



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

### Draft Meeting Minutes

#### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council was held on September 14, 2009 at the Safford Public Library, 808 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Safford, AZ 85546.

Vice Chair Cindi Alva called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m.

#### Members Present:

Cindi Alva, Jan Elliott, Ryan Henry, Ann Johnson, Stacy Kramer (telephonically), Donna McGaughey, Pam Patt, Retha Russell, Laurie Smith (telephonically)

#### Members Absent:

David Alford

#### First Things First Staff Present:

Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator; Edith Lee, Administrative Assistant; Marla Chamberlain, Central East Regional Manager; Elliott Hibbs, Executive Director

#### **Call to the Public**

There were two responses to Call to the Public.

Loni Sanders, speech therapist with Easter Seals Blake Foundation, commented on the need to recruit and maintain local therapists.

Dena Barentine, Easter Seals Blake Foundation – Palomita Children’s Center, thanked the Regional Council for their work and shared the positive responses she has received in regards to the families that are benefiting from the Child Care Scholarships. Ms. Barentine reported that Palomita Children’s Center had their *Quality First!* assessment on July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Member Patt pointed out a correction to the July 27, 2009 minutes. Dena Barentine’s name was misspelled. The correction was noted.

A motion to approve minutes from the July 27, 2009 meeting, with the amendment, was made by Member Elliott, seconded by Member Henry. Motion carried.

### **Presentation of One Year Anniversary Awards to Regional Partnership Council Members**

Executive Director Elliott Hibbs presented one year anniversary pins to Regional Council Members, thanking them for their dedication and service. Director Hibbs also announced that Arizona's First Things First Initiative received the 2009 Most Promising State for Young Children Award, and presented Regional Council Members with the award.

### **Provider Presentation for Prevention of Abuse/Neglect (Home Visitation) Strategy**

Angie Richins from Child & Family Resources, Inc., the Prevention of Abuse/Neglect (Home Visitation) Strategy Grantee, gave a presentation to the Regional Council. Ms. Richins gave a brief history of Child & Family Resources and explained what Building Bright Futures is all about. Ms. Richins also shared success stories and thanked the Regional Council.

### **Provider Presentation for Early Literacy Strategy**

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins shared a handout with the Regional Council and reported on behalf of the Safford City – Graham County Library, Early Literacy Strategy Grantee. Outreach and service numbers totaled 49 community events/visits and 1,076 participants for the month of August. Member Patt also shared the positive feedback she has received from children and families who are excited about the books they are receiving in the mail.

### **Provider Presentation for Emergency Food Boxes**

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins reported on behalf of Graham County Interfaith Alliance, Emergency Food Box Grantee. As of August 25<sup>th</sup>, the food bank has distributed diapers, baby food, and food for young children. They received \$1,000 from the Coalition to End Childhood Hunger, as well as \$1,200 from the Graham County United Way to add to their First Things First funds. The food bank will be hosting a dedication of their new food bank building at the Methodist Church on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

### **Discussion of 2010 Regional Needs & Assets Report**

Regional Manager Marla Chamberlain led a discussion of the 2010 Regional Needs & Assets Report. Ms. Chamberlain stated that there has been a change in the process. The administrative budget of First Thing First will pay for a baseline Needs & Assets Report for each council. A consultant will be identified by vendor solicitation process and a statewide list of vendors will be compiled. Once the list has been narrowed down by region, the selection of the vendor will be left to the Regional Partnership Council.

If the Regional Council identifies areas where additional data is needed, the Regional council will have to make the decision whether more data and what additional data is needed. Ms. Chamberlain stated that a solid Needs & Assets Report would cost approximately \$25,000. The base report provided by First Things First will cost approximately \$19,000. Ms. Chamberlain went over the Standard Needs and Assets Guidelines attachment with the Regional Council. The Regional Council will receive the vendor list in October/November. Ideally, the Board will need to know by October 16th if the Regional Council desires more data and which basic areas of information are desired.

The Regional Council discussed forming a workgroup who will look at the current Needs and Assets Report more closely before making this decision. Workgroup volunteers include: Ryan Henry, Stacy Kramer, Cindi Alva and Laurie Smith.

**Update on Approved 2011 Allocations**

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins reported that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has been allocated \$488,387 for FY2011, which is an increase of \$46,937 from last year's budget (\$441,450). The Regional Council has also been allocated \$122,961 in Frontier Funding and \$120,637 in Discretionary Funding, bringing the allocated grant total to \$731,985.

**Discussion of FY2011 Funding Plan**

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins provided a PowerPoint presentation on Identifying Needs & Assets – Linking Needs to Strategies explaining the Early Childhood Systems Model and the Pyramid Model.

The Regional Council began discussions for the FY2011 Funding Plan. Options discussed included: 1) Continuing to fund existing strategies 2) Adding money to existing strategies 3) Forming new strategies or 4) Discontinuing existing strategies. The Regional Council discussed which current strategies no longer needed to be funded in FY2011, like Arizona Parent Kits. The Regional Council discussed *Quality First!*, the need to recruit more home providers, and how to support home providers in becoming regulated or supporting those that don't desire to be regulated. The Regional Council also discussed exploring a new strategy around Kith-n-Kin. There was also discussion on continuing to fund some of the emergency state funded strategies like Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, Child Care Scholarships and the Food Boxes and the need that surrounds these strategies. The Regional Council expressed the desire to know how the money was spent for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect (Home Visiting) allocation of \$152,249 at the next council meeting.

The Regional Council requested that Shari Elkins and Marla Chamberlain put together a list of other strategies across the state and share this information at the next council meeting as well. Shari Elkins was also asked to organize the workgroup meeting dates and to email the information to the Regional Council.

**Adoption of Regional Council Attendance Policy**

Member Patt moved "that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council adopt the Attendance Policy, as approved by the State Board on August 25, 2009, to be included in the existing Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council Governance Policies." Member McGaughey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Update on Oral Health Study**

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins informed the Regional Council that Gila Regional Partnership Council has four (4) members of their council that would like to serve on the Oral Health Workgroup. Ms. Elkins asked for volunteers to serve on this workgroup. The first workgroup meeting will be on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in Globe. The following council members volunteered: Laurie Smith and Stacy Kramer (via telephone). Ms. Elkins will check with Member Russell and Member Alford to see if they are interested in serving on this workgroup.

**Regional Coordinator Report**

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins reported that the *Quality First!* (Strategy #1) Assessment for Mt. Graham Child Care Center took place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Elkins announced that the Arizona Parent Kit distribution and orientation (Strategy #4) will take place on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the First Things First office.

Ms. Elkins updated the Regional Council on the status of the Emergency Child Care Scholarships (Statewide Strategy #3). Home providers, Alejandrina Dominguez and Ann Tovar, as well as Palomita Children’s Center are enrolled in the Emergency Scholarships Program. Valley of the Sun United Way has received inquiries from two other local center providers.

**Council Member Updates/Comments**

None

**Next Meeting Date, Time and Location**

The Regional Council discussed changing the date of the October meeting due to Columbus Day on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The Regional Council agreed that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. A Workgroup meeting has been tentatively scheduled before the meeting from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Johnson, and seconded by Member Elliott. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator**

**Approved:**

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**Laurie Smith, Chair**