



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

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

#### **Call to Order and Introductions**

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on April 26, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the Mohave County Sheriff's Training Room, 600 W. Beale Street, Kingman, Arizona, 86401.

Vice-Chairwoman Mongeau called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. Council members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

#### **Members present**

Nancy Mongeau, Vice Chair; Catie Sondrol; Betsy Lewis; Vijette Saari; Lenore Knudtson; Misty Howell; Jose Garcia; Debra Weger - telephonically

#### **Members excused**

Riley Frei, Chair; Alisa Burroughs; Terri Holloway

#### **Call to the Public**

There were no responses to the Call to the Public.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Member Saari made a motion to approve the March 22, 2012, meeting minutes. Member Sondrol seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

#### **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

Member Weger declared a conflict with Possible Action on the Grant Renewals for SFY2013. Member Weger also declared a conflict with Home Visitation Request for Grant Application (RFGA). Members Saari and Sondrol declared a conflict with Parenting Children with Special Needs RFGA.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action on Grant Renewals for SFY2013**

Director Beckett informed the Council staff is recommending grant renewals for all eight Pre-Kindergarten expansion agreements for SFY2013. Director Beckett explained that this makes the overall regional investment just over one million dollars and makes pre-school available to 248 children who would otherwise not have access to high quality early childhood education. Director Beckett informed the Council that, if approved, the renewals would go before the State Board in June 2012 for their approval. Director Beckett gave an overview of the information included in the Grant Renewal report. Director Beckett informed the Council staff is recommending a 10 percent increase in funding to support the inclusion of administrative costs. Director Beckett reminded the Council four of the Pre-Kindergarten expansion agreements have a mixed-method component requiring them to partner with a community-based provider and pass-through a minimum of 20% of funding to provide early childhood education in community-based settings. Member Saari made a motion to approve the grant renewals for SFY2013 as presented. Member Knudtson seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Member Weger abstained from voting. The motion passed.

#### **Home Visitation RFGA #FTF-RC006-13-0356-00 Discussion and Possible Action on Review Committee Recommendations**

Member Weger recused herself.

Director Beckett reminded the Council that all Review Committee Recommendations are confidential until approved by the State Board in June. Director Beckett gave an overview of the RFGA process. Director Beckett informed the Council there were seven applications received for the Home Visitation RFGA. Member Howell made a motion to accept the Review Committee Recommendations for the Home Visitation RFGA as presented. Member Lewis seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Member Weger abstained from voting. The motion passed.

**Children with Special Needs RFGA # FTF-RC006-13-0354-00 Discussion and Possible Action on Review Committee Recommendations**

Members Saari and Sondrol recused themselves.

Director Beckett reminded the Council that all Review Committee Recommendations are confidential until approved by the State Board in June 2012. Director Beckett informed the Council there were three applications received for the Children with Special Needs RFGA. Director Beckett reminded the Council who was on the Review Committee: Members Knudtson, Burroughs, and Holloway. Member Lewis made a motion to accept the Review Committee Recommendations for the Children with Special Needs RFGA as presented. Member Garcia seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Members Saari and Sondrol abstained from voting. The motion passed.

**Director's Report and Possible Discussion**

a. *Recognition of Regional Council Members* – Director Beckett acknowledged the Week of the Young Child (WOYC) and thanked all the Council members for all their hard work toward making the WOYC a success. Member Howell helped arrange for artwork to be displayed in local Wells Fargo Bank branches. Member Garcia accepted a proclamation for the WOYC from the mayor of Parker, Arizona. Member Knudtson presented the champion award to Judge Weiss and every single member has participated in the RFGA review process, nominating committees, and re-appointment application process. Vice Chairwoman Mongeau thanked Director Beckett and the First Things First staff for all the hard work they do for young children, as well.

b. *Determine Date and Time for Special Meeting to Approve Remaining Awards for SFY2013* – Director Beckett asked the Council to decide on a date and time for a Special Meeting to approve the remaining awards for SFY2013, which includes the RFGA for Community-Based Training, a grant renewal with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe for home visitation, and a government to government agreement for the Court Team. Director Beckett suggested a telephonic meeting on May 10, 2012, at 9 a.m. Vice Chairwoman Mongeau and Members Knudtson, Sondrol, Saari, Lewis, and Garcia all stated they can be available at that time for a special meeting. Members Howell and Weger expressed they will be unavailable. At this time, Director Beckett will work on facilitating a meeting for May 10, 2012.

c. *Follow-up on Department of Health Services Therapist Incentives Program Discussion*- Director Beckett reminded the Council of the concerns regarding the program that were raised during the February 2012 Regional Partnership Council meeting and that the strategy was not funded in the SFY 2013 funding plan. Director Beckett followed up with the Department of Health Services (DHS) about the issues raised. Director Beckett stated DHS has developed an update regarding the issues raised. A handout was given that highlights what strategies DHS is utilizing to address these concerns. Director Beckett elaborated on the strategies being utilized by DHS. Director Beckett explained that DHS has found most rural areas have the issue regarding caseloads not being adequate to support a full-time therapist and they are addressing this issue at this time. Director Beckett explained that the unused funds from the Therapist Incentive strategy excluding the administrative portion will eventually come back into the Funding Plan as unplanned carry-forward. Member Sondrol inquired about changing the stipend to a payout rather than a loan reimbursement. Director Beckett replied she would pass the suggestion along to DHS.

d. *Event in Kingman on Saturday, April 28, 2012, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Desert Willow Elementary School*-Director Beckett invited all to attend a Children's Fair being held on Saturday at Desert Willow Elementary School.

e. *Annual La Paz/Mohave Early Childhood Conference on June 16, 2012, in Laughlin, Nevada*-Director Beckett highlighted the schedule for the upcoming Early Childhood Conference and invited all to attend.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2012, at the Lake Havasu Unified School District Board Room located at 2200 Havasupai Blvd., Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403.

**Adjourn**

Member Saari made a motion to adjourn. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by members present.

There being no further business Vice-Chairwoman Mongeau adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Minutes **NOT** approved.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

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Julia Cosmano, Administrative Assistant II

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Nancy Mongeau, Vice Chair