



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Call to Order

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on April 22, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Bullhead City Elementary School District located at 1004 Hancock Road, Bullhead City, Arizona 86442.

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Regional Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present

Alisa Burroughs, Riley Frei, Jose Garcia, Terri Holloway, Betsy Lewis, Nancy Mongeau, Catie Sondrol and Howard Weiske. Debra Weger participated telephonically.

Call to the Public

Byron Lewis with North Country HealthCare provided an update of their efforts to assist area uninsured, and announced the expansion of dental services in this area through a grant. Mr. Lewis explained the scope of services and asked for the regional council's written support by May 10. Chair Mongeau advised Mr. Lewis the Bullhead City campus of Mohave Community College houses a dental school.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts declared at this time.

Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Sondrol made a motion to approve the March 25, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Member Holloway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

SFY2016 Community Awareness Budget Discussion

Outreach Coordinator Erin Taylor presented the proposed community awareness budget for review and started that no action is needed at this time. The budget reflects a \$5000 decrease from last year to bring it in line with actual expenses. There was discussion about outreach equipment, and Coordinator Taylor reported a planned purchase of two tablecloths to lend to grantees for events and a traveling projector. Member Frei made a motion to approve the budget as proposed. Member Holloway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Senior Director Ashley Pascual clarified that the final budget will be presented at a later meeting.

SFY 2015 Implementation Update

Regional Director Vijette Saari reviewed the current expenditure report, providing the most recent information and explaining the variations.

Community Outreach Update

Coordinator Taylor provided a recap of the 2015 Week of the Young Child, noting that several area newspapers published the regional council member biographies. Events actually began the Saturday prior, with the Raising Special Kids and Lake Havasu City MOMs Preschool Expo. The Colorado River Indian Tribes offered weeklong activities, and the Hualapai Tribe held a Parent Morning Mixer at the Day Care and Head Start. Coordinator Taylor also reported on a Kingman event held April 18, noting MohaveCountyTV.com interviewed her and a couple of grantees for a television segment about Week of the Young Child. At a health

fair March 28, Maggie Wilcox gave a presentation about how tooth decay is spread. Coordinator Taylor also met with the Kingman Unified School District's kindergarten transition team regarding a long term project, and will meet with the Bullhead City transition team May 4 at 8:00 p.m. She will also do outreach at the Kingman Regional Medical Center's Kid's Day on May 30. Coordinator Taylor requested an extension on the 2015 La Paz/Mohave Champion for Young Children award to give everyone a chance to vote. There will be a public recognition for the candidates at a future meeting.

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements

There were no announcements.

Senior Regional Director's Report

Senior Director Pascual thanked Coordinator Taylor for her outreach work during the Week of the Young Child. She provided a State Board update, reporting they met last week in Yuma, and announced they would be meeting in Lake Havasu City in December. Senior Director Pascual reminded the regional council members about the regional Needs and Assets Assessment process leading up to the 2017 report. The University of Arizona, Norton School is updating the current assessments statewide by the end of this year. Staff is reviewing the scope of work so regions will not have to supplement funding for desired items.

Regional Director's Report

Director Saari provided an update on the regional council member recruitment for the two open positions (parent and business), noting interviews will be held before the next meeting.

Director Saari presented a letter of support for the Mohave County Health Department signed by First Things First Chief Executive Officer Sam Leyvas, and explained the Health Start Home Visiting program.

Director Saari presented information about the 2015 Early Childhood Summit, which will be held August 24-25 in Phoenix. She shared several important dates and noted which events required separate registration. Most importantly, regional council members' registrations will be handled entirely through the regional office, so Director Saari cautioned them not to register online.

Additionally, there is a Read On event immediately, following the celebratory luncheon on August 25, for those who would like to attend.

Recommendations on Request or Grant Application (RFGA) Awards

Member Holloway made a motion to enter executive session at 10:22 a.m. Member Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Mongeau ended the executive session at 10:34 a.m.

Member Garcia made a motion to approve the review committee's recommendation for the Home Visitation grant FTF-RC006-16-0506-00. Member Holloway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council will be at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, at the Centennial Community Center, 69725 Centennial Park Road, Salome, Arizona 85357.

