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Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

The regular meeting of the First Things First – La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held **August 26th, 2010** at 9:00 a.m. at the Bullhead City Elementary School District Board Room, Located at 1004 Hancock Road, Bullhead City, AZ 86442.

Chairman Allsbrooks called the meeting to order at 9:13a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members present: William Allsbrooks, Jose Garcia, Terri Holloway, Vijette Saari, Nancy Mongeau, Riley Frei, Lenore Knudtson, Alisa Burroughs, Debra Weger, Betsy Lewis, and Melissa Howell.

Member Recognition

Chair Allsbrooks presented Members Nancy Mongeau and Misty Howell with certificates of appreciation for two years of service on the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council.

Approval of Agenda

Member Garcia made a motion to approve the day's agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Weger. Motion passed by unanimous vote by members present.

Conflict of Interest

No Council Members declared a conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda.

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public at this time.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the minutes of July 22nd, 2010. Member Frei made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Member Garcia. Motion passed by unanimous vote by members present.

Executive Director Update

Chair Allsbrooks introduced special guest Rhian Evans-Allvin, First Things First Executive Director and thanked her for attending the meeting. Ms. Evans-Allvin provided the Council with a brief summary of her background & experience and stated she wanted to listen and answer any questions the Council may have. Ms. Evans-Allvin informed the Council there are three primary issues she is focusing on: 1) Setting the tone, the culture and the systems for First Things First and who we are as an agency. Ms. Evans-Allvin gave a brief explanation of how this is being accomplished. 2) The First Things First governance structure which is based on the Smart Start in North Carolina model and the idea of using Regional Councils to address the needs of each community. 3) The current political situation and the potential elimination of First Things First in November. Ms. Evans-Allvin updated the Council on actions First Things First is taking related to educating the public about the potential impact of Prop. 302. Ms. Evans-Allvin advised Council that First Things First will continue to get information out to the public on what First Things First is doing for the their communities and fulfilling obligations to Arizona and the youngest children of the state.

Chair Allsbrooks asked for clarification regarding Prop. 302 and what happens to First Things First if it passes. Ms. Evans-Allvin stated that if Prop. 302 passes, First Things First is required to cease operations on November 30th. Chair Allsbrooks questioned what happens to contracts that are already awarded. Ms. Evans-Allvin stated that certified letters will be sent out in mid-September to all grantees explaining that if Prop. 302 passes their contracts will be terminated as of November 30th. Grantees will be able to submit reimbursement requests through November 30th. After that date the Department of Administration takes over all funds. Ms. Evans-Allvin advised that if grantees have not dispersed funds by November 30th, any and all funds not spent will be transferred to the state general fund. Member Frei asked if any polling has been done and is there any thought as to which way the vote will go. Ms. Evans-



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Allvin advised that the polling she has seen is very positive and in favor of First Things First. Council held discussion regarding options for grantees obtaining funds upfront as opposed to expending funds and waiting for reimbursement.

Discussion & Possible Approval of Needs and Assets Report

Coordinator Beckett introduced Michelle Walsh from the University of Arizona. Ms. Walsh thanked the Council for allowing the University of Arizona the opportunity to do the Needs and Assets report. Ms. Walsh provided the Council with a brief explanation of the unique aspects and strengths found in the La Paz/Mohave region. Chair Allsbrooks stated the report is extremely well done and that he appreciates the work done by the University of Arizona. Coordinator Beckett thanked Ms. Walsh and her team for doing a very thorough job on the Needs and Assets report. Member Mongeau made a motion to approve the 2010 La Paz/Mohave Needs and Assets Report and allow for minor edits and corrections. Motion seconded by Member Garcia. Motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

T.E.A.C.H. Program Update

Natasha Lopez, T.E.A.C.H. Specialist, updated the Council on the status of the T.E.A.C.H. program, stating that all twenty regionally-funded scholarship openings for SFY 2011 have been filled. Eleven of these students are already enrolled for the fall semester and six of those are continuing students. Four CDA's are in the process of being awarded. Of these scholarships, six are from Lake Havasu and Kingman, two from Quartzsite, two from Parker and two are from Bullhead City. Six are on a waiting list in Kingman, Bullhead City, and Mohave Valley. Ms. Lopez stated because all the regionally-funded slots are currently filled, she is focusing on slots available to Quality First providers to get paperwork completed as well as continuity for those already in classes and assisting them with registration.

