



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

### Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

#### Meeting Minutes

##### Call to Order/Welcome/Introduction of Guests

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on September 25, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the El Capitan K-12 School, 255 North Cottonwood Street, Colorado City, Arizona 86021.

Vice Chair Weiske called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

##### Members Present

Alisa Burroughs and Howard Weiske

Terri Holloway, Lenore Knudtson, Vijette Saari, Catie Sondrol and Debra Weger participated telephonically

##### Members Absent

Riley Frei, Jose Garcia, Betsy Lewis and Nancy Mongeau

##### Call to the Public

There were no responses to call to the public.

##### Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

##### Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Knudtson made a motion to approve the July 24, 2014 regular meeting minutes and September 2, 2014 workgroup meeting minutes. Member Holloway seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

##### First Read on Proposed Change to Governance Policy

Regional Director Merritt Beckett reviewed the requested change to section 1-108 of the Governance Policy regarding election of officers, noting that at the state level our legal counsel is proposing changes to the policy as well. Discussion ensued about the proposed changes, and Senior Director Gary P. Arnold noted the current regional council meeting schedule would align well with the State Board meeting schedule. Vice Chair Weiske directed staff to table this item and bring it back as an action item for a first read at the October meeting in order to discuss incorporating legal counsel's proposed revisions.

##### Safety Net Presentation

Jennifer Frey from the Safety Net shared the organization's mission and provided background information. Created in 2003, they are a human service organization that works to help those who practice plural marriage. As plural marriage has continued to grow in the region, the Safety Net has been working to build bridges in communities in order to provide services; however, barriers include an inherent distrust of the outside world, fear of persecution and misinformation. Clients are found through word of mouth, and Safety Net partners with government agencies to help improve services. Ms. Frey discussed income sources through sewing, and noted some of their clients are interested in opening childcare facilities, both for income and to enable others to find employment.

##### Community Outreach Report

Erin Taylor, Outreach Coordinator reviewed the outreach report, highlighting the Kingman Daily Miner story about Judge Weiss, the Child Find Screening Fair in Ehrenberg, and the site tour on September 13 which was a kick-off event for the start of the new year of

Professional Development tier trainings provided by the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC). 160 childcare professionals participated in the training. Coordinator Taylor also met a mother pregnant with her eleventh child at the Diamondback Elementary Literacy Night, and was able to connect her with our home visitation programs. She is also doing a lot of outreach in the tribal areas.

**2014 Regional Needs and Assets Report Final Draft**

Director Beckett announced the final draft will be on the First Things First website soon, and anticipates it will be a good resource for other agencies. Director Beckett referred members to the handouts, and hopes the summaries and data snapshot are helpful.

**Review of SFY 2014 Program Financial and Data Reports**

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 year-end financial report and program data report. She observed that over the past six years grantees have built the infrastructure and capacity necessary to provide quality services. The data reports show that grantees met or exceeded their target service numbers. These reports can help the regional council with strategic planning.

**Regional Director's Report**

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2015 financial report noting the figures are appropriate at this time.

Director Beckett reviewed the proposed meeting calendar for 2015, which reflects an alternating schedule between Mohave and La Paz counties. Discussion ensued, and Director Beckett noted that site visits could be planned in conjunction with future meetings.

Director Beckett provided an update on the preschool start-up/expansion strategy, informing the regional council that the charter school in Quartzsite is not able to move forward with the preschool start-up and will be returning funds to the grantee, the Department of Education (ADE) to be returned to FTF.

Director Beckett provided an update on strategic planning for SFY 2016-2018, noting there was a Funding Plan Workgroup meeting in early September at that she is using input received from the workgroup to prepare recommendations and a draft to present at the next meeting. The process is on schedule for presentation of the recommendations to the regional council in Wenden in October, so it is critically important to have as many regional council members as possible at that meeting in person.

Director Beckett mentioned there was a very successful coordination meeting in Parker in early September, which included a presentation on the importance of infant and toddler mental health and a panel of four behavioral health service providers. In addition, the coordination meeting schedule was set for next year.

**Recommended Future Agenda Items**

Vice Chair Weiske announced he was researching the possibility of adding a prayer and/or the pledge of allegiance at the start of every regional council meeting, and requested this be a discussion item on the October meeting agenda.

**Next Regular Meeting**

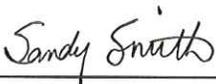
The next meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council will be at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at the Centennial Community Center located at 69725 Centennial Park Road in Wenden, Arizona 85357.

**Adjourn**

Member Burroughs made a motion to adjourn at 10:53 a.m. Member Sondrol seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**



Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant



Howard Weiske, Vice Chair