



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on June 9, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the First Things First Board Office, 4000 N. Central, Ste. 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Chair Mathis Basha called the meeting to order at approximately 8:32 a.m.

Members Present:

Nadine Mathis Basha, Steve Lynn, Rhian Evans Allvin, Dr. Pamela Powell, Dr. Eugene Thompson and Vivian Saunders

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Neal Young, Mary Ellen Cunningham and Amy Corriveau

Absent:

Dr. Arturo Gonzalez and Hon. Cecil Patterson

Chair Mathis Basha welcomed Neal Young, the new Director of the Department of Health Services.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Member Thompson to approve the May 19, 2009 meeting minutes. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

Call to the Public

Mr. Bruce Liggett, Valley of the Sun United Way, reported to the Board on the impact of the emergency scholarship funding and how it has successfully impacted thousands of children and families in Arizona.

FY 2010 Budget

2010 Operating Budget – 2nd Reading

Director Hibbs presented to the Board, the second reading of the draft 2010 budget revisions.

Member Evans Allvin stated that because of declining revenues and lower interest earnings the Board finds it necessary to revise the agency operating budget which was adopted in October 2008, this revision will lower spending by a net of \$150,635, I moved that the Board approve the FY2010 operating budget revisions as recommended by staff. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

2010 Statewide Initiative Budget Revisions

Director Hibbs presented to the Board 2010 statewide initiative budget revisions for consideration.

Member Evans Allvin stated that because of additional costs identified during the implementation of the professional development program, TEACH and because of higher costs for the health strategies adopted by the Board in March 2009 as compared to the placeholder budgeted October 2008, I move that an additional \$1 million be placed into the TEACH statewide initiative and that an additional \$230,000 be added to the health strategies initiative. Further to offset these additional costs that there be no additional competitive grant funding for FY2010 thereby saving \$1 million and that the statewide initiative funding placeholder be reduced from \$900,000 to \$600,000. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

Budget Summary

Director Hibbs presented to the Board a summary of the FY2010 budget adopted in October 2008 that includes proposed modifications reflecting the changes in revenues and interest earnings; and changes in expenditures and revenue projections for Board consideration.

Member Evans Allvin stated that because of changes in tobacco revenues and interest earnings; adopted here today; and the operating budget due to changes in statewide grants that require shifting of funding among initiatives, I move that the FY2010 budget adopted in October 2008 be modified to reflect the changes in expenditures as approved today as well as the revised revenue projections. Seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Emergency Response Plan – Revision

Director Hibbs presented to the Board revisions to the Emergency Response Plan that was approved in February 2009.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Emergency Response Plan approved in February 2009 to provide child care scholarships until July 31, 2009, be modified to allow emergency child care scholarships for families not receiving DES child care subsidies and whose income does not exceed 200% of federal poverty for as long as funds are available in each Region. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Chair and Vice Chair Elections

A motion was made by Member Thompson to nominate Steve Lynn as Chair of the First Things First Board for FY2010 and moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to nominate Rhian Evans Allvin as Vice Chair of the First Things First Board for FY2010 and moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

Regional Administration

Regional Report

Michelle Katona, Assistant Director for Regional Administration, presented a Regional Partnership Council update to the Board. A total of 314 Regional Council seats are filled at this time. On April 8, 2009, requests for 41 regional RFGAs were published and posted with closure date of May 21-23, 2009. A total of 101 applications were submitted. April 2009 marked the one year anniversary of the Regional Partnership Councils.

New Regional Strategies and Strategies Requiring Further Development

Northwest Maricopa

Christine Lyons, Northwest Maricopa Regional Coordinator, presented to the Board revised strategy #7 for consideration.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Board approve the revised strategy #7 submitted by the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Southwest Maricopa

Eric Santiago, Southwest Maricopa Regional Coordinator presented to the Board revised strategy #9 for consideration.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Board approve the revised strategy #9 submitted by the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council. Seconded by Member Saunders. Motion approved.

Navajo Nation

Michelle Katona presented to the Board strategy #8 submitted by the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council for consideration.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Board approve strategy #8 submitted by the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council. Seconded by Member Saunders. Motion approved.

