



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health  
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2009

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### **Welcome and Call to Order**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at Central Arizona College, Signal Peak Campus, Room M101, 8470 North Overfield Road, Coolidge, AZ 85128.

Regional Council Chair Mezzio called the meeting to order at approximately 2:10 PM.

#### Council Members in attendance:

Kai Gerkey, Mary Kyle, Louis Manuel, Barbara Mezzio, Melanie O'Neil, Bryant Powell, and Charity Russell

#### Council Members not in attendance:

Mary Allen and Christina Jenkins

#### Council Members in attendance via teleconference:

Arnoldo Hernandez

#### First Things First Staff in attendance:

Marla Chamberlain, First Things First, Central East Regional Manager, Alicia Smith, First Things First, Senior Policy Specialist, Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Regional Coordinator, Pinal Regional Partnership Council, and Carrie Loos, First Things First, Administrative Assistant III, Central East Region.

#### Public in attendance:

8 members of the public were present

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Mezzio asked the Regional Council Members for a discussion and possible approval of the September 9, 2009 Work Session Meeting Minutes and the Meeting Minutes from the September 9, 2009 Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Member O'Neil to accept the September 9, 2009 Work Session Meeting Minutes and September 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Member Kyle. Motion carried.

### **Health Strategy Work Group: Update and Discussion:**

Chair Mezzio recognized Member Gerkey for a Health Strategy Work Group update and discussion. Member Gerkey reviewed the SFY2010 prioritized needs and the SFY2011 prioritized needs. The work group identified a new need for SFY2011:

- Families with children 0-5 identified with high risk medical needs that lack services in the region

Additionally, Member Gerkey reviewed the Health strategies for SFY2011:

- Strategy 1 – Increase medical professional’s use of recommended guidelines for preventative medical and oral health care. The work group would like to allocate \$50,000.00 in SFY2011 for Strategy 1.
  - Developmental Screening Seminar
- Strategy 2A/2B/2C – Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance, enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care (medical/dental home). The work group would like to continue to fund strategy 2A/2B/2C and maintain the \$300,000.00 funding allocation in SFY2011.
  - 2A – Conduct health insurance outreach and enrollment assistance for eligible children.
  - 2B – Physician and health provider outreach and education.
  - 2C – Enhance or expand existing programs and services to address parent knowledge, understanding, and behavior.
- Strategy 3 – Increase children’s access to preventative health care by providing oral, vision, and hearing screening, education and referral. The work group would like to continue to fund strategy 3 and continue to allocate \$500,000.00.
  - The work group would like to add an additional component: development screening
- The work group would like to recommend to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to fund an additional strategy regarding families with children 0-5 identified with high risk medical needs that lack services in the region.
  - Children born with high risk medical needs that are transferred out of Pinal County and will not have the needed medical services upon their return home.
  - The target population and allocation for the recommended strategy has yet to be determined.

#### **Quality and Access Strategy Work Group: Update and Discussion**

Chair Mezzio recognized Member Hernandez and Ms. Kempton-Sarosi for a Quality and Access Strategy Work group update and discussion. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the SFY2010 prioritized needs and the SFY2011 prioritized needs. The work group has identified a new need for SFY2011:

- Limited access to high quality infant and toddler child care.

Additionally, Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the Quality and Access strategies for SFY2011:

- Strategy 4 – Quality First! (QF!) improvement and rating system. The work group would like to continue to fund Quality First! and an additional 11 units for SFY2011 (including the 23 units for FY 2010) and maintain the \$687,700.00 funding allocation.
- Strategy 5A – Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) – the work group would like to continue to fund 2 CCHC (serving 60 units) for the Pinal region and Ak-Chin community and maintain the \$220,000.00 funding allocation.
- Strategy 5C – Mental Health Consultant (MHC) – Improve children’s health, safety and quality of interactions with providers and increase early identification of health or developmental concerns. The work group would like to continue to fund 2 MHC for the Pinal region and Ak-Chin community and maintain the \$200,000.00 funding allocation.
  - The MHC 60 units within the Pinal region and will include the Ak-Chin care provider.

- Strategy 6 – Recruit and support early care and education home providers. The work group would like to continue to fund strategy #6 and maintain the \$355,000.00 funding allocation.
  - o The target is 60 units lawfully operating unregulated home care providers in the Pinal Region (serving four or fewer children).

**Family Support Strategy Work Group: Update, Discussion, and Possible Approval of Strategy Modification**

Chair Mezzio recognized Ms. Kempton-Sarosi for a Family Support Strategy Work Group update, discussion, and possible approval of strategy modification. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the SFY2010 prioritized needs and the SFY2011 prioritized needs. The work group has identified a new need for SFY2011:

- Families are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to provide nutritional requirements for their children’s success.

