



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Yuma Regional Partnership Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Yuma Regional Partnership Council was held on October 16, 2014, 4:30 p.m. at the Harvest Preparatory Academy, 350 E. 18th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Darren Hawkins
Vice Chair Irene Garza
Member Janell F. Johnson
Member Judy Watkinson
Member Mary Beth Turner
Member Dr. Mario Ybarra (joined at 4:45 p.m.)
Member Pilar Moreno
Member Ricardo Perez

Members Absent:

Member Gloria Cisneros
Member Kim Fanning
Member Rebecca Ramirez

Conflict of Interest

None declared at this time.

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the September 18, 2014, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting, September 24, 2014 and October 6, 2014 special meeting.

A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Turner. Motion carried.

Statewide Update

First Things First Chief Regional Officer, Michelle Katona, addressed the Regional Council and provided a brief update on First Things First. Ms. Katona stated the Board visit scheduled last month was cancelled and is rescheduled to be held sometime in April 2015 in Yuma, AZ. Items included in the update are: upcoming tour visit to Regional Councils by Chief Executive Officer, Sam Leyvas., focus on government relations and public private partnerships, leverage of Regional Councils/members in interfacing/interacting particularly with state legislature and other public officials/public entities. Ms. Katona further stated ongoing efforts continue in exploring opportunities/avenues regarding federal grants and or partnering/engaging with other organizations and are currently focused on ways to partner with individual private business and philanthropic organizations. Other items included in the update

were: Strategic Planning process, decline of tobacco revenue and the fiscal policy, resetting of SFY2016 budget resulting in lower allocations for Regional Councils, college scholarships, and care coordination.

Family Support Update

Family Support and Literacy Sr. Director, Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, provided an update on statewide family support and literacy efforts particularly in addressing “word gap” at a national, statewide and local level. The national organization Zero to Three has developed a web portal, Beyond the Word Gap, where parents and providers have access to help/encourage and increase the amount of language spoken and helping parents and providers understand that from “birth – five learning experiences are happening all the time” and to capitalizing on those learning experiences. Dr. Samuel provided insight at a statewide level on the Continuum of Effective Practices (First Things First partnership with Read On Arizona and Arizona Department of Education-ADE.) The Continuum of Effective Practices Committee began in early 2013 recognizing that it was necessary to develop a prenatal to grade three reading continuum to help parents and practitioners understand the literacy milestones and best overall practices by age. The Continuum of Effective Practices will be released throughout ADE, First Things First and all Read On Arizona partners. It will be available in Spanish and English and can be found on the First Things First and ADE website. The goal is to have one consistent message that all partners can use around early literacy and ensuring that those best practices are infused with everyone who plays a role in the caring/education of our young children. All FY2016 Family Support Strategies/grant application released will include the Continuum of Effective Practices component.

Regional Council Special Meeting Update

Regional Director Rudy J. Ortiz reiterated the strategic planning process and discussions from the September 24, 2014 and October 6, 2014 special meeting that enabled/guided the Regional Council in prioritizing strategies/needs for FY2016. The Regional Council will convene one more time to discuss the funding plan either by a special meeting or workgroup prior to the November 20, 2014 meeting at which time a final draft of the Funding Plan will be up for consideration by the Regional Council.

Regional Director’s Report

- a. Champion for Young Children Award: Nominations are now open. Final award to be announced at the November 20, 2014 Yuma Regional Partnership Council meeting
- b. Early Childhood System Collaboration meeting: November 3, 2014, Yuma Main Library

Call to the Public

Albie Abrahams, Smart Support Program Director, provided the summary of evaluation findings for the program.

Announcements

Service award and recognition were given to Member Moreno and Member Perez for their commitment and contribution in the Yuma Regional Partnership Council. The Regional Council acknowledged and congratulated Sr. Director Gary P. Arnold on his retirement. Director Arnold’s retirement comes after twenty five years of state service and outstanding leadership and service to the children of Arizona. Annual canned food drive, November 20, 2014, Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on November 20, 2014, 4:30 p.m., Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church, 150 W. 28th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:


Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant II

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren C. Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Rev. Dr. Darren C. Hawkins, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

November 20th, 2014