Adjourn

Member Frei made a motion to adjourn at 10:38. Member Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

Nancy Mongeau, Chair



La Paz/Mohave

SFY 2015 Financial Expenditures Report

	Grantee Name	Total Allotment	Awarded	YTD Expense	Expense Variance	% of Award Expended	Pending	Paid (Last 30 Days)
Community Awareness	Community Awareness Strategy	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$4,570	\$25,430	15.2%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$30,000	\$4,570	\$25,430	15.2%		
	Community Outreach Strategy	\$83,000	\$83,000	\$57,961	\$25,039	69.8%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$83,000	\$57,961	\$25,039	69.8%		
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$113,000	\$113,000	\$62,531	\$50,469	55.3%		
Coordination	Court Teams Strategy	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$300,000	\$100,000	75.0%		
	Mohave County Superior Court		\$400,000	\$300,000	\$100,000	75.0%		
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$300,000	\$100,000	75.0%		
Evaluation	Statewide Evaluation Strategy	\$255,216	\$255,216	\$255,216	-	100.0%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$255,216	\$255,216	-	100.0%		
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$255,216	\$255,216	\$255,216	-	100.0%		
Family Support	Home Visitation Strategy	\$1,114,006	\$1,114,481	\$749,607	\$364,874	67.3%		\$108,332
	Arizona Department of Economic Security		\$17,914	\$8,977	\$8,937	50.1%		
	Arizona's Children Association		\$420,589	\$261,363	\$159,227	62.1%		\$24,577
	Child and Family Resources Inc.		\$389,967	\$265,723	\$124,244	68.1%		\$30,635
	The Learning Center for Families		\$286,011	\$213,544	\$72,467	74.7%		\$53,120
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$1,114,006	\$1,114,481	\$749,607	\$364,874	67.3%		\$108,332
Health	Child Care Health Consultation	\$62,370	\$62,370	\$35,926	\$26,444	57.6%		\$10,337
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$3,236	\$3,236	-	100.0%		
	Maricopa County Department of Public Health		\$1,110	\$551	\$559	49.6%		\$395
	Pima County Health Department		\$2,017	\$1,102	\$915	54.6%		\$109
	The Arizona Board of Regents University of		\$56,007	\$31,037	\$24,970	55.4%		\$9,833
	Family Support – Children with	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$92,676	\$57,324	61.8%		
	Child and Family Resources Inc.		\$150,000	\$92,676	\$57,324	61.8%		
	Oral Health Strategy	\$0	\$0	-	\$0	0.0%		
The Arizona Board of Regents University of		\$0	-	\$0	0.0%			

	Grantee Name	Total Allotment	Awarded	YTD Expense	Expense Variance	% of Award Expended	Pending	Paid (Last 30 Days)
	Recruitment – Stipends/Loan	\$0	-	(\$509)	\$509	0.0%		
	Arizona Department of Health Services		-	(\$509)	\$509	0.0%		
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$212,370	\$212,370	\$128,093	\$84,277	60.3%		\$10,337
Professional Development	Community Based Professional	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$220,400	\$179,600	55.1%		\$56,805
	Association for Supportive Child Care		\$400,000	\$220,400	\$179,600	55.1%		\$56,805
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$220,400	\$179,600	55.1%		\$56,805
Quality and Access	Expansion: Increase slots and/or	\$63,172	\$63,172	(\$36,600)	\$99,772	-57.9%		
	Arizona Department of Education		-	(\$65,000)	\$65,000	0.0%		
			\$63,172	\$28,400	\$34,772	45.0%		
	Family, Friends & Neighbors Strategy	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$60,674	\$39,326	60.7%		\$7,117
	Association for Supportive Child Care		\$100,000	\$60,674	\$39,326	60.7%		\$7,117
	Quality First Academy Strategy	\$19,740	\$19,740	\$10,554	\$9,186	53.5%		\$1,647
	Southwest Human Development		\$19,740	\$10,554	\$9,186	53.5%		\$1,647
	Quality First Child Care Health	\$987	\$707	\$405	\$302	57.3%		\$139
	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension		\$707	\$405	\$302	57.3%		\$139
	Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$272,885	\$258,537	\$193,665	\$64,872	74.9%		
	Valley of the Sun United Way		\$258,537	\$193,665	\$64,872	74.9%		
	Quality First Inclusion Warmline	\$4,410	\$3,890	\$2,394	\$1,497	61.5%		\$276
	Southwest Human Development		\$3,890	\$2,394	\$1,497	61.5%		\$276
	Quality First Mental Health	\$4,536	\$4,536	\$3,092	\$1,444	68.2%		\$313
	Southwest Human Development		\$4,536	\$3,092	\$1,444	68.2%		\$313
Quality First Scholarships Strategy	\$2,315,821	\$2,315,821	\$1,741,253	\$574,569	75.2%	-		
First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$20,776	\$20,776	-	100.0%			
Valley of the Sun United Way		\$2,295,045	\$1,720,477	\$574,569	75.0%	-		
Quality First Warmline Triage	\$1,596	\$1,596	\$1,168	\$428	73.2%		\$129	
Southwest Human Development		\$1,596	\$1,168	\$428	73.2%		\$129	
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$2,783,146	\$2,767,999	\$1,976,604	\$791,395	71.4%	-	\$9,621
	Overall Total:	\$5,277,739	\$5,263,067	\$3,692,451	\$1,570,615	70.2%	-	\$185,096



COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council , May 2015

The work of engagement begins by connecting with key stakeholders and motivating them to take action on behalf of young kids. Through continual training and tools, Community Outreach recruits Friends, Supporters and Champions. This three-tiered engagement process offers stakeholders an opportunity to be involved at whatever level they feel most comfortable.

Our Regional Partnership Council members are involved in the community on multiple levels, from schools to business to faith groups. Do you know someone we should be connecting with?

Recent Partnerships

Kingman Unified School District Kindergarten Transition Team: Confirmed participation of Kingman Daily Miner in Summer Kindergarten Prep weekly articles in June and July.

Bullhead City Kindergarten Transition/EQUIP Team: Assisting with promotion of Kinder Camp for transitioning preschoolers.

Read On Bullhead City Committee: Met May 13 to discuss outreach activities this summer.

Upcoming Events

Kingman Regional Medical Center Kid's Day, Saturday, May 30 in Kingman.

Champion for Young Children 2015 Award

Debbie Justice, Executive Director for The Learning Center for Families

(Nomination by Janie Belliston, The Learning Center for Families)

"Debbie has done so much to increase public awareness of early childhood development and health that it's hard to choose just a few examples. Most recently, she has helped lead the way on a make-over of our website – www.tlc4families.org and has encouraged efforts to link our donors and community partners with the website and through our Facebook page. Because of the stellar reputation that TLC has built up over the past 22 years, businesses are eager to attach their logo to our brand. Debbie initiated and approved the makeover and we couldn't be happier with the way it has turned out.

Debbie has also been very proactive in the business community when it comes to educating various groups about our mission and its importance - not only for the families we serve, but for our local economy and our future workforce. She makes sure that either she or a representative from TLC is at one of the three Chambers of Commerce meetings in our area, as well as seeking out opportunities to speak at various rotary clubs, exchange clubs and business networking groups. Her efforts have paid off tremendously this year with the St. George Chamber of Commerce honoring TLC at their annual gala with the *2015 Community of Compassion – Nonprofit of the Year* award.

As Debbie plans her retirement this fall after creating TLC back in 1993, one of her greatest accomplishments, I think, has been the work she has done in the communities of Colorado City, Centennial Park and Cane Beds Arizona. She has built a strong, trusting rapport with the community and has been able to bridge the cultural and linguistic divide that existed before."



Lenore Knudtson, Family Attorney and former Regional Partnership Council member (nominated by Merritt Beckett):

“Lenore is a passionate advocate for vulnerable children and families. As one of the original members of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council and the first Vice Chair to serve the region, she helped establish First Things First as part of the early childhood system in the region and state.

Her vision, leadership and action on behalf of those most at risk - children with disabilities, children in foster care and families living in rural communities - guided our work in the region from the very beginning and helped us find ways to have the most positive impact for them.

To call her an asset to the council would be a tremendous understatement. As a member of the Court Team Advisory Committee, her recommendations and close relationships with colleagues in the child welfare system helped strengthen and grow the Court Team in the region to become an example for other regions to admire and follow.

Her deep knowledge and expertise as an attorney, mediator and consultant also served First Things First in unique and important ways. She was a frequent and eloquent spokesperson for print, radio and television interviews. She provided specialized training and technical assistance for our educators and early childhood professionals in the region. She presented on behalf of the council at the Mohave County Board of Supervisors meeting during the Week of the Young Child. She spoke about FTF and our work in Arizona at national conferences and workshops. And the list goes on...