Additionally, Ms. Kempton-Sarosi Family Support reviewed the strategies for SFY2011:

- Home Visitation – Strategy #7 – the work group would like to fund the Home Visitation Strategy and continue to allocate \$500,000.00.
- Family Support Coordination – Strategy #8 – the work group would like to recommend the redevelopment of this strategy. This strategy would allow a parent to have access to regional and statewide resources and would utilize the “four focus areas” (family support, early learning, early intervention, and health). The work group would like to propose that one agency provide this service, target the Universal Child, and that all Pinal grantees contribute to the family resource center.

A motion was made by Member Powell to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to place Strategy #8 on hold to be rewritten with a re-approval at a later date, seconded by Member Gerkey. Motion carried.

Member Powell	Yes	Member Russell	Abstain
Member Hernandez	Yes	Member O’Neil	Abstain
Member Gerkey	Yes		
Member Kyle	Yes		
Member Manuel	Yes		
Chair Mezzio	Yes		

6 in favor and 2 abstain.

- Emergency Food Strategy – the work group would like to fund the Emergency Food Strategy and continue to allocate \$242,884.00 (a combination of the State Funding Allocation \$25,384.00 and Regional Allocation \$217,500.00).
  - o This strategy is intended for 400 Pinal Families with children ages birth through the age of five.
- Early Literacy Strategy – the work group would like to fund/implement a literacy strategy for the Pinal Region. This strategy would have two components health based and community-based. The awarded agency would provide training, resources, and volunteer services. Components of this strategy would include:
  - o Health Based: Reach out and Read. The work group would like to add Reach Out and Read as a component to the Literacy Strategy and the allocation is to be determined. The health-based component would possibly be released as a contract amendment to the State program.

- Community Based Literacy Model: families through community-based using a nationally known model and the allocation is to be determined.

#### **Professional Development Strategy Work Group: Update and Discussion**

Chair Mezzio recognized Member O'Neil for a Professional Development Strategy Work Group update and discussion. Member O'Neil reviewed the SFY2010 prioritized needs and the SFY2011 prioritized needs. The work group has identified needs for SFY2011:

- Lack of access of quality professional development that articulates to college credits/higher quality/level of knowledge (CEU's)
- Lack of articulation between higher learning entities (college – college, college – university)

Additionally, Member O'Neil reviewed the Professional Development strategies for SFY2011:

- **Strategy 9A** – Increase the number of tuition-based college course scholarships – PCPP.
  - The work group would like to continue to fund Strategy 9A (PCPP scholarships) and increase the number of scholarships provided SFY2011 from 40 to 60 scholarships.
- **Strategy 9B** – Increase the number of tuition-based college course scholarships – CDA.
  - The work group would like to continue to fund Strategy 9B (CDA applications) and increase the number of applications provided in SFY2011 from 40 to 60 applications.
- **Strategy 10** – Expand and enhance existing community based early care and education training and support for professional development.
  - The work group would like to continue to fund Strategy 10 and continue to allocate \$250,000.00 for SFY2011.
- **Strategy 11** – Implement a salary incentive program to increase wages and retain the early care and education workforce.
  - The work group would like to increase Strategy 11 funding for SFY2011 from \$50,000.00 to 150,000.00 (an increase of \$100,000.00).
- **Strategy 12** – Coordinate and implement a regional scholarship system to recruit new professionals to the early child care workforce.
  - The work group would like to continue to fund Strategy 12 and continue to allocate \$75,000.00 for SFY2011.

#### **Discussion and Possible Approval of FY2010 Regional Allocation for Regional Needs and Assets Report**

Chair Mezzio recognized Ms. Kempton-Sarosi for a discussion and possible approval of the SFY2010 Regional Allocation for Regional Needs and Assets Report. The goal of the work session was to review, discuss, and provide a recommendation to the Regional Council on adding additional deliverables to the basic Needs and Assets Report and allocation additional dollars. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the Needs and Assets Work Session recommendations with the Regional Council Members:

- Secondary Data Collection – 6 additional areas. The work session members identified the need for an additional estimated 20 hours of secondary data collection for the 2010 Needs and Assets Report. The estimated cost for the additional 20 hours (1 area under Family Support and 5 areas under Health) is \$3,000.00.

- Primary Data Collection – 12 community assets interviews. The work session members identified the need for an additional estimated 35 hours of primary data collection for the 2010 Needs and Assets Report. The estimated cost for the additional 35 hours is \$5,250.00.
  - o The 12 community assets interviews will take place in the following communities in the Pinal Region: Ak-Chin, Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Florence, Mammoth/San Manuel, Maricopa, Oracle, San Tan Valley, Stanfield, and Superior
- Ms. Kempton-Sarosi also reviewed that Integration and Analysis of additional Deliverable Activities will need an additional estimated 30 hours at an estimated cost of \$4,500.00. As well as the review and editing of the Needs and Assets report with Regional Council at an additional estimated 10 hours at an estimated cost of \$1,500.00.
- The total additional estimated hours equals 95 hours at an estimated cost of \$14,250.00.

