



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

### Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

### Coconino Regional Partnership Council

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First Coconino Regional Partnership Council commenced at 3:04 pm on June 22, 2009. The meeting was located at the United Way of Northern Arizona conference room, 1515 E. Cedar Ave. Suite D-1, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Julianne Hartzell, Chairwoman for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

#### **Members Present:**

Julianne Hartzell, Seobaghn Arambula, Ken Edes, Noreen Sakiestewa, Mary McLellan and Kerry Blume

Josh Allen and Barbara Worgess participated via teleconference

Agnes Chamberlain joined via teleconference at 3:36pm

Vacancy – Member at Large

#### **Members Absent:**

Tony Gonzales

#### **Staff Present**

Trudy Rogers, Cristi Mallery, Charlene Surber and Adishakti Khalsa

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

First Things First State Board Member, Pam Powell, addressed the Council regarding the state's desperate budget situation and the sweeping of the First Things First funds. Ms. Powell encouraged everyone to be supportive in any way possible for the maintenance of First Things First funds. Ms. Powell thanked the Council for everything they do and for their continued support.

Coconino Regional Partnership Council applicant and Director of the Page Public Library, Debbie Winlock, addressed the Council regarding early literacy concerns and the strong need for early literacy in the Page area.

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The April 27, 2009 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

Member McLellan moved to approve the May 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Member Arambula seconded the motion. Member Worgess abstained. Motion passed 7 to 1.

### **Conflict of Interest Discussion**

Trudy Rogers, Coconino Regional Coordinator, reminded the Council of the Conflict of Interest statute as it applied to their role as a Regional Partnership Council Member and requested that each Member openly declare if they have a conflict when moving forward with each of the strategy discussions. Each Member with a conflict of interest is also required to fill out a disclosure statement stating their conflict.

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Regional Strategies**

Ms. Rogers gave a brief presentation on the Council's work to date. Topics included the Council's Mission and Vision, the concern of geography and cost in the Coconino region, the needs and assets of the region, and the funding mechanisms used to release funding strategies in the form of RFGAs, government to government agreements or procurement. Three of the strategies, Hopi, Havasupai and Child Care Study, have indicated a need for procurement or government to government agreements as opposed to an RFGA.

#### A. Hopi

Member McLellan and Member Sakiestewa declared a conflict of interest.

Member Sakiestewa and Ms. Rogers gave a report regarding a draft resolution for the Hopi Lavayi literacy study to be used in early childhood programs in Hopi. They plan to present this resolution at the July Hopi Tribal Council Meeting.

Member Edes moved to approve either a government to government agreement or procurement for the Hopi Lavayi Strategy. Member Blume seconded the motion. Member McLellan and Member Sakiestewa recused themselves. Motion passed 6 to 2.

Member Allen took a moment to articulate the importance of both the Hopi and Havasupai Strategies.

#### B. Havasupai

Member McLellan declared a conflict of interest.

Ms. Rogers and Chair Hartzell updated the Council regarding their Havasupai Strategy presentation at the Havasupai Tribal Council Meeting on June 1, 2009 and the Havasupai Tribal Council's approval of a government to government agreement with NAU, specifically Dr. Mary McLellan. Chair Hartzell expressed what a wonderful opportunity it was to meet with the Tribal Council and looks forward to meeting with the Hopi Tribal Council in the near future.

Member Blume moved to approve a government to government agreement for the Havasupai strategy between Havasupai and NAU. Member Edes seconded the motion. Member McLellan recused herself. Motion passed 7 to 1.

#### C. Child Care Study

Chair Hartzell reported that First Things First is looking to approve this as a statewide strategy to be incorporated throughout the state. Statewide studies would be done by a University Consortium between the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University.

The question faced by the Council is whether or not to recommend moving this strategy forward as a Pilot Study to the State Board. The Council had concerns that they would not receive the information they are looking for if this strategy moves forward as a statewide strategy rather than a pilot study.

Member Agnes Chamberlain joined via teleconference at 3:36pm.

Adishakti Khalsa, Northeast Regional Manager, explained that First Things First, as a whole, has been trying to look at the coordination across the state and their wish to avoid having one region come up with data that cannot be compared with another region. The possibility also exists that having the university consortium do this study may be a way to save some funds.

Ms. Rogers relayed that the topic of rural communities has been a pertinent part of conversations and the most recent draft questionnaire for the statewide study has been derived from interviews with organizations, programs and services in Northern Arizona and it does reflect what the Council would like to know about the region.

