



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

### Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

#### Coconino Regional Partnership Council

#### Meeting Minutes

##### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First Coconino Regional Partnership Council was held on August 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was located at the United Way of Northern Arizona conference room, 1515 E. Cedar Ave. Suite D-1, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Julianne Hartzell, the Chairwoman for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

##### Members Present:

Noreen Sakiestewa, Mary McLellan, Josh Allen, Julianne Hartzell, Seobaghn Arambula, Tony Gonzales  
Ken Edes joined at 5:12pm  
Vacancy – Member at Large

##### Members Absent:

Barbara Worgess, Kerry Blume, Agnes Chamberlain

##### Staff Present:

Trudy Rogers, Cristi Mallery, Jill Stevens, Michelle Katona, Elliott Hibbs and AdiShakti Khalsa

##### **Call to the Public**

None

##### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Member McLellan made a motion to approve the April 27, 2009 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Member Sakiestewa seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Member Allen moved to approve the June 22, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes. Member McLellan seconded the motion. Motion approved.

After the arrival of Member Edes at 5:12pm, there was a quorum to approve the Executive Session Minutes for June 22, 2009 Access and Affordability and Executive Session Minutes for June 22, 2009 Coordination and Collaboration.

Member McLellan moved to approve the June 22, 2009 Executive Session Meeting Minutes for Access and Affordability. Member Arambula seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Member Edes moved to approve the June 22, 2009 Executive Session Meeting Minutes for Coordination and Collaboration. Member Allen seconded the motion. Motion approved.

##### **Presentation on External Evaluation**

Dr. Lawrence Gallagher, Ph.D., Dr. Robert Horn, Ph.D., and Dr. Jennifer Prior, Ph.D., all faculty of Northern Arizona University, presented a PowerPoint presentation on how First Things First investments in the early childhood

delivery system help impact children's health and school readiness. The task of this evaluation is to evaluate the First Things First early childhood system to determine the impact of First Things First investments. This will be done through a Readiness Study and a Longitudinal Study and will focus on all children, not just those involved in the QRS rating systems.

#### **Update and Possible Discussion on Healthy Families**

Mr. Mike Oxterby, Senior Manager of the Coconino County Health Department, updated the Council regarding the status of Healthy Families. As of late July 2009, there was no state budget thus the Department of Economic Security (DES) was only able to fund the Healthy Families program through state lottery funds which rendered a 40 percent cut to the program. Even with the First Things First Coconino Emergency Response funds awarded in March of 2009, Healthy Families could not sustain this cut by DES and was forced to lay off nine additional employees and lose 30 families, a twenty-five percent reduction in families served. Since the funding cuts began in March of 2009, Healthy Families staff has been reduced from twenty-one to nine. Healthy Families is currently waiting to hear about a First Things First Navajo Nation funding request they submitted in May and is also waiting on the passage of State Budget to determine what the future will bring. DES continues to be optimistic about a future Request for Procurement (RFP) but there are currently no details regarding this. Mr. Oxterby thanked the Council for their leadership and support. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors has allowed Healthy Families to defer paying indirect cost expenses until they obtain more information about their future funding situation. Due to First Things First Coconino funding, there are still Healthy Families' services in both Winslow and Page.

#### **Status Report on Implementation of Regional Funding Plan**

##### **Update on Strategy # 2: Havasupai Study**

Member McLellan updated the Council on her involvement in the Havasupai Study. She was able to interview approximately forty families and hired two Tribal members who were able to help her find families to interview. She has interviewed about eight of the twelve programs that exist for children in the Canyon. Future steps include trying to find and interview the additional four families and perform the rest of the program coordinator's work with the subset of the Tribal Council in terms of generating a report and coming up with some ideas and proposals for a home visiting program and proposing it to the Tribal Council. A consolidated version of that report would come back to the Council with a proposal for a home visiting program with an approximate end date by the end of November.

Chair Hartzell and Member Allen stressed the importance regarding relationship building within communities, and expressed their gratitude for Member McLellan's continued relationship building with the Havasupai Tribe.

##### **Update on Strategy # 3: Hopi Lavayi Study**

Member Sakiestewa updated the Council on the status of the Hopi Lavayi Study. She explained that the Hopi resolution will be presented to the Hopi Tribal Council during the upcoming quarter, which is scheduled to begin in September. To date, the Tribal Council Meeting date has not been determined. Member Sakiestewa would like Chair Hartzell, Trudy Rogers, Coconino Regional Coordinator, and AdiShakti Khalsa, Northeast Regional Manager, to be present at the meeting. The Hopi Lavayi study will help the Hopi Tribe determine whether or not a Hopi Lavayi should be a part of the early childhood curricula; not just the language itself, but the literacy component. An area of utmost importance to the Tribe regarding this study is ensuring the correct person is hired to administer the study.

