



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 June 26, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Littlefield Unified School District, 3490 East Rio Virgin Road, Beaver Dam, Arizona 86432.

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present

Alisa Burroughs, Riley Frei, Betsy Lewis, Nancy Mongeau, and Howard Weiske
Jose Garcia, Vijette Saari and Debra Weger participated telephonically

Members Absent

Terri Holloway, Lenore Knudtson and Catie Sondrol

Call to the Public

There were no responses to call to the public.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Frei made a motion to approve the May 22, 2014 meeting minutes. Member Weiske seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Review 2014 Needs and Assets Report DRAFTS

DeeDee Avery, MS, MPH, University of Arizona reviewed the 2014 Needs and Assets Report drafts delivered May 10. The briefs are topics-based: healthcare, early care and education, and family support. Regional Director Merritt Beckett noted she already had occasion to refer to the report with a partner, and Chair Mongeau noted that as a grant-maker she refers people to the report often. Ms. Avery reviewed specifically the changes since the 2012 report, noting the geographical areas have been restructured so every portion of the region is included. There was extensive discussion about the report, and council members expressed pleasure with the inclusion of the challenge presented by transportation issues. Senior Director Gary Arnold noted that infant mortality rates are included in the report. Vice Chair Frei lamented the costs associated with efforts to help children "catch up" who are not performing at the appropriate level. Ms. Avery continued review of the briefs, noting more statistical data will be included in the next drafts, and further noted that key informants provided important feedback. Additional discussion ensued regarding the impact of state borders on children's ability to access health care, and Ms. Avery agreed to include this as a challenge in the next draft. The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation program (MIECHV) is a strength that will also be added. Ms. Avery requested the council provide their feedback to Director Beckett as quickly as possible, with approval of the final report scheduled for the July meeting.

Election of Officers for SFY 2015

Director Beckett offered congratulations to all members recently reappointed to the council by the State Board, and noted the job description is located in the governance policy. She also led a discussion to possibly amend the governance policy to move officer elections to July each year to accommodate member reappointments.

Chair Mongeau opened nominations for the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council officers for Fiscal Year 2015. Member Garcia nominated Chair Mongeau for Chair. Member Weger seconded the nomination, and Member Weiske moved to close

nominations. The motion passed unanimously. Member Garcia nominated Member Weiske for Vice Chair. Vice Chair Frei seconded the nomination, and moved to close nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Outreach Report

Erin Taylor, Outreach Coordinator told members that about 700 parents and children attended the Kids' Health Fair at Kingman Regional Medical Center, including several grantees and a regional council member. Coordinator Taylor also attended the Association for Supportive Child Care Early Childhood Conference in Laughlin, which was extremely well attended. The Foster Grandparents group conducted a training last month, and the participants were extremely receptive to First Things First information. The Court Team held a Domestic Violence training last week and there will be a news story to encourage attendance at another session that will be held in Parker in September. The council extends congratulations to Tiny T-Birds achieving a 5 star rating with Quality First! More success stories to come, thanks to Coordinator Taylor's outreach in the region and more recognition for First Things First.

Update on First Things First Faith-Based Forum

Member Garcia provided an overview of the inaugural Faith-Based Forum held June 3, which clarified the faith-based position on the council and provided suggestions to strengthen the council. Both Members Garcia and Weiske attended, and felt they came away with a greater understanding of their roles on the council. Future forums are planned semiannually in the Phoenix area; however, the council could choose to convene local forums and invite area organizations in the faith community. There was significant discussion about the potential of engaging these organizations, which many felt was largely untapped. Vice Chair Frei suggested local outreach to engage the faith community. Senior Director Arnold noted there would be a session at this year's Summit specifically about growing the relationship between the faith-based community and First Things First.

Possible Approval to Extend Start-up/Expansion Contract

Director Beckett requested approval to extend the Start-up/Expansion strategy for SFY 2015. Work on the current contract that was initiated in SFY 2014 is not yet complete. Director Beckett recommends adding the Start-up/Expansion strategy for SFY15 to enable both the Quartzsite and Salome sites to continue their work with the Department of Education (ADE) for the next 6 months, thereby enabling both programs to be licensed by the Department of Health Services and rated by Quality First program over the next six months. The proposed funding amount to allocate to the strategy in SFY 2015 (from SFY 2015 unallotted funds) is the amount we anticipate will be returned to the region (unexpended) from the SFY 2014 contract once the accounts are reconciled. Member Weiske made a motion to incorporate changes as explained. Vice Chair Frei seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Director's Report

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 financial report that represents expenditures through May, and noted grantees have until mid-August to submit reimbursement requests for SFY 2014.

Director Beckett provided an update on the State Board meeting June 9-10, noting all council members were reappointed and all grant renewals were approved as recommended. There was extensive discussion among council members regarding the fiscal policy recommendations and the potential financial impact to the region. Senior Director Arnold pointed out the significant decline in tobacco revenue that has resulted in these policy recommendations to assure sustainability. Director Beckett advised there is a recommendation to decouple scholarships from the Quality First model to provide more autonomy for the council when funding scholarships and address needs at the local level. Another component of the programmatic policy recommendation states the council could not propose any reductions to the number of Quality First sites, only to the number of scholarships. Director Beckett advised that these will be difficult decisions; demand for the program is high, the region has a wait-list, and reductions to the number of scholarships mean fewer children get to go to preschool.

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2016-18 strategic planning process and timeline and requested direction from the council on convening work sessions or public forums for strategic planning. The council did not feel these would be necessary in light of the significant input from stakeholders included in the 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Report and directed her to bring recommendations to the council after developing drafts.

Director Beckett reminded everyone to save the date, as the First Things First Early Childhood Summit is August 18-19 in Phoenix. Chair Mongeau shared information about VisionQuest 20/20 doing a presentation to members who attend the Summit, so please watch for more information soon.

Member Burroughs shared a success story about one of the first families to receive preschool scholarships, enabling the father to obtain employment. Later, the three students were winners with their self-portraits at an art show, and 900 people watched their trophy presentation.

Next Regular Meeting

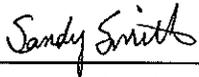
The next meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council will be at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 24 at the La Paz County Boating Safety Center located at 8484 Riverside Drive in Parker, Arizona 85344.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Frei made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant



Nancy Mongeau, Chair