She also generously gives her time and talent to benefit a wide variety of local schools, shelters, social service agencies and non-profits - from finding volunteers for the Academic Decathlon at the Kingman Academy of Learning to serving on the Board of Directors at Interagency Council - she's always finding ways to contribute, build relationships and connect partners to improve education and health systems and make things better for kids. “

Margee Chieffo, La Paz/Mohave Professional Development Program Coordinator (nominated by Dawn Henry and John Cregg)

“Margee has built a strong collaborative relationship with Quality First Coaches from the La Paz/Mohave Region to obtain feedback regarding the tiers for the professional development training that is offered by ASCC throughout La Paz and Mohave Counties. Additionally, Margee interacts with the Quality First Coaches to learn about the needs of the child care programs participating in Quality First. Finally, Margee invites Quality First Coaches to present at and attend the Professional Development Annual Conference. Margee understands the need to align the Professional Development Program with other early childhood initiatives in the La Paz and Mohave Regions and the state.

By collaborating with Mohave Community College and Rio Salado College, Margee has created pathways for early childhood professionals to earn college credit. College credit is offered to early childhood professionals attending tiered community based training offered by ASCC's Professional Development Program for La Paz and Mohave Counties. This opportunity has been made available to 200 early care and education providers in La Paz and Mohave Counties. Margee provides hands on, in person, one on one support to professionals in her program to ensure that their individual needs are being addressed as she guides them to successful program completion.

In addition to sharing information about the Professional Development Program, Margee is an advocate for other programs impacting early childhood professionals in the La Paz and Mohave Counties. Margee informs early childhood programs of the resources available to become an accredited child care program through the Arizona Self-Study Project. Margee informs early childhood professionals of the college scholarships available through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA Program. Margee continuously seeks resources to share with professionals in her program to aid in improving the quality of care that young children are receiving in the La Paz/Mohave Region.“



Michele Moreno, Therapist at Arcadia Therapy Services (nominated by Mary Hawkins)

“Michele loves the children she works with and puts in appointments on her holidays and weekends when that is the only time they are available. She even drops everything in her personal life when one of the children is having a crisis and comes to help them work through it.

Michele used her own vacation time and money to attend a conference in Phoenix that helped her learn more about how to help her children and their families. She brought many new ideas back to add to the therapy sessions with the children.

Michele makes it her business to know the providers and school personnel in town that work with her families so there can be a seamless transition for the children.

Michele attends award assemblies to make sure the children know she is proud of them.

Michele make sure that the parents/guardians know she is available and goes out of her way to help whenever help is needed.

In my opinion she is a God sent blessing to the families she works with and she also makes sure she has time to make special times with her three sons that she is raising as a single parent. She brings her Christian values with her when giving guidance however does not let it overpower the training she is giving. She always shares the things that families are no longer using with the families that need them. All the children want to be on Miss Michele’s team and work hard to please her. She is proud of each and every one of them and shows it whenever she sees them. She is funny, creative and very energetic and on time for sessions. “

Phyllis Leavitt, Principal of the Littlefield Unified Elementary School (Nominated by Carol Lungrin with TLC)

“I have had the privilege of working with Phyllis through a collaborative effort on the part of The Learning Center for Families and the school district.

Three or four years ago I was asked to participate in a round table discussion hosted by the University of AZ regarding the health and human services needs of the rural Arizona population. I am a home visitor for Early Head Start in the Arizona Strip, so I have been able to ascertain numerous barriers that families in this area are experiencing. At that time, the elementary school in Littlefield (Beaver Dam) offered a half day preschool, but attendance was quite sparse. It seemed that our families were not interested in their children’s scholastic successes; but that was not the case at all. Many of our families either had/have no available transportation or no fuel funds for multiple trips to and from school. When Mrs. Leavitt assessed the consortium information, she became extremely proactive about eliminating some of the largest barriers the families were facing. She found a way to offer all day preschool, separated the three years olds from the four year olds, and she made bussing available and safe for the preschoolers. Her actions have made an unbelievable difference in attendance! We now have a full three year old class and a full four year old class. The academic growth that will result from these actions will fundamentally change the lives of these lucky kids! They will literally receive a big Head Start!

