



FIRST THINGS FIRST
The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on September 16, 2009 at the Barness Family Jewish Community Center, 908 N. Alma School Rd., Chandler Arizona.

Jackie Garner, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

Members Present

Andrea Colby, Genoveva Acosta-Bueno, Glenn Waterkotte, Hope Dillon, Jackie Garner, Karen Emery, Kathy Halter, Maureen Duane, Trinity Donovan

Member Absent

Angela Capone

Guests

Ten members from the public

Tour of Barness Family Jewish Community Center

The Council toured the Community Center which is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Approval of Minutes

Member Waterkotte motioned to approved the July 15 executive session minutes, seconded by Member Acosta-Bueno. Motion carried. Member Donovan motioned to approve the August 19 executive session minutes, seconded by Member Waterkotte. Motion carried. Member Donovan motioned to approve the July 15, 2009 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Member Colby. Motion carried.

Call to the Public

Several members of the public shared information, pamphlets and pictures about their programs. They also shared the successes and trials of the families enrolled in their programs during the economic downturn. Agencies that received First Things First emergency funding thanked the Council and shared how the funds have helped the families involved. All asked the Council to consider them for additional funding.

Chair/Vice Chair Meeting Report

Chair Garner and Member Acosta-Bueno shared their perspectives from the Chair/Vice Chair meeting stating the difficulties of the RFGA process, the lack of services faced by rural counties, the need for a more consistent message on the identity of First Things First, and a need for the First Things First Communications Department to gather feedback from Regional Councils. The Regional Councils located in the greater metropolitan Phoenix area held a pre-meeting. The Maricopa and Phoenix Regions

agreed to request their councils to approve securing one vendor for the Needs and Assets report. Councils would also choose one representative to represent the council in the vendor selection as to participate in the decision of additional data analysis or collection. Regions also agreed to pool funding for additional elements of the Needs and Assets report. . Member Duane will represent the Central Maricopa Council as future meetings convene.

Needs and Assets/Evaluation Workgroup Recommendations

Member Duane covered the highlights that were discussed in this workgroup and provided the Council with the workgroup's recommendations regarding how much of the \$80,000 that has been set aside for the Needs and Assets Report/Evaluation to allocate towards each. The Workgroup provided a handout detailing additional information they would like to capture in the reports.

Vice Chair Dillon motioned to accept the recommendations of the Needs and Assets Workgroup as provided in the handout and to allocate up to \$40,000 of the \$80,000 towards the county-wide assessment, seconded by Member Halter. Member Duane motioned to join with the other Maricopa and Phoenix regions to secure one vendor to produce the Needs and Assets report, seconded by Member Waterkotte. Both motions carried.

Operational Plan Update

Coordinator Floth gave an overview of the Region's funding plan changes from the expedited funding, pointing out that \$ 21,136 was used from the descretionary allotment for the State Board to fund emergency food boxes(Goal #11, Strategy #9); that \$1,981,820 was expedited for child care scholarships; and that \$355,000 was expedited for home visitation.

FY 2011 Funding Plan Discussion

Coordinator Floth shared the Powerpoint presentation that was shown at the Chair and Vice Chair Meeting on building the Early Childhood Development and Health System for the State. The Council was asked to look at their current strategies and to determine what might be missing going forward. Also covered were the roles that different state agencies play in providing services for families and how First Things First and those agencies can work together to ensure adequate services to families for early learning, family support, special needs, and health and nutrition. The Council was tasked with deciding the best use of the upcoming year's allocation.

Retreat Planning Group Discussion

- A draft agenda was provided.
- There will be a forum in which community members can share information about their agencies and the families that are involved and the effects of the economy. Guiding questions have been prepared for the forum. Coordinator Floth will provide a meeting notice for Councils Members to forward to their list-serves.

Coordinator Floth

The following updates were provided:

- First Things First Communications Director will be invited to have a dialogue with the Council regarding different elements of communications.
- The Region's allotment for next year will be \$7,350,611, up by approximately 2% based upon population.
- All of the Quality First slots have been awarded. A list was provided of the centers that have been awarded.
- There are 404 Quality First sites statewide, 210 programs are pending verification; 44 programs declined participation due to various reasons; there are 709 applications on the wait list. This is an area the Council may want to consider funding next year.
- A summary of the University Consortium was provided.

Regional Council Updates

Vice Chair Dillon: Tempe AZ play date with Kaboom will be October 17, 2009.

Member Donovan: Chandler Day of Play will be held at the Tumbleweed Recreation Center. The focus will be keeping things free for the family.

Next Meeting

September 30, 2009 – Tumbleweed Recreation Center

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Chair Dillon adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:20 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Sharon Smith, Administrative Assistant III

Approved:

Jacqueline F. Garner, Regional Council Chair