



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**  
*The right system for bright futures*

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health  
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2009

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**Welcome and Call to Order**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at The City of Apache Junction, Council Chambers, 300 E. Superstition Blvd., Apache Junction, AZ 85219.

Regional Council Chair Mezzio called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Council Members in attendance:

Barbara Mezzio, Melanie O'Neil, Charity Russell, and Bryant Powell

Council Members in attendance via teleconference:

Kai Gerkey, Mary Allen, Christina Jenkins, and Mary Kyle

Council Members not in attendance:

Arnoldo Hernandez

First Things First Staff in attendance:

Marla Chamberlain, Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, and Carrie Loos

Public in attendance:

7 members of the public were present

**Consent Agenda**

The items on the Consent Agenda included the April 8, 2009 Work Session Meeting Minutes and the Meeting Minutes from the April 8, 2009 Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Member O'Neil to accept the April 8, 2009 Work Session Meeting Minutes and the April 8, 2009 Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

**Presentation and Discussion on Early Intervention Infant Toddler Program, Inc**

Regional Council Chair Mezzio recognized Gerry Lugo, Director, Early Intervention Infant-Toddler Program, Inc. Copies of the Early Intervention Infant-Toddler Program Brochure were distributed to the Council Members and to the public attendees. The action items were: Our Mission, our values, and our program.

**Presentation on Pinal FTF Quality First Coaching and Incentives**

Regional Council Chair Mezzio recognized Linda Williams-Tuenge, Coaching Supervisor, Central Arizona College. Ms. Williams-Tuenge gave an overview of Quality First! (QF!). The action items were: why

Quality First was created, which programs are eligible (regulated center-based, family child care home providers), participation qualifications, phase rollout, assessment (Association for Supportive Child Care and Southwest Human Development are participating in the assessment piece), early childhood environmental scales, QF! Coach responsibilities, quality improvement plan, financial incentive plan. There are currently 10 center-based homes/family child care homes currently eligible in the Pinal region.

#### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Pinal Regional Council Legislative Letter**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council Legislative Letter will be mailed to Representative Barbara McGuire, Representative Frank Pratt, and Senator Rebecca Rios. The legislative letter will be placed on the Pinal Regional Partnership Council letterhead and signed by the Council Chair.

A motion was made by Member Kyle to accept the Pinal Regional Partnership Council legislative letter, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried. Member Allen abstained from the vote.

#### **Health Strategy Work Group Update and Discussion**

1 – Increase medical professional's use of recommended guidelines for preventative medical and oral health care.

- The Health Strategy Work Group was informed that there is another early childhood medical conference taking place in Sedona, Arizona and strategy #1 may be a duplication of services. The work group would like to consider the following options:
  - A stipend or scholarship for the Pinal area doctors attending the conference
  - Collaborate with the early childhood conference and provide a break off session for the physicians attending the conference from the Pinal region
  - A new conference focusing on Nurse Practitioners (NP), Physician Assistants (PA), and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)

2A – Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care (medical/dental homes): conduct health insurance outreach and enrollment assistance for eligible children.

- Strategy #2A is currently on hold until a statewide Request for Grant Application (RFGA) is developed.

2B – Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care (medical/dental homes): physician and health provider outreach and education.

- Strategy #2B will be released as a statewide RFGA and will reach out to 50 practices throughout the state for outreach and education. The Health Strategy Work Group will add their components into the statewide RFGA as a state contract amendment. The work group has the option of rejecting the statewide RFGA if it does not meet the work group's objectives that were previously developed.

2C – Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care (medical/dental homes): enhance or expand existing programs and services to address parent knowledge, understanding, and behavior.

- Strategy #2C will be released at the end of May, 2009 or at the beginning of June, 2009.

3 – Increase children’s access to preventative health care by providing oral, vision, and hearing screening, education and referral.

