



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council was held on May 10, 2010 at the Safford Public Library, 808 S. 7th Ave., Safford, AZ 85546.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 1:03 p.m.

Members Present:

David Alford, Cindi Alva, Jan Elliott, Ryan Henry, Ann Johnson, Donna McGaughey (telephonically), Pam Patt, Retha Russell (telephonically), and Laurie Smith

Members Absent:

None

First Things First Staff Present:

Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator; Edith Lee, Administrative Assistant; Marla Chamberlain, Central East Regional Manager (telephonically); Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Pinal Regional Coordinator; Lois Homewytewa, Pinal Administrative Assistant; Annette Garcia, Financial & Program Analyst (telephonically)

Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public.

Consent Agenda

A motion to approve minutes from the April 12, 2010 meeting made by Member Henry, seconded by Member Johnson. Motion carried.

Presentation on Autism

Clay Emery, Principal of Safford Middle School, gave a presentation to the Regional Council on autism and a type of treatment known as Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT). PRT is especially beneficial when parents of autistic children are trained on how to use this treatment. Mr. Emery mentioned that there are approximately 35 children under the age of five who have autism in the region. For more information on autism and Pivotal Response Treatment you can either contact Clay Emery at emery_6@msn.com or go to www.autismcenter.org.

Discussion and Possible Action on Date Change for Election of Regional Chair and Vice Chair

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins proposed to the Regional Council that they change the date for the election of the new Regional Chair and Vice Chair to the month of July, so that the new council members will be in place by then. There were no objections to the proposed date change.

Discussion and Approval of Early Literacy Renewal

Chair Smith asked the Regional Council if there were any conflicts of interest prior to discussing and voting on the Early Literacy Renewal. Member Elliott declared conflict of interest due to their employment with Safford Public Library and recused herself from the discussion and voting.

Vice Chair Alva moved to approve the renewal of the early literacy contracts as recommended. Member Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Home Visitation RFGA Recommendation

Chair Smith read the rules of Executive Session to the Regional Council and asked if there were any conflicts of interest. Member Patt, Vice Chair Alva and Member Alford declared conflict of interest due to their employment with Child and Family Resources and recused themselves from voting on the Home Visitation RFGA. Member Johnson declared conflict of interest due to her affiliation with Graham County Interfaith Alliance and recused herself from voting on the Food Insecurity RFGA.

Member Elliott made a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (A) (2), for the purpose of agenda items #7 and #8 – discussion of confidential information regarding home visitation and food insecurity RFGA recommendations. Member Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Member McGaughey joined the meeting via telephone. Executive Session began at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Member Henry made a motion to close Executive Session. Vice Chair Alva seconded the motion. Motion carried. Executive Session closed at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Member Johnson moved that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council approve the review committee's recommendation for the home visitation strategy and present it for consideration of award to the First Things First Board. The grant recommended was as follows: FTF-RC005-11-0275-00, not to exceed the amount of \$300,000. Member Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Food Assistance RFGA Recommendation

Member Patt moved that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council approve the review committee's recommendation for the food assistance strategy and present it for consideration of award to the First Things First Board. The grant recommended was as follows: FTF-RC005-11-0276-00, not to exceed the amount of \$10,000. Member Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Member McGaughey left for the remainder of the meeting.

Chair/Vice Chair Meeting Update

Chair Smith updated the Regional Council on the Chair and Vice Chair meeting that she and Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins attended last week. Chair Smith reported that Rhiann Allvin gave a legislative update and indicated that the legislation turned down all the proposals that First Things First had offered. The First Things First Board will come up with an official resolution opposing the ballot initiative at the May Board meeting. As a council we will have the option of drafting a similar resolution. If the

Regional Council desires to share information with members of the public, or for more information on what can be done in the meantime, visit www.savingfirstthingsfirst.org. Chair Smith reported on the First Things First communications plan that is forthcoming. The regions may have the option of hiring a communications expert/consultant. It would be a part time, temporary position. Chair Smith also reported on the Early Childhood Task Force. The Task Force has been developing a vision of what the early childhood model should look like in the state.

Regional Coordinator Report

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins provided a copy of the April Coordinator's Report to the Regional Council. Ms. Elkins reported that First Things First is working with an advertising agency that has developed surveys across the state to test what works. Ms. Elkins shared the new billboard options with the Regional Council. The billboards will go up until August, and then there will be a blackout period until the election is over. During the blackout period, billboards will be taken down to prevent confusion about how to vote for the proposition. Once the election ends, the billboards will go back up. The advertising agency, which has a background in elections, has encouraged First Things First not to take part in the campaign negativity. Ms. Elkins also shared the story board and scripts that will be used for the First Things First commercials and radio spots. Testing has revealed that the voices of female educators are best received by the public, and females ages 30-60 are the target audience.

In regards to Child Care Stipends/Partial Scholarships, it is estimated that approximately \$6,000 of the allocated \$80,000 from SFY 2010 will be expended by the end of June. Approval will be requested from the State Board during their May 18th meeting to add the remaining \$74,000 to the \$20,000 allocation for SFY 2011 for a total of \$94,000.

Ms. Elkins updated the Regional Council on the Stipends to Recruit Therapists Strategy. The procedures for stipend applications and processing have been finalized. The program will be launched in May. The Regional Council is requesting the recruitment of either two Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) or one SLP and one Physical Therapist. The Regional Council will not be able to recruit as many therapists as originally intended because the cost to recruit the therapists is more than originally anticipated. The recommendations for therapist recruitment numbers were given to Ms. Elkins by Arizona Early Intervention (AZEip) and the Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

In regards to the Needs and Assets Report, LeCroy & Milligan Associates Inc. submitted a Status Report on March 30, 2010 and they are on target. A consultant is holding provider focus groups tomorrow, May 11th, in both Graham and Greenlee Counties.

Interviews for the vacant Regional Council seats will take place on May 17th. Regional Council recommendations will be presented for approval at the June State Board Meeting. Applications for the Health Services seat are still being accepted.

Ms. Elkins provided the Regional Council with a copy of the latest Grants Financial Summary Report.

Council Member Updates/Comments

Vice Chair Alva reminded everyone to pay attention to Proposition 100 and to get out and vote.

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 14th at 1:00 p.m. at the Safford Library.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Johnson, and seconded by Member Alford. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator

Approved:

Laurie Smith, Chair