



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**  
*The right system for bright futures*

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health  
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2009

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**Welcome and Call to Order**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at Central Arizona College, Signal Peak Campus, Room I211, 8470 North Overfield Road, Coolidge, AZ 85228.

Regional Council Chair Mezzio called the meeting to order at approximately 2:20 PM.

**Council Members in attendance:**

Barbara Mezzio, Arnolando Hernandez, Bryant Powell, Christina Jenkins, Kai Gerkey, Melanie O'Neil, Charity Russell, Louis Manuel and Mary Allen

**Council Members in attendance via teleconference:**

Mary Kyle

**First Things First Staff in attendance:**

Michelle Katona, First Things First, Assistant Director, Regional Partnership Councils; Marla Chamberlain, First Things First, Central East Regional Manager; Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, First Things First, Pinal Regional Partnership Council, Regional Coordinator; Todd Mason, First Things First Financial Compliance Manager; and Carrie Loos, First Things First, Administrative Assistant III, Central East Region.

**Public in attendance:**

4 members of the public were present

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The items on the Consent Agenda included the August 12, 2009 Work Session Meeting Minutes and the Meeting Minutes from the July 24, 2009 and August 12, 2009 Council Meetings.

A motion was made by Member Powell to accept the July 24, 2009 Meeting Minutes, August 12, 2009 Work Session Meeting Minutes, and August 12, 2009 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Member O'Neil. Motion carried.

**Regional Council Recognition**

Michelle Katona, First Things First, Assistant Director, Regional Partnership Councils thanked the Regional Council for their service, time and dedication to children and families and presented Regional Council Members with one year anniversary pins. Ms. Katona also acknowledged Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, First Things First, Pinal Regional Partnership Council, Regional Coordinator to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council, and Marla Chamberlain, First Things First, Central East Regional Manager for their

work. Ms. Katona also announced that Arizona's First Things First Initiative received the 2009 Most Promising State for Young Children Award.

#### **Presentation and Discussion on Community Action Human Resources Agency – FTF Emergency Food Program**

Mary Lou Rosales, Executive Director of Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA), gave a presentation to the Regional Council regarding the First Things First Emergency Food Program. Ms. Rosales announced the hiring of three program staff members. Ms. Rosales also reviewed and identified target population, participant criteria, food box contents/infant supplies, community outreach, issues, and successes in relation to this strategy. Ms. Rosales identified partners in this project including United Food Bank, Basha's Food Stores, and other local grocery stores.

Ms. Rosales reviewed Phases I, II, and III of this project.

Phase I: July 2009 – 120 letters were sent to families and 75 families responded; August 2009 – Community food distribution took place.

Phase II: Food distribution took place in September, as well as new participant intakes.

Phase III: Intakes will continue to be received. By the end of October, 550-600 families are expected per month. Project staff is beginning to compile a list of expecting mothers. Spanish version of the program flyer is almost completed.

#### **Presentation and Discussion on The National Children's Study**

Cathy L. Martinez, PhD. with the Pinal County University of Arizona Cooperative Extension gave a presentation to the Regional Council regarding The National Children's Study. The items discussed were: largest long-term study of children's health; longitudinal study of children, their families, and their environment; number of children participating in the study (100,000); national sponsors; national children's study locations; Arizona study locations (Apache, Maricopa, and Pinal County); Arizona study site partners; principal investigators (Dr. Sydney Pettygrove, University of Arizona, Maricopa County PI); study goal – environmental influences; priority health exposures and outcomes; and community outreach and engagement.

#### **Strategy Work Groups Update, Discussion and Possible Approval of the Funding Mechanism**

Chair Mezzio recognized Member Gerkey for a Health Strategy Work Group Update and Discussion. Kai Gerkey, Vice Chair for the Pinal Regional Partnership Council asked Ms. Kempton-Sarosi to share the feedback she has received. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi updated the Regional Council regarding Strategy #1 (focusing on the conference that the Regional Council wanted to provide). Ms. Kempton-Sarosi has been working with the Arizona Academy of Pediatrics who is the housing agency for an existing health conference in the state. This has yielded several options regarding this strategy: 1) annual scholarships to the medical conference; 2) providing Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses/seminars or web-conferencing. The Health Strategy Work Group is looking at providing 25 scholarships towards the medical conference and would like to move forward on the study and the advisory committee to provide informed decisions on developing strategies for the remaining amount.

