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 July 25, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the El Capitan K-12 School, 255 North Cottonwood Street, Colorado City, Arizona 86021.

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present
Alisa Burroughs, Riley Frei, Lenore Knudtson, Betsy Lewis, Nancy Mongeau, Catie Sondrol and Howard Weiske. Vijette Saari participated telephonically.

Members Absent
Jose Garcia, Terri Holloway and Debra Weger

Call to the Public
None

Welcome and Remarks from El Capitan K-12 School Superintendent
Carol Timpson, Superintendent of El Capitan K-12 School welcomed everyone to their campus. They are getting ready for school to start on August 14, and all teacher slots are filled. Beginning this year, the preschool through grade 3 center will operate at another location, and they have purchased more buildings for expansion, with 560 current students total. This school serves the entire area, including Centennial Park, and just received a 'B' ranking. Chair Mongeau requested to tour the preschool after meeting. The preschool served 70 students last year, and expects to serve up to 75 this year. Superintendent Timpson introduced Ilene Timpson who started the preschool.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
Vice Chair Frei made a motion to approve the June 27, 2013 meeting minutes. Member Sondrol seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Overview of Health Services Provided by the Learning Center for Families in Northern Mohave County
Tena Heward, RN, Health Services Coordinator at The Learning Center for Families gave a brief overview of her background. In her current position she provides home visitation services to children birth to age 3, but she started out home visiting every child. Debbie Justice, The Learning Center Director always wants to help more families, so she wrote their early head start grant. July 1, 2013 marks the beginning of year five for them receiving First Things First grant funding to serve the northern Mohave County area. Ms. Heward provides her governing board health statistics monthly, and she shared them with this regional partnership council. The Learning Center boasts great partnerships/relationships with the communities they serve. A private, non-profit organization since 1993, The Learning Center uses an integrated model for seamless delivery of services. They currently have six programs, and the First Things First program currently serves thirty-six families in home-based early head start. Their programs are all about school readiness, and she noted that poor dental health is the number one reason kids miss school. The Learning Center works with the local Dixie University to provide dental care for children.

Update on the Public Launch of the Quality First Website
Outreach Coordinator Erin Taylor gave a brief overview of the new Quality First website being developed by our External Affairs staff. The target date for Qualityfirstaz.com website to go live is August 20, and everyone agreed they would like a chance to view it

before then. It is geared for parents, and will provide a link to the Child Care Resource and Referral site. The focus is on quality – not Quality First exclusively – but on how to identify quality care for children and what to look for. There was some discussion about star ratings and how the La Paz/Mohave region compares with the rest of the state, as well as transportation. Senior Director Gary Arnold stated the main reason for the website is to provide a level of information to parents no matter where they are located; to show parents how to recognize quality and enable them to make recommendations to their providers. Coordinator Taylor will write a story about the website to share with local media, and plans to bring that to the council at a future meeting.

Discussion on Vacancies in Quality First for SFY 2014

Director Beckett noted there are twenty-one Quality First slots funded in the region for SFY 2014, with two current vacancies, one for a center, and one for a home. She also reviewed the poverty estimates by school district, asking for guidance from the council on which communities to prioritize next for selection. After some discussion, the council requested that Director Beckett present information at the next meeting for each provider's number served, number waiting, and number of infants/toddlers served.

Director's Report and Possible Discussion

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2013 Financial Report, which shows that almost 72% of funds have been expended. She noted the final billings are due in August. Director Beckett explained that the funds awarded to the Arizona Department of Education for expansion would be returned because the contract was not signed in time for expenditures to occur prior to June 30.

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 Financial Report, noting that the State Board approved the additional funding for the Regional Needs and Assets Strategy on Monday. She further noted that effective this fiscal year, the pre-kindergarten scholarships strategy is administered by the Arizona Department of Education, so financial reports will show one line item rather than individual school districts from now on. The 'To Be Determined' will appear as 'Health Care Consultation' on the next report.

Director Beckett reviewed plans for SFY 2015 Funding Plan Development and explained the timeline, noting that it's the time of year where we're in three fiscal years all at once, closing SFY 2013, in SFY 2014, and planning for SFY 2015. There was some discussion regarding next year's expected funding allocation, which is based on the First Things First funding formula, and takes into account statewide fluctuations in the population of children ages birth through five and poverty estimates.

Director Beckett invited the council to attend the upcoming 'How to Promote Oral Health in Early Childhood' forum planned for August 6th in Kingman. Maggie Wilcox, RDH, AP and Ann Kaskel, RN will present, and the BHHS Legacy Foundation is providing lunch. There will be a panel of presenters sharing local resources and we will be distributing children's books about oral health, along with dental kits from Delta Dental for young children and their families. There was some discussion about increasing public awareness, and about public health approaches to encourage schools to serve milk and water instead of soda and juice at schools.

Reminder: the First Things First Summit is August 26-27, 2013 in Phoenix.

Regional Council Member Updates and Announcements

Vice Chair Frei thanked Superintendent Timpson and staff for allowing us to use their facility for our meeting. He also asked where the Court Teams were in their search to replace the recently retired Tonya Ford. Member Knudtson explained that there were no suitable candidates in the first round of applicants, but that interviews for the second round of applicants would begin Monday.

Next Meeting

Director Beckett noted that the August 22 meeting would fall right before the Summit, so the council may want to cancel it. After some discussion, the council agreed to hold the meeting telephonically. The next meeting is at 9:30 am on Thursday, August 22, 2013 by telephone.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Frei made a motion to adjourn at 11:07 a.m. Member Weiske seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:

Sandy Smith

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:

Nancy Mongeau

Nancy Mongeau, Chair