



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 17, 2013, 4:30 p.m. at the Harvest Preparatory Academy, 350 E. 18th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

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

Members Present:

Vice Chair Irene Garza
Member Laurie Gail Senko
Member Judy Watkinson
Member Kim Fanning
Member Mary Beth Turner
Member Dr. Mario Ybarra
Member Ricardo Perez

Members Present Via Conference Call:

Member Pilar Moreno

Members Absent:

Chair Darren Hawkins
Member Gloria Cisneros
Member Rebecca Ramirez

Conflict of Interest

Vice Chair Garza provided the Regional Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. There were no conflicts declared at this time.

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the September 19, 2013, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Turner, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Discussion on FY2015 Allocation

Regional Director Rudy Ortiz provided a brief review of the FY2015 allocations. The allocation includes additional funds which are projected to be unexpended in FY2014. These funds equal 10% of the allotted dollars in FY 2014. This will allow regions to utilize these funds in planning for FY 2015.

Discussion on School Readiness Benchmarks

First Things First Evaluation Consultant, Amy Kemp, engaged the Regional Council on a discussion regarding the School Readiness Benchmarks. Indicator #3: #/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars and the process/source used to collect the data was the main focus of the discussion. The intent of the indicator is to increase the number of children with special needs/rights who enroll in a high quality inclusive regulated early learning program. Ms. Kemp provided a review of the Quality First Star Rating System.

A motion was made by Member Turner to approve the preliminary benchmarks for Indicator #3 at 75%, (percentage of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars), seconded by Member Fanning, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Discussion on 2014 Needs and Assets Report

Regional Director Rudy J. Ortiz provided a brief report on the status of the 2014 Needs and Assets Report. University of Arizona Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, the assigned vendor to collect the data for the report, will conduct key informant interviews to collect data necessary as required by the Regional Council. The key informants chosen will provide feedback on the area of Early Learning, Health and Family Support.

Discussion on Yuma Community Food Bank Food Vouchers

The Regional Council engaged in a discussion on the food vouchers and food backpacks provided by the Yuma Community Food Bank through First Things First Funding.

A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve an additional \$12,900 to the Food Security Strategy, adding a minimum of 516 vouchers to SFY14 (total of 1,266), seconded by Member Moreno, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Presentation by Arizona Department of Education

Early Childhood Program Specialist of Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Alison Keough, shared a brief update on the current accomplishments and trainings by ADE in the region.

Presentation by Western Arizona Council of Governments

Deb Hanney, Head Start Director of Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG), shared information literature on the agencies primary focus/goals and intent. WACOG collaborates with other agencies in the region that assist in providing services for families in the community.

Debrief on Chair/Vice Chair Forum

The Chair/Vice Chair Forum was held on October 10, Phoenix, AZ. Topics of discussion at the forum included but were not limited to: the FY 2015 allocations to regional councils by the state board, funding plan, budgets, public and private partnerships and the council surveys.

Regional Director's Report

- 1) System Building:
 - Outcomes of the Family Support/Home Visitation Collaboration October 8 meeting on. Overcoming barriers/making impact in the community.
 - Health/Community of Practice-Statewide Grant SFY14.
- 2) Grantee Update:
 - Celebration of Quality First 3 star centers at the November 21, 2013 Regional Council Meeting.
 - Resource Guide: in the final stages. Official copy will be available in December 2013.

Update on Community Outreach Plan-Engaging Business Community

At a previous meeting the Community Outreach Plan workgroup identified tools/resources and messages that will assist in reaching out to the business community. Items identified will be collected a draft will be created and provided to Council Member Perez for review.

Debrief on Desert Mesa Site Tour

Nena Garcia, Community Outreach Coordinator shared a brief update on the Desert Mesa Site Tour, held on September 24, 2013.

Call to the Public

There was no response to the Call to the Public at this time.

Announcements

None at this time.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on November 21,, 2013, 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 6:50 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:



Irene Garza, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Vice Chair

November 21st, 2013