Chair Mezzio recognized Member Hernandez for a Quality and Access Strategy Work Group Update and Discussion. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi updated the Regional Council regarding the Mental Health Consultation Strategy #5c. The state has developed a statewide Request for Grant Application (RFGA) and the

**Discussion and Possible Action on Regional Council Vacancy**

Chair Mezzio discussed the Pinal Regional Partnership Council School Administrator vacancy with the Regional Council. Chair Mezzio shared that a suggestion had been made to move Member Kyle from the At Large position to the School Administrator vacancy. Member Kyle indicated her agreement and support of this move if the Regional Council wished to move forward with the suggestion.

A motion was made by Member Powell to request to the First Things First State Board to move Member Kyle into the School Administrator vacancy, seconded by Member Gerkey. Motion carried.

This will be reviewed by the First Things First State Board at the next meeting on September 22, 2009.

**Regional Coordinator's Report**

The Regional Coordinator's Report was tabled due to lack of time.

**Call to the Public**

No Call to the Public form was submitted.

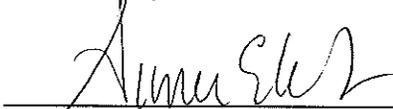
**Next Meeting – October 14, 2009 (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)**

The next Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at Central Arizona College, Rm M101.

**Adjournment**

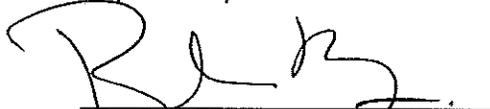
A motion was made by Member Russell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gerkey. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Submitted By:



Aimee Kempton-Sarosi  
Regional Coordinator  
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Approved By:



Barbara Mezzio  
Chair, Pinal Regional Partnership Council

statewide mental health consultation administrative entity will be selected through this RFGA. The Quality and Access Strategy Work Group has discussed the pros and cons in going forward with the RFGA at the state level. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi explained that there are two main components: 1) Mental Health Consultation that will provide the training and administration and 2) tuition reimbursement and a professional development program. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council did not put any funding into the second component, only the Mental Health Consultation component. Chair Mezzio indicated that the recommendation is for the Regional Council to go with the statewide RFGA.

A motion was made by Member Hernandez to have the Regional Council be part of the statewide Mental Health Consultation RFGA. Member Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Mezzio recognized Member Allen for a Family Support Strategy Work Group Update and Discussion. Member Allen announced that the work group is continuing talks in regards to the literacy strategy. A library survey was developed to identify needs for the support of a literacy strategy in the community. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi indicated that the survey was sent to 11 libraries. The work group will have the results at the next meeting.

Chair Mezzio recognized Member O'Neil for a Professional Development Strategy Work Group Update and Discussion. Member O'Neil announced that the work group reviewed strategy #10 and clarified any language with the strategy to help guide in the rewrite of the RFGA.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action on Regional Needs and Assets Report**

Ms. Kempton-Sarosi announced to the Council Members that the Needs and Assets request for proposal was issued on August 18, 2009 and is due on October 1, 2009. She also reviewed the 2010 Needs and Assets timeline. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council has set aside \$50,000.00 for the Regional Needs and Assets Report. First Things First will allocate about \$18,000.00 for a baseline Needs and Assets Report. A summary of data to be collected for a basic Needs and Assets Report was shared with the Regional Council and included: general population trends, additional population characteristics, economic circumstances, educational indicators, quality and access, professional development, health, family support, public information and awareness, system coordination, and deliverables. Regional Councils will be presented with a list of qualified vendors for their region. The Council will then approve a final contractor to complete their Regional Needs and Assets Report.

The discussion and possible action on the Regional Needs and Assets Report was tabled due to limited time.

Ms. Katona allowed the Pinal Regional Partnership Council an extension to October 14, 2009 to approve the Regional Needs and Assets expenditures.

Ms. Kempton-Sarosi will email the Council Members to schedule a Needs and Assets Special Work Session Meeting.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action on Regional Council Attendance Policy**

Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the Regional Council Attendance Policy. The Regional Council reviewed the Attendance Policy and there were no questions.

A motion was made by Member Jenkins to accept the Regional Council Attendance Policy, seconded by Member Russell. Motion carried.