Member Allen and Chair Hartzell expressed their gratitude to Member Sakiestewa for providing updates on and for representing the Hopi Tribe.

##### **Update on Emergency Child Care Scholarship Funds**

Mr. Paul Giguere, Executive Director of the Flagstaff Family YMCA, shared with the Council stories of families who have been positively impacted by First Things First Emergency Child Care Scholarship Funds.

Ms. Jill Stevens, First Things First Policy Specialist, updated the Council regarding Emergency Child Care Scholarship Funds and how nearly 8,000 children statewide have been served and \$11 million have been spent. In July, alone, \$4 million have been spent statewide. In Coconino County, \$61,000 was spent and 145 children from 118 families were served in July alone. This number included 37 infants and toddlers, 91 preschoolers, 6 in family settings and 11 in family group settings. The scholarships were expected to last through the end of September.

### **Presentation on Statewide Strategies**

Ms. Stevens updated the Council on the status of statewide strategies. The Parent Kits have been well distributed at Little Colorado Medical Center in Winslow, Flagstaff Regional Medical Center in Flagstaff, Banner Page in Page and Hopi Healthcare Facility in Polacca. Ms. Stevens said she would look into the inquiries made by Council Members regarding whether or not Kingman Regional Hospital, who serves the Havasupai Community, and Tuba City, who serves the Hopi Community, are on the list of hospitals currently distributing Parent Kits.

Ms. Stevens reported the Child Care Health Consultant position had been posted for the Coconino Region.

Ms. Stevens explained that great success was being made in Quality First!. Two selected applicants declined participation in this program, but all Quality First! slots are expected to be filled.

### **Regional Coordinator Report**

Ms. Trudy Rogers, Coordinator for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Council the Regional Coordinator Report for August.

### **Update on Kaibab Paiute**

Ms. Rogers and Chair Hartzell traveled to the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indian Tribal Region to speak with Tony Phillippi, the Tribal Administrator, who was very interested in working with the Council and who would appoint someone from the Tribe to attend Council meetings. Mr. Phillippi was willing to send forth useful data to help in the assessment of the next Funding Plan. Mr. Phillippi requested that the small Tribal Community of Moccasin be included in the appropriate First Things First Region.

### **Update on 2010 Needs and Assets Report**

Ms. Michelle Katona, Assistant Director for Regional Councils, updated the Council on the vendor selection process for the 2010 Needs and Assets Report. By November 2009, a vendor list would be available and the Council would then select a vendor best suited to generate the report. Council Members are encouraged to notify any person who might be interested in becoming a vendor for this project. The Council must determine if additional regional funds are required to ensure the report is generated to fit their needs as a region. They currently have an allowance of \$25,000 to \$30,000 for a standard report.

### **Update and Possible Discussion of State Fiscal Year 2011 Allocation**

Ms. Katona explained the decrease in the State Fiscal Year 2011 Allocation for the Coconino Region. The reason for the loss of funding was due to a population shift of young children in the Coconino Region and a decreased amount of young children zero to five years living in poverty as compared to the rest of the state. A Baseline Adjustment, Discretionary Funds and Frontier Funds would be recommended to the Board to make up for some of the population allocation decrease for the Coconino Region. The recommendation for the Board is to allot funding based on the percent of allocation rather than percent of population because it takes into account both total population and poverty.

Regarding the level of statewide funding for the Coconino Region, the Council can take the same numbers that were generated for 2010 and apply them to 2011.

### **Update and Possible Discussion on Regional Funding Plan Timeline**

Ms. Rogers updated the Council regarding next steps for generating the next Funding Plan. The funding plan will be determined and sent to the Board for approval prior to the collection of data from this year's Funding Plan.

Member Allen requested a chart be made by staff reflecting what funding for each of this year's state and regional strategies has already been released and what funding has yet to be released.

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Next Regional Partnership Council Meeting Time, Date and Location**

After a short discussion, the Council agreed to continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 4:00pm. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2009 at 4:00pm at United Way of Northern Arizona.

### **Presentation of Pins to Council Members**

Mr. Elliott Hibbs, Director of First Things First, expressed his gratitude to the Council Members for their work within the region, knowledge and expertise, and their ability to adhere to the stringent timelines set during the past year. Mr. Hibbs then presented pins to the Council Members that were present at the meeting.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

There being no other business, Chair Hartzell adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:48 p.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**Cristi Mallery, Admin Asst II**

**APPROVED BY:**

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**Julianne Hartzell, Chair**