



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

**Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board**

**Yuma Regional Partnership Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

## **Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Yuma Regional Partnership Council was held on July 18, 2013, 4:30 p.m. at the Somerton Public Safety Building, 445 E. Main Street, Somerton, Arizona 85350.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

## **Members Present:**

Chair Darren Hawkins  
Vice Chair Irene Garza  
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra (joined approximately at 4:45 p.m.)  
Council Member Kim Fanning  
Council Member Mary Beth Turner  
Council Member Pilar Moreno

## **Members Present Via Conference Call:**

Council Member Laurie Gail Senko

## **Members Absent:**

Council Member Gloria Cisneros  
Council Member Judy Watkinson  
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez  
Council Member Ricardo Perez

## **Conflict of Interest**

Chair Hawkins provided the Regional Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. There were no conflicts declared at this time.

## **Consent Agenda**

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the June 20, 2013, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chair Garza to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Turner, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

### **Discussion on School Readiness Benchmarks**

First Things First Evaluation Consultant, Amy Kemp, provided a brief overview of the School Readiness Indicator Benchmarks as discussed at the June 20, 2013 Regional Council meeting. Included in the overview was the data collection and source used to collect the data as well as data trends. Ms. Kemp stated that although the primary source from which the data was derived (WIC-Women, Infants and Children) it should not be the only source from which data is extracted. Additionally adding, the 2010 baseline (67% of children age 2-4 a healthy body weight) for Yuma will be used by the Regional Council in establishing a goal for the year 2020. Chair Hawkins and members of the Regional Council stated they would like to see other programs/agencies such as Kith and Kin included in extracting the information needed for Indicator #7: Number/Percentage of children age 2-4 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI). Vice Chair Garza added monitoring weight during pregnancy could also be used as it may be an indicator/source of information needed for this indicator and or goal.

Regional Director Rudy Ortiz shared insight on how some of the strategies funded by FTF such as the Home Visitation strategies and outside agencies (Sunset Community Clinic, WACOG-Western Arizona Council of Government and CPLC –Chicanos Por La Causa) may shed insight and are beneficial as tool in further collection of data needed for this indicator/benchmark.

A motion was made by Member Dr. Ybarra to approve the preliminary Benchmark for Indicator #7 at 73% (an increase of 6% by year 2020) with the stipulation that it be available for comments/input by stakeholders and public. The motion was seconded by Member Fanning, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present. The benchmark compares to the Statewide goal of 75% of children at healthy body weight by year 2020. The Benchmark will be reviewed by the State Board at the April 2014 meeting.

### **Discussion on Strategic Planning on Engaging Business Community**

Kelly McCullough, General Manager Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach, and the Regional Council shared outcomes of the discussion deriving from the Community Outreach Plan Workgroup held July 17, 2013. Members of the workgroup recognized the importance of reaching out/targeting the business community and engaging/inducting into the Early Childhood Education System. The group will come together to continue the strategic plan in September 2013.

### **Discussion on Community Outreach Plan Workgroup Recommendations**

The Regional Council reviewed the final draft of the Community Outreach Plan. The three primary goals of the plan are as follows:

1. Raise awareness of and build public support for the importance of early childhood development in the Yuma region
2. Position First Things First as a recognized and trusted voice in early childhood education
3. Expand scope and effectiveness of community engagement around early childhood priorities

Regional Director Ortiz stated the document will serve as a "living document" to allow any changes/embellishments as the Regional Council desired to better serve the purpose of the document therefore no action was required by the Regional Council.

### **Regional Director's Report**

- 1) System Building:
  - Possible bi-monthly publication of the Raising Yuma Magazine. The magazine will have a new name, "Raising Healthy Yuma". The publication will include the resource guide of services funded by First Things First and services provided to the community by outside agencies. Regional Director Ortiz shared the "Building Adult Capabilities to Improve Child Outcomes: A Theory of Change video from Harvard University" and engaged the council in a discussion how this impacts our Early Childhood System in Yuma.
- 2) Grantee Update:
  - The Literacy Stations continue to move forward. The next Yuma Early Childhood System Collaboration meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2013 location TBD.
  - FTF Early Childhood Summit-August 25-27, 2013

### **Call to the Public**

Kimberly Flack, Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach, shared the 2013-2014 schedule for the Early Literacy Project and the Yuma Community Based Professional Development Program.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements at this time.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on August 15, 2013, 4:30 p.m., Yuma Regional Medical Center Main Campus, 2400 S. Avenue A, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:



Rev. Dr. Darren C. Hawkins, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013