



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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 May 23, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Littlefield Unified School District, 3490 East Rio Virgin Road, Beaver Dam, Arizona 86432.

Chairman Frei called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present

Alisa Burroughs, Riley Frei, Betsy Lewis, Lenore Knudtson, Nancy Mongeau and Howard Weiske. Terri Holloway, Vijette Saari and Catie Sondrol participated telephonically.

Members Absent

Jose Garcia, Debra Weger.

Present 2013 Champion for Young Children Award to Phyllis Leavitt

Chair Frei spoke about adoring Phyllis Leavitt years ago when he was a kindergartener, and how his time as a student in her class had a tremendous impact on his life. Chair Frei takes pleasure in celebrating people who are changing the world, so it is a special honor to present Mrs. Leavitt – on behalf of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council – the 2013 Champion for Young Children Award. Mrs. Leavitt graciously accepted the award, and said kids have been her passion for many years and she believes teaching is the most important work there is. Children are our greatest treasure, and she applauds First Things First as true champions. She feels school is like a sanctuary for young kids, and they deserve the best. Kids today more than ever need encouragement for the future, and First Things First provided a program for kids to let them know they are important.

Update on Beaver Dam Elementary School Preschool

Phyllis Leavitt, Principal, Beaver Dam Elementary School showed a PowerPoint presentation illustrating many of the programs made possible by First Things First and other school supporters and sponsors.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Mongeau made a motion to approve the April 25, 2013 meeting minutes. Member Knudtson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Possible Approval of Additional Work for 2014 Needs & Assets Report

Regional Director Merritt Beckett reviewed the additional work proposal suggested by the Needs and Assets workgroup. The three key areas are 1) a phone based census to every child care facility (regulated and unregulated) asking for detailed information on children served in each age group; 2) key informant group interviews with a minimum of 105 providers; and 3) an online survey of health care providers. Member Knudtson made a motion to approve the proposed additional work plan for the 2014 Needs & Assets Report and to allocate additional funds to pay for the work from unallocated funds in SFY 2014. Member Weiske seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Possible Approval of SFY 2014 Community Awareness Plan and Budget

Director Beckett reviewed the plan and budget, which includes three main components: 1) educating the public on the importance of early childhood development; 2) recruiting and retaining new stakeholders; and 3) motivating people to take action. Member Weiske made a motion to approve the SFY 2014 Community Awareness Plan and Budget. Member Mongeau seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Review of Governance Policies

Director Beckett advised the council they could request updates to the governance policies annually. Any proposed changes require a first and a second read. Member Knudtson suggested that perhaps the policies should state that the council must meet in the state

of Arizona in order to align with the state Open Meeting Law. Director Beckett will follow-up with legal counsel and bring back some possible language at a future meeting.

Nominations and Election of Officers for SFY 2014

Director Beckett thanked Chair Frei and Vice Chair Mongeau for serving this past year. Regional Council Members discussed the responsibilities associated with the two positions. Chair Frei made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Mongeau for chair, and Member Holloway seconded. Vice Chair Mongeau made a motion to nominate Chair Frei for vice chair, and Member Holloway seconded. Member Weiske made a motion to close nominations, and Member Knudtson seconded. All motions carried unanimously.

Director's Report and Possible Discussion

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2013 Financial Report, noting we are in the home stretch with about 58% of funds expended; however, grantees can bill through August 15. She outlined the two types of carry forward – one is for funds allotted but never awarded, and one is awarded funds that are not spent. The council discussed known difficulties associated with the stipends/loan forgiveness strategy, and would like to revisit this strategy to make it easier to use – possibly by instituting an incentive to stay. Senior Director Arnold noted that Department of Health Services is currently working with new therapists who are recruited to get them faster payments. He noted another idea was to institute a partial stipend for therapists working in multiple states. Member Knudtson asked what autonomy this council has in designing the stipend plan. Director Beckett advised that typically statewide strategies are implemented consistently across the state and the ability to adapt the strategies at the local level is limited. Senior Director Arnold shared there are statewide difficulties in recruiting therapists and a workgroup is revisiting the strategy. Director Beckett shared highlights from the grantee coordination meeting held in Parker at the beginning of May. She spoke about advancing the conversation, examining opportunities and gaps to decide where to focus energy, and she noted there was a bigger turnout from other agencies and interested partners in the community beyond grantees. Director Beckett wants to open up future coordination meetings and intentionally invite others connected with the early childhood system. During the activities, attendees prioritized needs and discussed their desire for resource guides. There was rich conversation about AZEIP, and the need to establish a relationship with the new provider A to Z Therapies.

The council will continue to discuss opportunities for system building and look for ways beyond what we fund to move our prioritized indicators. Members were asked to continue bringing forward recommendations on how to improve the early childhood system.

The next grantee coordination meeting is Tuesday, August 6th in Kingman.

Please contact Sandy before June 15 to register for the First Things First Summit August 26-27, 2013 in Phoenix.

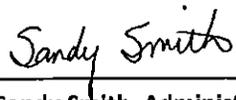
Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 9:30 am on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at the Kingman Unified School District Board Room located at 3033 MacDonald Avenue, Kingman, Arizona 86401.

Adjourn

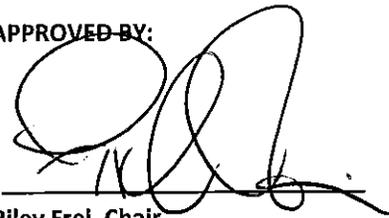
Member Weiske made a motion to adjourn at 11:02 a.m. Vice Chair Mongeau seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:



Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:



Riley Frei, Chair