



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Yuma Regional Partnership Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First-Yuma Regional Partnership Council was held on March 17, 2011, 4:30 p.m. at the Yuma Police Department Community Training Room, 1500 S. First Avenue Yuma, AZ 85364.

Chair Vargas called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Francisco Vargas
Vice Chair Irene Garza
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra
Council Member Pilar Moreno
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez
Council Member Ricardo Perez
Council Member Judy Watkinson

Members Absent:

Council Member Rev. Darren Hawkins
Council Member Gloria Cisneros

Conflict of Interest

Chair Vargas provided the Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. None declared.

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the February 17, and February 25, 2011 Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular and special meeting. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Garza and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Recruitment and Retention of Therapist

The Regional Council continued the discussion on Recruitment and Retention of Therapists for the Yuma region. The possibility of stipends to help cover additional costs associated with bringing in providers from other areas to provide services in the Yuma region and travel reimbursements for local therapy providers in the community were among the topics discussed by the Regional Council. Department of Health Services, Patricia Tarango, was present via conference call and shared insight on this topic of discussion. First Things First Sr. Program Specialist, Dr. Judy Walruff and Chief Regional Officer, Michelle Katona, were also present via conference call for this portion of the meeting.

The Regional Council directed First Things First Staff Sr. Regional Director, Gary P. Arnold and Regional Director, Carmen E. Hurtado, with the task of bringing a workgroup together for the purpose of further research and to compile additional data needed in order for the Regional Council to make a decision on this matter.

Professional Development Grantees

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Program Specialist, Angelina Escobedo reported a total of 29 AA and CDA (Associate Arts, Child Development Associate) scholarships have been awarded region wide, 4 of which are in the processing stage. Ms. Escobedo also stated a total of 232 children are benefiting as a result of the scholarships and 15 are inactive/withdrawn.

A total of 651 scholarships have been awarded statewide, 5,208 children benefiting, 109 currently processing and 330 that are inactive/withdrawn. Administrative waiver, financial waiver, qualifying documentational requirements, outreach strategies, barriers and successes were among the items included in the report.

Arizona Western College P.C.P.P. (Professional Career Pathways Project) Program Specialist, Susie O'Brien provided a brief report/update on P.C.P.P. to the Regional Council. Ms. O'Brien stated the program is sponsored by the Arizona Department of Economic Security Child Care Administration. The purpose of the program is to improve the quality of childcare in Arizona by offering an opportunity for professional development for childcare providers and teachers throughout the state of Arizona. The program is in collaboration with 14 other colleges throughout the state of Arizona. The program has been in existence for over 10 years.

There are currently 38 students enrolled in the program for the year 2011. With the assistance of First Things First the program has been able to allocate 126 credits for the semester. Students are allowed to enroll in a maximum of 6 credits per semester with a total of 12 credits in a calendar year. Ms. O'Brien answered the Regional Council's questions on the program.

Sr. Director Arnold stated the 2011 and 2012 Yuma funding plan currently includes funding for 35 P.C.P.P. scholarships.

Early Head Start and Family Child Care Option

Child and Family Resources (CFR) Regional Director West Region, Roselia Ramirez and Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) West Region Regional Coordinator, Arturo Magana, shared a power point presentation and informational literature with the Regional Council. The presentation included information on the framework and outcome of the Early Head Start (EHS) and Family Child Care (FCC) at the local, state and national levels. Goals, activities, and project overview and timelines were among the topics included in the presentation.

Ms. Ramirez stated the project will increase quality for low-income children in family childcare homes by leveraging comprehensive services that include health and social services.

Regional Director's Report

- a) **Grantee Data/Financial Report**-updated financial report included year to date expenditures by the various grantees and media campaign. The Yuma region has expended approximately 50% of the allocations for the current year (report provided by Sr. Director Gary P. Arnold).

- b) **Chair/Vice Chair Leadership Forum**-March 31, 2011, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Phoenix, AZ.
- c) **Council Vacancies**-ongoing recruitment efforts to fill the Philanthropy and Child Care Provider seats in Yuma Regional Partnership Council.
- d) **Cancellation of Yuma Regional Partnership Council April meeting**-April 21, 2011 meeting cancelled due to grantee renewals. The May 19, 2011 Regional Partnership meeting was rescheduled for May 12, 2011.

Regional Director Carmen E. Hurtado stated the Yuma Community Food Bank has received and is reviewing the contract agreement. Oral Health Strategy will be a government to government agreement. Negotiations are in progress with a local agency in reference to the Early Literacy strategy and is hopeful a government to government agreement will be in place for this strategy. The communications kiosk has been approved and will be a pilot program for the Yuma Regional Partnership Council.

Community Outreach Coordinator's Report

Community Outreach Coordinator, Magdalena Garcia, shared an updated report with the Regional Council. Ms. Garcia further stated she has enlisted approximately 850 champions in the community. Approximately 2,500 resource guides will be distributed to local churches in the Yuma County.

The Speakers Bureau Training is scheduled to be held on Friday, March 18, 2011. Approximately 13 grantees will be attending the training.

Week of the Young Child is scheduled for April 2011.

Call to the Public

None

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled for May 12, 2011, 4:30 p.m., Chicanos Por La Causa, 106 E. 1st Street Suite A, Yuma, AZ 85364 (pending confirmation).

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

Francisco Vargas, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

May 12, 2011