After much discussion, Member Blume made a motion for the Council to approve moving forward with their Child Care Study strategy as a pilot for a potential statewide strategy, that the Council approves it as a government to government agreement with NAU. Member Sakiestewa seconded the motion. Member McLellan recused herself. Motion passed 8 to 1.

#### **Access and Affordability RFGA – Discussion and Possible Award of Access and Affordability Grant**

Chair Hartzell reminded the Council that any discussion concerning RFGAs must be discussed in Executive Session and this information cannot be repeated until after final decisions are made by the State Board in August. Any Council Member who declares a conflict of interest for each RFGA may not attend the Executive Session.

Ms. Rogers gave a brief overview of the Access and Affordability strategy.

Member Blume declared a conflict of interest.

Member McLellan made a motion to go into Executive Session. Member Sakiestewa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Member Edes moved to return from Executive Session. Member McLellan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Member McLellan moved that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council approve the recommendations of the review committee for RFGA # FTFRC003-10-0085-00 and present them for consideration of award to the First Things First Board. Member Edes seconded the motion. Member Blume recused herself. Motion passed 8 to 1.

#### **Oral Health RFGA – Discussion and Possible Award of Oral Health Grant**

Member Worgess declared a conflict of interest.

Ms. Rogers gave a brief overview regarding the Oral Health Strategy.

Member Arambula moved that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council approve the recommendations of the review committee for RFGA # FTFC003-10-0084-00 and present them for consideration of award to the First Things First Board. Member McLellan seconded the motion. Member Worgess recused herself. Motion passed 8 to 1.

### **Coordination and Collaboration RFGA – Discussion and Possible Award of Coordination and Collaboration Grant**

Member Blume and Member Worgess declared a conflict of interest.

Ms. Rogers gave a brief overview regarding the Coordination and Collaboration Strategy.

Member Worgess left the meeting at 4:49pm.

Member McLellan made a motion to go into Executive Session. Member Sakiestewa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Member Sakiestewa moved to return from Executive Session. Member Edes seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Member Edes moved that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council approve the recommendations of the review committee for RFGA # FTFC003-10-0087-00 as revised in Executive Session and present them for consideration of award to the First Things First Board. Member Arambula seconded the motion. Member Blume recused herself. Motion passed 7 to 1.

### **Presentation on Child Care Scholarships**

Kathy Turner of United Way of Northern Arizona updated the Council on emergency child care funds. Over \$4 million has gone out statewide to child care providers. A total of \$387,103.00 was available in the child care scholarship funding allocation for the Coconino Region. To date, 92 children ages 0 to 5 have been funded for full-time care and 9 have been funded for part-time care in this region. Currently, \$92,549.50 (approximately one-third of the total allocation) has been delivered to centers and homes within this region. This program will continue until the funds run out.

### **Regional Coordinator Report**

Member Allen left the meeting at 5:15pm.

Ms. Rogers updated the Council regarding the Statewide Wages (compensation and retention initiative) RFGA which has been cancelled because it was determined that the RFGA needed to be more clear to achieve the kind of results that First Things First is committed to. This RFGA has thus been delayed.

15,604 parent kits have been distributed throughout the state to date.

The first round of state-wide funded Quality First! participants have been selected. A lengthy process must be endured prior to knowing who the participants are and what they will be improving. The second round of region-wide funded Quality First! funding will be released by July 16, 2009. Centers who have applied are still eligible for selection if they have met the necessary criteria.

Ms. Rogers informed the Council that she met with Erik Wolverson from St. Mary's Food Bank regarding emergency food boxes for the Winslow area and he has agreed to take on the project of ordering,

delivering, and notifications of food boxes into the Winslow Community in a way that works best for First Things First and Winslow.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Next Regional Partnership Council Meeting Date and Location (July 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 3:00pm in Flagstaff)**

The Council agreed to cancel the July 27, 2009 Coconino Regional Partnership Council Meeting. If pertinent information needs to be discussed by the Council prior to the August meeting, discussions will take place via teleconference or electronically. The next Coconino Regional Partnership Council Meeting will be held on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 3:00pm at United Way of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff.

First Things First Staff will move forward to gather input from the Council regarding the Council's desire to keep or change the regularly scheduled Council Meeting dates and time. The gathered information will be brought forward to Members during the August Council Meeting to make a final determination about future meetings.

**Meeting Adjourned**

5:32pm