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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 May 24, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the Lake Havasu Unified School District Board Room located at 2200 Havasupai Boulevard, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403.

Chairman Frei called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. Council members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Members present

Riley Frei-Chair; Catie Sondrol; Vijette Saari; Terri Holloway; Alisa Burroughs; Jose Garcia; Debra Weger; Lenore Knudtson-telephonically

Members excused

Nancy Mongeau, Vice Chair; Betsy Lewis

Members Absent

Melissa Howell

Call to the Public

Mike Chadwick, volunteer with the Colorado River Indian Tribes Head Start, addressed the Council regarding scholarship monies for Bachelor of Arts degrees for Early Childhood Education.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Holloway made a motion to approve the April 26, 2012, meeting minutes and the May 10, 2012, special meeting minutes. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

Presentation and Discussion on the 2012 Needs and Assets First Draft

Dr. Michelle Walsh and Dr. John Daws from the University of Arizona-Norton School gave an overview of the work being conducted for the Needs and Assets reports, including several community focus groups to gather information for the community fact sheets. Dr. Walsh explained the different methods they have been using to gather data, including follow-up phone calls with key stakeholders in the different communities. Dr. Walsh informed the Council she had heard a lot of enthusiasm toward the community fact sheets. The Council members expressed great satisfaction with the community fact sheets. Dr. Walsh asked for any feedback and initial impressions on the first draft of the Needs and Assets to be submitted to Regional Director Merritt Beckett. Director Beckett reminded the Council of the timeline for the Needs and Assets Report going forward. A final draft will be presented for approval at the August 2012 Regional Partnership Council meeting.

First Read: Annual Review of Governance Policies

Director Beckett reminded the Council members the original Governance Policy was adopted in May of 2008 and the current Governance Policy was re-approved in October of 2010. Director Beckett explained that in order for any changes to be made to the Governance Policy, a first and second read must be performed. Director Beckett proposed the following changes: Changing adoption of meeting calendar from Fiscal year to Calendar year; changing all references of Regional Coordinator to Regional Director; changing wording regarding Call to the Public to reflect wording on meeting agendas; and removing requirement for compiling a

report of Conflicts of Interest at end of each year. Director Beckett informed the Council she will bring back a revised copy of the Governance Policy for a second read and possible approval at the June 28, 2012 meeting.

Election of Officers for SFY2013

a. Nominations and Election of Chair – Member Holloway made a motion to nominate Riley Frei to continue as Chairperson. Member Saari seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. Riley Frei will continue as Chairperson for SFY 2013.

b. Nominations and Election of Vice-Chair – Member Holloway made a motion to nominate Nancy Mongeau to continue as Vice Chairperson. Member Garcia seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. Nancy Mongeau will continue as Vice Chairperson for SFY 2013.

General Discussion

Member Sondrol reminded the Council of the requirement of a Bachelor of Arts degree as a component in the Standards of Practice for home visiting grants. Member Sondrol suggested a system be put in place to track the progress of grantees that may not meet that requirement but are working to meet the requirement. Member Sondrol mentioned the struggle to find those highly qualified individuals for the region and suggested finding ways to help grantees who are working toward meeting the requirements. Director Beckett agreed with Member Sondrol that the Council should have mechanisms in place to assist grantees with those requirements and agreed to continue working with grantees to follow-up on progress toward meeting the standard. Member Holloway mentioned that while the region may not have a large contingency of degreed constituents, the region does have a large group of constituents who have equivalent work experience that would be sufficient to meet the requirements in the grants. Director Beckett explained that the purpose of the requirements put forth in the Standards of Practice is to ensure high quality services across the state and increase the chance that we will see the same positive outcomes for children as a result of using models that are evidence-based. Chair Frei congratulated First Things First staff on the success of Week of the Young Child events including the mayor proclamations and the presentation of the Champion for Young Children Award to Judge Weiss. Member Burroughs attended the Smart Start conference in North Carolina and asked to present an update at the next Regional Partnership Council meeting.

Discussion on SFY 2013 Community Awareness

Director Beckett reviewed the Community Outreach Plan for SFY2012, which has two components: Community Outreach and Community Awareness. The Community Outreach component funds the staff position, the Community Outreach Coordinator, and the Community Awareness component funds First Things First-sponsored events, Scholastic books, leave behinds and educational (Born Learning) materials. Director Beckett reviewed a draft budget for SFY 2013 and explained to the Council that she will bring it back to the council for discussion and possible approval in June. Once approved, the budget must also be submitted to and approved by Chief Executive Officer Rhian Allvin. Director Beckett reviewed proposed changes to the budget for the upcoming fiscal year and noted the reduction in funding for the strategy from \$40,000 in SFY 2012 to \$30,000 in SFY 2013. Director Beckett explained the proposal for next year includes sponsoring Family Fun Days in communities not reached this fiscal year. Member Sondrol suggested trying to sponsor a movie night. There are free movie nights in springtime in both Lake Havasu City and Parker.

Director's Report and Possible Discussion

a. *SFY 2012 Financial Report*-Director Beckett gave an update on the financial status of the region and grantees for the last quarter. Director Beckett reminded the Council the grantees have forty-five days after the end of the fiscal year to submit for the last reimbursement. Director Beckett informed the Council they will have the final carry-forward amount for SFY2012 in September. Director Beckett pointed out that expenditures for this year compared to last year are higher, but carry-forward can be expected. Member Holloway asked for clarification on a few grantees and the lack of expenditures. Director Beckett gave an explanation for the lack of expenditures.

b. *Update on RFGA Review Process* – Director Beckett thanked the Council for all the hard work toward reviewing and approving Request for Grant Applications (RFGA). Director Beckett informed the Council three RFGAs, all grant renewals and the Government to Government agreement for the Superior Court Infant and Toddler Mental Health Team will go before the State Board in June for approval. Director Beckett informed the Council work is moving forward on the final RFGA for Family, Friend and Neighbor. The RFGA recommendation is expected to go before the regional council for approval in June and the state board for approval in August.

c. *Regional Forum on Statewide Benchmarks-June 13, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in Lake Havasu City* – Director Beckett gave an overview of the purpose of the Statewide Benchmarks. Director Beckett extended an invitation to all the Council members to attend the Regional Forum on Statewide Benchmarks on June 13, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in Lake Havasu City.

d. *New Council Member Orientation-July 30, 2012, in Lake Havasu City* – Director Beckett informed the Council there will be a New Council Member Orientation for the region on July 30, 2012, in Lake Havasu City. Director Beckett invited any Council member to attend, not just new members, as when many members were first appointed, an orientation was not available.

e. *First Things First Summit-August 19-21, 2012, in Phoenix* – Director Beckett reminded the Council of the upcoming First Things First Summit on Early Childhood being held in Phoenix August 19-21, 2012. Director Beckett extended an invitation for all Council members to attend the Summit.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 28, 2012, at the Colorado River Union High School District Office located at 5221 Highway 95, Suite 5, Fort Mohave, Arizona 86426.

Adjourn

Member Garcia made a motion to adjourn. Member Holloway seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

There being no further business Chairman Frei adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Minutes **NOT** approved.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Merritt Beckett, Regional Director

Riley Frei, Chair