



FIRST THINGS FIRST
The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2009

Call Work Session Meeting to Order

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council Work Session Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the Central Arizona College, 8470 N. Overfield Road, Coolidge, AZ 85228.

Regional Council Chair Mezzio called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM.

Council Members in attendance:

Barbara Mezzio, Kai Gerkey, Melanie O'Neil, Christina Jenkins, Arnoldo Hernandez, and Bryant Powell

Council Members in attendance via teleconference:

Mary Allen and Mary Kyle

Council Members not in attendance:

Charity Russell

First Things First Staff in attendance:

Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Sandy Carpenter, Shari Elkins, and Carrie Loos

Public in attendance:

6 members of the public were present

May Regional Council Meeting Agenda Items

Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Regional Coordinator, Pinal Regional Partnership Council, reviewed the agenda items for the May Regional Council Meeting. The agenda items reviewed were: Regional Council meeting presentations, state and regional emergency response update, strategy work group updates and discussion, approval of the legislative letter, and coordinators report.

State Legislative Update and Development Regional Support Letter

Sandy Carpenter, First Things First Government Affairs Specialist, addressed the Council and announced the First Things First legislative updates and addressed any concerns or questions. Ms. Carpenter reviewed the voter protected dollars and will distribute a document to the Council which lists all agencies covered under the voter protection act.

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council would like to construct a legislative support letter. The messages that the letter will address is: Pinal County Representatives (Barbara McGuire, Frank Pratt, and Rebecca Rios), First Things First and mission, families and young children (under 5) in the Pinal region, voter

qualifications, constituent, profession, needs in Pinal County, Pinal Regional Partnership Council strategies, what the Pinal Regional Partnership is bringing to Pinal County (dollars, jobs, education), voter protection act, what the dollar allocation means to the community.

Regional Council Meeting Presentations Discussion

Copies of the presentation form and Early Intervention Infant request for presentation were handed out to the Council and the public attendees. The presentation form will be distributed to the presenter after the Council approves their request for presentation. The form will address the following requests: date and location of the Council meeting, presenter contact information (phone number, fax number, address, email, agency and title), presenter handouts, and IT requirements.

The Council reviewed a letter from Gerry Lugo, Director, Early Intervention Infant-Toddler Program. Ms. Lugo is requesting the opportunity to come before the Council to share information about their program and the benefits families and children have experienced from receiving early intervention.

The Council would like to ask Gerry Lugo to present at an upcoming Council Meeting; this date has not been decided. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi, Regional Coordinator, Pinal Regional Partnership Council will contact Gerry Lugo, via email, announcing the presentation date/time and request for information.

The information presented must fall within the First Things First or Council strategies, goals, and/or topics on the current agenda. The accepted presentation should be educational for the Council or provide specific demographic or regional information.

Regional Council Retreat Discussion

Copies of the Pinal retreat notes and Pinal Council retreat follow-up action plan were distributed to the Council and the public attendees. The Council was directed to view the retreat notes at their convenience. The action items on the retreat follow-up action plan were: action step, responsible person(s), and comments.

State and Regional Emergency Early Childhood Response Package Update and Discussion

Scholarships – The Pinal Regional Partnership Council will receive 515.18 scholarships for children equaling \$1,051,610.06 dollars for a 3 to 4 month period. Eligible families incomes will be 200% at/or below the federal poverty level and the centers need to apply in *Quality First* and/or be accredited. The housing administrative agency that will be distributing funds will be United Way Valley of the Sun.

Home Visitation –First Things First is currently discussing the contract with the suggested agency and has asked for clarification on inquiries that the Pinal Regional Partnership Council had regarding the recommended agency. The anticipated contract date is April 13, 2009.

Emergency Food Assistance – The review team received 4 applications and has recommended that one of the agencies receive funding. The review team would like to ask the main contracted agency to work with the other agencies that applied. The contract will be discussed once the First Things First Regions have made their recommendations and the award/regret letters have been issued. The tentative contact date is April 13, 2009.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Member Jenkins to adjourn the work session meeting at 2:05 PM, seconded by Member Gerkey. Motion carried.

DRAFT