Regional Partnership Council Member Applicants

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Board appoint the Regional Partnership Council members, recommended by staff for the Yavapai and North Phoenix Regional Partnership Councils. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Regional Partnership Council Member Attendance Policy – 1st Reading

Michelle Katona presented to the Board the draft Regional Partnership Council Member Attendance Policy for first reading. Ms. Katona stated the Regional Council's ability to operate effectively is dependent upon the full participation of all of its members. The statute lacks specificity as there is no definition for what constitutes an absence "without excuse" or of the process for removing a member who has problem attendance. The proposed attendance policy includes definitions of excused and unexcused absences, the opportunity for personal intervention with the members. The Regional Coordinators will review the draft attendance policy with the Regional Council members during the June and July meetings and provide feedback to the First Things First staff leadership prior to the First Things First governance policy being presented to the Board for consideration at the August meeting.

Regional Partnership Council Grants, Procurement, Inter-Governmental Agreements and Direct Council Implementation Approvals

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Board approve Council recommendations for the inter-governmental agreements, procurement awards and extensions of the statewide initiatives as adopted by councils which total \$22 million. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to move into Executive Session at approximately 10:30 am to discuss confidential grant documents pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) (2). Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Lynn to return to regular session at approximately 12:15 pm. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to approve the grant award recommendations approved by staff except for the following; North Phoenix – Early Literacy, Central Phoenix – Early Literacy, and Yavapai – Home Visitation for Children in Foster Care, and return these to Regional Councils for further consideration regarding; 1) a comprehensive nature of the approach, the close alignment and coordination among and between grantees, and 3) ability to achieve scale and that be presented back to the Board. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin that the Board refrain from any further consideration of home visiting strategies until the Board is presented with a comprehensive picture of home visiting and that the Board reviews and approves a policy statement related to home visiting, specifically the role and responsibility of the state and the established child welfare system in delivering home visiting services and that relationship with First Things First. Seconded by Member Lynn.

Member Evans Allvin asked to withdraw her previous motion. Member Lynn agreed to withdraw his second to the previous motion.

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin that prior to approving subsequent year strategies or renewal of funding for home visiting strategies that the Board take a comprehensive look at home visiting, that the Board review this and set in place policies relating to home visiting specifically related to the role and responsibility of the state and the established child welfare system in delivering home visiting services and the interaction between different types of home visiting services and their relationship with First Things First. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

Board Member Report/Updates

Member Cunningham reported to the Board that the Bureau of USDA Nutrition Services will be rolling out a new WIC food package, a report indicates that this will have the greatest impact with the public in over 30 years. The Bureau expressed interested in presenting to the Board and Councils and providing partnerships.

Member Corriveau reported to the Board she will be traveling to North Carolina to participate in a professional development program along with staff from First Things First, representatives from Head Start, the Institute of Higher Education, AZAEC and United Way. Member Corriveau also reminded the Board of the Arizona Early Learning Institute which will be held this summer.

Member Mathis Basha reported to the Board that she will be leaving for New Mexico to discuss with the Lt. Governor and her staff the Spark grant they received from Kellogg for Early Learning Planning.

State Legislative Update

Director Hibbs, updated the Board on Board member confirmations at the legislature, bills passed and budget updates.

Federal Activities Update

Jill Stevens, Senior Policy Specialist, updated the Board on federal funding opportunities, federal FY2010 budget developments and other funding proposals. Ms. Stevens also stated to the Board that First Things First is in the process of developing a system to track these opportunities.

Policy Update

Statewide Initiatives Update

Ms. Sandy Foreman, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, reported to the Board on the statewide initiatives.

Ms. Foreman reviewed with the Board the Quality First participation status with 183 enrolled participants with 111 selected pending verifications as of the end of May 2009. A total of 5,424 kits were provided to hospitals statewide through the combined efforts of First Things First and Piper Trust. It was recommended by the T.E.A.C.H Advisory Committee that passing grades be required for continued receipt of scholarships and bonuses, and that Bachelor's degree be included in the model prior to June 2010. The Governor's Office received notice that \$2.3 million in grand funding will be available to Arizona to support the work of the State Advisory Council for Early Childhood Education and Care. Applications are due to the Governor's Office by August 1, 2010.

Lawsuit Update and Executive Director interim Evaluation

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to move into Executive Session at approximately 3:00 pm to obtain legal advice regarding the pending lawsuit challenging the sweep of interest earned on First Things First funding pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and to discuss the Executive Director annual evaluation pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) and A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3). Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Lynn to move into Regular Session at approximately 4:49 pm. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held August 25, 2009 in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Mathis Basha adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:51 pm.