Program & Financial Data Summary

Coordinator Beckett advised the Council that the financial and program data provided in the report is collected by First Things First to assist in program monitoring. The information helps staff to determine whether services provided are being implemented in accordance with First Things First agreements. Financial data comes from reimbursement requests which grantees typically submit monthly. The report represents reimbursements received through August 16th. Program data is submitted by grantees on a quarterly basis and information in the report represents services provided through the end of March 2010. The financial data included in the report is from regional grantees only. First Things First does not yet have the capability to obtain expenditures at the regional level for statewide strategies. Ms. Evans-Allvin stated that is a technology issue that administration is diligently moving forward to complete. Coordinator Beckett anticipates having final expenditures for SFY 2011 in mid-September. Chair Allsbrooks is concerned that grantees are holding on to unexpended funds and wants to be sure they are aware of the possibility of losing those funds in November. Coordinator Beckett advised that it took time for grantees to hire staff and ramp up. It is believed this was a start-up issue and will not continue to be a problem in the future. Member Mongeau suggested working with a local bank to provide up front funds with a guarantee of payment by First Things First to assist smaller agencies with limited cash-flow with paying expenses up front. Council held a discussion regarding school districts that have entered into contracts with teachers for employment funded by First Things First and the affect Prop. 302 would have on them if it passes. Ms. Evans-Allvin stated those contracts are between the districts and the employee. If Prop. 302 passes, the Department of Administration will have the legal right to sweep all unexpended funds. All First Things First contracts and grants contain a clause stating they are contingent upon availability of funds. Ms. Evans-Allvin informed the Council that in fiscal years 2009, 2010, & 2011, \$50,000,000 of First Things First funds had been awarded to county governments, city governments, school districts, or other state agencies. State wide, First Things First funds have impacted 330,000 children from birth to age five.

Coordination & Communication Updates

SFY 2011 Media Buys: Coordinator Beckett advised the Council that the SFY 2011 media campaign is up and running. Coordinator Beckett played the FTF television commercial that started running on August 9th. The commercial is being aired on the Discovery Channel, Food Network, CBS, ABC, NBC and others. The ads will continue running through the end of September. Coordinator Beckett played the 30-second radio spot, which will run from August 30th through September 26th and will reach Havasu, Bullhead City, Kingman and Parker. There will also be billboards, print ads in 7 local newspapers, and online ads running on more than 120 different websites. Cinema ads starting August 27th including Ultra-Star theaters in Havasu, the Brendan Avi in Laughlin, the Brendan Kingman, and CRIT Theaters in Parker. There will be three insertions in each of the seven local newspapers. The total amount spent for the fall media campaign was just over \$70,000 of the total \$142,000. The Council held a discussion regarding the decision to set



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aside funds for a spring campaign as opposed to using all the funds now. The Council asked the Coordinator to look into ways of increasing the reach of the fall media buy. Member Mongeau suggested the ads should mention Prop. 302. Ms. Evans-Allvin stated that First Things First funds and staff cannot promote “No on Prop. 302,” however as volunteers, Council members can be as politically motivated as they deem appropriate. The Council held a discussion on what they can do to promote the “No on 302” campaign. Members suggested someone from the “No on 302” campaign could come to the next Council meeting and make a Call to the Public. Ms. Evans-Allvin advised that Children’s Action Alliance is doing grass-roots work on the “No on 302” campaign. The contact person, Kelly Paisley, can be reached at 602-266-0707 or kpaisley@azchildren.org

Coordination Self-Assessment and Next Steps: Coordinator Beckett notified the Council that grantee coordination meetings have been convening every other month due to grantees and stakeholders indicating a need for increased coordination among service providers. Coordinator Beckett advised Council that grantees completed a coordination self assessment at the last meeting and reviewed the assessment results. The current consensus is that the partnership has a moderate level of coordination. Areas where progress have/have not been made were identified. Next steps prioritized by the partnership include educating the community on the work First Things First is doing and the potential impact if Prop. 302 passes and reaching out to the medical community to make them aware of the work First Things First is doing in the community. An FTF breakfast orientation is tentatively set for October 12, 2010 in Bullhead.

Coordinator Report and Possible Discussion

SFY 2011 Budget Revisions: Coordinator Beckett advised the Council that tobacco tax revenues are declining. Due to this decrease in revenue, the State Board made budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2011 at their June meeting. To summarize the impact to the region:

Revised Population Based Allocation	= \$2,240,879.00
Revised Discretionary Allocation	= \$1,289,136.83
Other Board Allocation	= \$ 491,279.00
Total FY 2011 Allocation	= \$4,021,294.83 (Total reduction for FY 2011 = \$134,697.00)

Funding Plan Update: Coordinator Beckett provided the 2010/2011 Operational Plan and advised that “infant and toddler mental health tuition reimbursements” administered by Southwest Human Development is up and running. Nine mental health professionals from the La Paz/Mohave region attended the orientation in Phoenix for the Harris Institute two-year certificate in infant and family clinical practice.

Legislative Update: Coordinator Beckett provided Council with a copy of the language that will appear on Prop. 302.

Upcoming Events: Arizona Early Childhood Taskforce Regional Forum – August 26th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm in Bullhead City.
First Things First Early Childhood Summit, August 30-31 in Phoenix.

Next Meeting

September 23rd, 2010 at the Parker Public Library, located at 1001 South Navajo Avenue, Parker, AZ 85344.

Adjourn

Member Mongeau made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Member Garcia. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

There being no further business, Chairman Allsbrooks adjourned the meeting at 10:46a.m.

Minutes **NOT** approved

SUBMITTED BY:

S. Jo Griffis, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:

William Allsbrooks, Chair