- Strategy #3 was released on Monday, May 5, 2009, will close on June 19, 2009, and the pre-application conference will take place on May 22, 2009. The work group added fluoride/varnishes as a new component in this strategy.

**Quality and Access Strategy Work Group Update, Discussion and Possible Vote on the Work Group Strategy Modification**

Strategy 5A – Provide Child Care Health Consultation.

- The work group recommended to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to fund two health care consultants and allocate an additional 100,000.00 from the Pinal Regional Partnership Council Fund Balance (undistributed regional allocation). The motion was carried at the April 8, 2009 Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting.

Strategy 5B – Study to identify strategies to increase health and safety in unregulated homes.

- The work group recommended to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to terminate strategy and transfer 10,000.00 to strategy #5A #5B. The motion was carried at the April 8, 2009 Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting.

Strategy 5C – Study and Plan for behavioral health consultation.

- The Quality and Access strategy work group recommended eliminating the study and implementing and funding a behavioral health care consultant. The State Board approved the development of a behavioral health care consultant and the work group will use this model for the behavioral health care consultant. The work group would like to fund two behavioral health care consultants and allocate an additional \$200,000.00 from the Pinal Regional Partnership Council Fund Balance (undistributed regional allocation).

A motion was made by Member Russell to eliminate the study in strategy #5C, seconded by Member O’Neil. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Powell to fund two behavioral health care consultants and allocate an additional \$200,000.00 from the Pinal Regional Partnership Council Fund Balance (undistributed regional allocation), seconded by member Russell. Motion carried.

**Family Support Strategy Work Group Update and Discussion**

The Family Support Strategy Work Group would like to fund/implement a literacy strategy and allocate 100,000.00 – 200,000.00 from the Pinal Regional Partnership Council Fund Balance (undistributed regional allocation). Ms. Kempton-Sarosi will do further research regarding literacy needs in the Pinal Region.

The next work group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the City of Apache Junction, Manager’s Conference Room. The work group will present this information to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to possibly implement and fund a literacy strategy at the successive Council meeting.

**Professional Development Strategy Work Group Update and Discussion**

The Professional Development Strategy Work Group did not implement any changes to work group strategies. The work group currently has two strategies that have been released:

- The Pinal Regional Partnership Council – Community Based Professional Development Strategy was released to the public on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 8:00 AM and will close on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM. A pre-application conference will be held at Central Arizona College, Residence Life Building, on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10:00 AM.
  
- The Pinal – RFGA – Home Childcare Providers was released to the public on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 8:00 AM and will close on Friday, June 19 at 10:00 AM. A pre-application conference will be held at Central Arizona College, Residence Life Building, on Friday, May 22, 2009 at 10:30 AM.

**Regional Coordinators Report**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council Strategy Work Groups meet on the following dates: Health – May 6, 2009; Quality and Access – April 15, 2009; Family Support – April 23, 2009; and Professional Development – April 15, 2009.

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council has two vacancies – Tribal Member and School Administrator Member; Aaron Harris submitted his resignation March 11, 2009.

Community Awareness Meetings: Regional First Things First Presentations & Events – Ak-Chin Executive Committee Presentation – April 9, 2009; CAC ECE Program Advisory Committee Meeting – April 9, 2009; Pinal RFGA's Pre-Application – April 24, 2009; Ak-Chin Community Presentation – April 27, 2009; and Pinal Resource Round-up Presentation and Panel – May 7, 2009

The Next First Things First State Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

Update on Statewide Strategies: Quality First!, T.E.A.C.H., Child Care Health Consultation, Parent Kits, Compensation and Retention RFGA, Physician Education and Outreach, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and Continuing Education, and Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) Grants.

**Call to the Public**

The public did not submit any call to the public forms.

**Next Meeting – June 10, 2009 (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM)**

The next Pinal Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at Central Arizona College, 8470 N. Overfield Road, Coolidge, AZ 85228.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Member Russell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 3:12 PM, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.