A motion was made by Member O’Neil to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to add 20 hours to collection region-specific surveys or reports, which include the 5 focus areas under Health and one focus are under Family Support and allocate \$3,000.00 based on the estimate of \$150 an hour, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

Member Russell	Yes	Member Powell	Yes
Member O’Neil	Yes	Member Hernandez	Yes
Member Gerkey	Yes	Member Kyle	Yes
Member Manuel	Yes	Chair Mezzio	Yes

A motion was made by Member O’Neil to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to add 35 hours to collecting primary data that is region specific, which includes surveys, focus groups, and/or phone interviews and allocate \$5,250.00 based on the estimate of \$150 an hour, seconded by Member Russell. Motion carried.

Member Russell	Yes	Member Powel	Yes
Member O’Neil	Yes	Member Hernandez	Did not vote
Member Gerkey	Yes	Member Kyle	Yes
Member Manuel	Yes	Chair Mezzio	Yes

A motion was made by Member O’Neil to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to add 40 hours to the analysis and report editing of additional region specific data, which includes the six additional areas under secondary data and the twelve community assets interviews under primary data collection and allocate \$6,000.00 based on the estimate of \$150 an hour, seconded by Member Kyle. Motion carried.

Member Russell	Yes	Member Powell	Yes
Member O’Neil	Yes	Member Hernandez	Yes
Member Gerkey	Yes	Member Kyle	Yes
Member Manuel	Yes	Chair Mezzio	Yes

A motion was made by Member O’Neil to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to place the remaining \$35,750.00 Needs and Assets allocation to the Carry Forward Category for FY2010, seconded by Member Russell. Motion carried.

Member Russell	Yes	Member Powell	Yes
Member O’Neil	Yes	Member Hernandez	Yes
Member Gerkey	Yes	Member Kyle	Yes
Member Manuel	Yes	Chair Mezzio	Yes

**Discussion and Possible Approval of FY2010 Regional Allocation for Evaluation**

Chair Mezzio recognized Ms. Kempton-Sarosi for a discussion and possible approval of SFY2010 Regional Allocation for Evaluation. The goal of the work session was to review, discuss, and provide a recommendation to the Regional Council on adding additional regional allocation into the First Things First Evaluation Study/Surveys. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the Pinal Regional Partnership Evaluation sheet. The First Things First State Board is providing the following Evaluation Study/Surveys:

- St. Luke’s Arizona Health Study
- Child Care Study
- Quality of Care Study
- Family and Community Survey
- Parent Kit and Resources Distribution Study
- Mapping of Community Assets
- Children’s Budget

Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the work session recommendations with the Council Members:

- The Pinal Regional Partnership Council removed \$200,000.00 allocated for the regional evaluation and transferred these funds to the expedited emergency food strategy at the February 27, 2009 Council Meeting.
- The work session group members would like to recommend to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council to not allocate additional dollars towards the First Things First Evaluation Study/Surveys.

**First Things First Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting Update**

Chair Mezzio gave an overview of the Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting which was held on Thursday, September 10, 2009. The Chairs and Vice Chairs were provided information on the Regional Council Survey and 35% of the surveys were returned from the Central East Regional Chairs and Vice Chairs. Additionally, system building and communication was addressed at the meeting regarding the obstacles of communication between the First Things First Board and the Regional Council Chairs and Vice Chairs. The First Things First Board expressed the following recommendations:

- Phone Conference
- Website
- First Things First Board Member represented in the Regional Council areas

Chair Mezzio would like to discuss with the Regional Council Members prior to the subsequent Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting to address any communication barriers.

**Regional Coordinator's Report**

Chair Mezzio recognized Ms. Kempton-Sarosi for the Regional Coordinator's Report. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the following topics:

- Grantee Orientation, October 16, 2009 – Apache Junction Library. Council Members are welcome to attend the Grantee Orientation Meeting.
- Recruitment – Member Kyle is now in the School Administrator position and the At Large position is currently vacant.
- Council Terms – 5 Council 2 year terms are coming to a close. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi will contact each Council Member to review interest in reapplying. The 2 year terms that are currently coming to a close in June 2010 will turn into 4 year terms after a Member is chosen by the First Things First State Board.

**Call to the Public**

One call to the public was submitted to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council.

Sarah Launius presented to the Regional Council and the topic of remarks was: updates on Reach Out and Read Southern Arizona activities in the Pinal region.

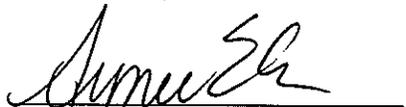
**Next Meeting – TBD November, 2009**

The next Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting will be held in November, 2009 and the location is to be determined. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi will send a meeting notice to the Regional Council requesting a date for the next Council Meeting.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Member Gerkey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Powell. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:18 PM. Motion carried.

Submitted By:



Aimee Kempton-Sarosi  
Regional Coordinator  
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Approved By:



Barbara Mezzio  
Chair, Pinal Regional Partnership Council

