



# 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 18, 2012, 4:30 p.m. at the Harvest Preparatory Academy, 350 E. 18<sup>th</sup> 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  
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra  
Council Member Judy Watkinson  
Council Member Mary Beth Turner  
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez  
Council Member Ricardo Perez  
Council Member Kim Fanning

### Members Absent:

Council Member Gloria Cisneros  
Council Member Laurie Gail Senko  
Council Member Pilar Moreno

### Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the September 20, 2012, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Ybarra and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

### Conflict of Interest

Chair Hawkins provided the Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. None declared at this time.

#### **Review and Discussion on First Things First Benchmarks**

Regional Director Rudy J. Ortiz engaged the Regional Council in a discussion on the benchmarks for the School Readiness Indicators. The presentation included a brief overview from the information presented from the past Chair and Vice Chair meeting. One area of discussion was the enhancement/expansion of certain strategies to include the BMI (Body Mass Index) indicator. The Regional Council felt it was important to collect the data for this indicator. A primary source to compile the data for BMI will be through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program.

#### **Review and Discussion on FY2014 Yuma Funding Allocation**

Tobacco Revenue has increased above projection for FY2012. Regional Director Ortiz stated projection for the tobacco revenue was approximately above \$1.7 million and a breakdown of the statewide First Things First balance was provided to the Regional Council. Regional Director Ortiz and Sr. Director Arnold reviewed the FY2014 Funding Allocation and it was stated the total allocation for the Yuma region was \$8,205,834, which includes \$3,180,035 in carry-forward dollars.

#### **Review and Discussion on FY2014 Financial Report**

A brief update of the three year funding plan was provided by Regional Director Ortiz. The update included monies allotted, awarded, expended as well as the proposed allotment for FY2014 and FY2015.

#### **Review and Discussion on FY2014 Funding Plan Workgroup Recommendations**

The Regional Council reviewed the recommendations provided by the Yuma Funding Plan Workgroup. It was the consensus of the Regional Council to continue with the strategic direction of the funding plan and enhancing strategies/programs where appropriate. Community Based Training, Parent Education Community Based Training, Quality First and TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) are some areas that may benefit from enhancements. Alignment of the School Readiness Indicators with the strategies was of importance to the Regional Council. A draft of the funding plan will be reviewed for approval by the Regional Council at the November 2013 meeting before going to the State Board for final approval at the January 2013 board meeting.

#### **Presentation by Association for Supportive Child Care on Arizona Kith and Kin Program**

Sarah O'campo-Schlesinger, Program Coordinator, and Rosy Taylor, Program Specialist shared a powerpoint presentation which included the purpose, goals and accomplishments and outcomes of the program. Ms. O'Campo-Schlesinger stated the program has a high participation rate.

#### **Regional Director's Report**

- A. Community Based Training – Government to Government Agreement process. SOW (Scopes of Work) in progress.
- B. Parent Kits – Plan is to be available at all library branches.
- C. Food Bank – FTF (First Things First) staff met with staff from the Yuma Community Food Bank. FTF offered assistance in assisting to help raise awareness and or help make the food boxes available to the community.
- D. TEACH – discussion of pilot programming. Ensuring TEACH scholarships are readily available to applicants.
- E. Therapist – At a prior meeting the Regional Council approved the amendment to the Recruitment of Therapist-Stipends/Loan. Final formalities are in progress by the First Things First Financial Department for this strategy. The proposed/amended changes will be up for approval by the State Board at the December 2012 meeting.

**Call to the Public**

Elizabeth O'Rourke, Food Bank Customer Service Coordinator reported the ongoing efforts to make food boxes and or services available to the Yuma community including San Luis and Somerton area. Ms. O'Rourke welcomed any suggestions that will help create/increase awareness of the services. Approximately 285 vouchers were distributed in Yuma.

**Community Outreach Update**

Regional Director, Rudy J. Ortiz reported ongoing collaboration between Community Outreach Coordinator, Nena Garcia and various grantee agencies . The intent is to provide tools on how agencies/grantees can best provide the core message of First Things First within the media channels in Yuma.

**Announcements**

A walk thru tour is scheduled at the Tuscan Children's Clinic, Yuma, Arizona, Wednesday, October 24, 2012, 1:00 p.m. The tour is sponsored by Reach Out and Read of Arizona.

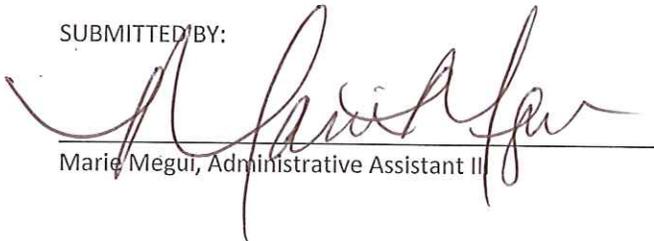
**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled for November 15, 2012, 4:30 p.m., Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church, 150 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Yuma Arizona 85364.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

  
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Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant II

APPROVED BY:

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

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November 15, 2012