommending renewal for this grant. Member Saari made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Vice Chair Knudtson seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Arizona's Children Association: Bright Start – Director Beckett informed the Council staff is recommending renewal. Member Garcia made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Sondrol seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The Learning Center - Director Beckett state staff is recommending renewal. Member Sondrol made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Garcia seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Child Family Resources: Healthy Families (RFGA) – Director Beckett informed the Council staff recommendation is for renewal. Member Howell asked for clarification on the difference between Expedited and RFGA grants. Director Beckett clarified the two are separate grants which allow for more families to be served. Director Beckett explained that the two grants cannot, at this time, be consolidated, so each grant must be voted on separately. Member Howell made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Garcia seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Interagency: Healthy Families/Fatherhood Now & Parenting Children with Special Needs (RFGA) – Director Beckett informed the Council staff recommends renewal. Member Garcia made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Saari seconded the motion. All seven voting Council members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Beckett explained to the Council that a portion of the funding for Healthy Families goes to Department of Economic Security (DES) to assist with accreditation because DES is the agency recognized as the Arizona administrative home by Healthy Families America. Director Beckett further explained this portion is voted on by the board and no action is required by the Council.
Member Lewis and Member Weger rejoined the discussion at 10:29a.m.

Child Care Study Strategy
Director Beckett clarified for the Council the next strategy appears to be regional, but it is really statewide. It is the strategy that allows for the external evaluations and studies. Therefore, the board votes on this strategy and no action is required by the Council.

Court Teams Strategy
Mohave County Superior Courts: Director Beckett informed the Council the grantee is proposing some modifications to the grant, but the modifications won't increase the cost to First Things First. Director Beckett outlined the modifications for the Council which include a database addition and adding a part-time employee to help with data entry. Director Beckett informed the Council staff is recommending renewal. Member Howell asked for clarification on the proposed activities for the monies. Director Beckett clarified the grantee is slated to give 1 training a month which the grantee has been exceeding, averaging 3 trainings a month. Director Beckett also clarified an error in the report stating the proposed service unit should say 200, reflecting no decrease in service units for the next year. Senior Director Arnold added input to make the strategy clearer for Council members, including grantee's current transition from basic level of trainings to putting training into practice. Member Burroughs and Vice Chair Knudtson expressed how

significant the difference has been within the school and court systems because of the strategy. Member Lewis made a motion to approve renewal of the grant. Member Garcia seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Council gave feedback on the Grantee Renewal Report. The council felt the report was helpful and well done.

Update on Parent Awareness and Community Outreach

Della Gray, Community Outreach Coordinator, gave a power point presentation outlining all the activities being done to spread awareness of First Things First. Ms. Gray also shared pictures from activities of The Week of the Young Child. Tonya Ford, Mohave County Superior Court, Court Teams Director, shared that the April was also declared Child Abuse Prevention Month for Mohave County.

Regional Director Report & Possible Discussion

Director Beckett updated the Council on new agreements for next year including adding a Pre-Kindergarten expansion contract with the Kingman Unified School district and two new food agreements with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance to serve Mohave County and Yuma Community Food Bank to serve La Paz County. Approval will be requested from the Board in June so that services may begin in July. Director Beckett also provided an update on the Needs and Assets vendor selection process. Director Beckett explained three volunteers came forward to join the vendor selection workgroup: Member Holloway, Member Mongeau, and Member Sondrol. Director Beckett explained she is still finalizing responses from the vendors and that the workgroup will present a recommendation at the May Council meeting. Director Beckett thanked Member Mongeau for representing the Council at the Regional Community Outreach Forum held in Parker, Arizona, on April 4, 2011. Director Beckett also thanked Margaret Taylor from Association for Supportive Child Care for representing grantees at the forum. Director Beckett is integrating the feedback received from grantees and at the forum to be included in a plan that will also be presented to the Council at the May meeting. Director Beckett recognized the anniversaries of different members. April is the three year anniversary for Chair Frei, Vice Chair Knudtson, and Members Mongeau, Burroughs, Weger, Garcia, Lewis, and Howell. March was the two year anniversary for Member Saari, and August will be the two year anniversary for Member Holloway. Executive Director Rhian Allvin Evans will be attending the August Council meeting and doing a more formal recognition presentation.

Regional Council Member Updates & Announcements

Chair Frei requested a possible agenda item to open a conversation regarding different strategies being utilized around the state by different Regional Partnership Councils. Chair Frei informed the council some really brilliant strategies were presented at the Chair/Vice Chair Forum held in Phoenix, Arizona, last month.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is at 9:30a.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at the Colorado River Union High School District located at 5221 Highway 95 Fort Mojave, AZ 86426.

Adjourn

Member Saari made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Member Garcia. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

There being no further business, Chair Frei adjourned the meeting at 11:06a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Julia Cosmano

Julia Cosmano, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:

Riley Frei, Chair