Phyllis Leavitt has been an amazing partner with The Learning Center for Families. In 2010, we were named a grantee for a home visiting program in the Arizona Strip (Beaver Dam, Scenic, and Colorado City). During the past five years we have partnered with the school district to construct a new shared playground at the elementary for the babies in our program and the preschoolers; we have been assigned a room next door to the preschool and kindergarten, and we are treated as part of the educational experience to which nearly every family in the area has access. We are included in monthly meetings, we team together to help families that need extra support, and we work together to seamlessly transition the babies in our program into the preschool. Together, we are making the Arizona Strip a very proactive educational experience, and that is due in large part to the excellent facilitation efforts of Phyllis Leavitt.”



Sixth Annual
La Paz/Mohave

Early Childhood Conference

June 20
2015

London Bridge Resort
Convention Center

Lake Havasu City
Arizona





FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

ACTION ITEM: Revised Target Zip Code for FY 2016

BACKGROUND: First Things First provides Quality First (QF) Scholarships to help low-income families afford a better educational beginning for their children. The La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council voted to zip-target every available scholarship in the La Paz/Mohave region.

On February 17, the Mohave Valley Elementary School District governing board members voted to close Mohave Valley Elementary School (zip code 86440) before the start of the 2015-2016 school year. The preschool will be moved to Fort Mojave Elementary School (86426) starting July 23. For FY 2016, there are 34 scholarships for 86440, of those 7 were to go to the tribal center and 27 for the Mohave Valley Elementary program. In order for Fort Mojave Elementary to receive scholarships, the council will need to vote to remove the scholarships from 86440 and zip-target them to 86426.

Upon approval by the Regional Partnership Council, the Revised Target Zip Code for Quality First Scholarships will be relocated to 86426.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director is recommending approval of the Fiscal Year 2016 Revised Target Zip Code, with permission to allow for staff to continue working with the QF Site.

MEMO

DATE: May 7, 2015
 TO: La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council
 FROM: Vijette Saari
 RE: Recommendations for Grant Agreement Award for Court Teams

First Things First staff have been working collaboratively with Mohave Superior Court staff to finalize the agreement for the- award of the GRA-MULTI-16-0767-01 La Paz/Mohave and Colorado Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Councils Grant Agreement for your consideration.

This award recommendation is in response to the Court Teams from our State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016 Regional Funding Plan. FTF staff has reviewed the Grant Agreement, met and has the following recommendations for award:

- (Mohave Superior Court) in the amount of (\$370,500) of which \$20,500 is from the CRIT Regional Council

The total amount of funding to be awarded under this RFGA for SFY 2016 is \$370,500. The initial funding period is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 with potential renewal of the grant award based on performance and continuation of the strategy by the Regional Council. The potential renewal periods are as follows:

- Renewal period: July 1, 2016– June 30, 2017 (SFY 2017)
- Renewal period: July 1, 2017– June 30, 2018 (SFY 2018)

Background

The Court Team provides training to everyone involved in the child welfare system to assist in the cooperation and collaboration for the best interests of infants and toddlers. The Court Team will put focus on establishing a well-developed, coordinate, court system with an infant and toddler focused practice with La Paz/Mohave Counties and the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Summary of Anticipated Outcomes and Impacts

The principal goals of Court Teams are to improve outcomes and reduce the recurrence of abuse and neglect for infants and toddlers. These goals are achieved by developing court-community teams led by superior court judges to:

- Raise awareness of the developmental needs of maltreated infants and toddlers.
- Assure case plans that support the developmental needs of these children
- Assure a permanency plan that results in stable placements for children with foster families, relatives, or other caretakers.
- Assure continuing focus on child wellbeing when children are returned to parents, relatives, or other caretakers.

Court teams promote policies and procedures that will foster a system of care that focuses on meeting the developmental needs of children and supports their healthy development.

With this Grant Agreement the council is targeting 255 children and 255 professionals.

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council: 200 children will be served, 200 professionals will attend training. Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council: 55 children will be served, 55 professionals will attend training.

FTF staff is pleased to offer this recommendation and is confident that the organization recommended for award fully address the Scope of Work as outlined within the Grant Agreement Award and will lead to successful fulfillment of the intent of our approved strategy.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of FTF staff,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vijette Saari".

Vijette Saari, La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council