



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

### La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

#### Meeting Minutes

##### Call to Order and Introductions

The regular meeting of the First Things First – La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held **September 24, 2009** at 9:00 a.m. at the Lake Havasu Unified School District at 2200 Havasupai Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403.

Chairman Allsbrooks called the meeting to order at 9:05a.m. Chairman Allsbrooks introduced new member Terri Holloway. Guests were invited to introduce themselves.

##### Members present:

William Allsbrooks, Terri Holloway, Nancy Mongeau, Riley Frei, Debra Weger, Vijette Saari, Jose Garcia, Melissa Howell, Lenore Knudtson, Betsy Lewis

##### Members absent:

Alisa Burroughs

##### Approval of Agenda

Member Mongeau made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Garcia. The motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

##### Call to the Public

Ashley Pascual, Hualapai/Cocopah Regional Coordinator, and Merritt Beckett, La Paz/Mohave Regional Coordinator, presented Della Gray with a one-year anniversary pin and certificate of appreciation.

##### Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the minutes of the August 27th, 2009 Council Meeting. Member Frei made a motion to approve the minutes on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Holloway. The motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

##### Address Potential Conflicts of Interest Regarding Items on this Agenda

No Council Members declared a conflict of interest regarding any item on the agenda.

##### T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arizona Overview and Update

Dawn Henry, T.E.A.C.H Assistant Program Coordinator, updated the Regional Partnership Council on the 40 scholarships available in the La Paz/Mohave region. Regional Partnership Council funding was released on August 31, 2009. They have provided outreach to the community by sending letters, conducting Information Sessions and contacting 110 programs via phone. Currently there are 18 candidates from the region that have applied for T.E.A.C.H. scholarships. With the help of Mohave Community College and Peggy

Federicci, it is anticipated that all T.E.A.C.H. slots in the region can be filled by the Spring semester. Currently the Association for Supportive Child Care is in the process of hiring additional program specialists, one of which will be located in the Lake Havasu area.

Chairman Allsbrooks expressed concern at the lack of applications from the region and asked what happens if the monies allocated to T.E.A.C.H. scholarships are not expended.

Coordinator Beckett answered any unused funds from this year will be carried over to next year's Funding Plan and the Regional Council can later determine if it is necessary to change the amount of funding allocated to the strategy.

**Review and Discuss Statewide Health Strategies**

Dr. Judy Walfruff, FTF Senior Policy Specialist, gave an overview and update on the status of the Statewide Health Strategies, including Workforce Support and Readiness, Child Care Health Consultation, and Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultation. Regional Councils may decide to use regional funding to buy-in to these statewide strategies.

**Discussion and Possible Action on SFY 2010 Funding Plan**

Coordinator Beckett provided an overview of funds remaining in the SFY 2010 Funding Plan and presented options for the Regional Council to discuss. Access to Early Care and Education has \$300,000 and Preventive Health has \$263,362 remaining. Additionally \$12,906 remains from the Frontier Adjustment.

Member Howell moved to allocate \$150,000 to fund 5 additional Quality First slots; \$300,000 to expand Pre-Kindergarten programs; \$120,000 to fund 1 FTE Child Care Health Consultant for our region only; and to move \$100,000 from Tuition Reimbursements under the Infant Toddler Mental Health Strategy to Specialized Training in Infant and Toddler Mental Health for Court Teams. The motion was seconded by Member Mongeau. The motion carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

**Member Recognition**

Chairman Allsbrooks recognized Member Howell with a one year pin and certificate of service to the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council.

**Discussion of SFY 2011 Strategic Direction and Funding Plan Workgroup Recommendations**

Coordinator Beckett reviewed the pyramid and oval early childhood system models with the Regional Council, plotted the current strategies on each of the two models and asked the Regional Council to discuss the following questions:

1. Is this what we intended?
2. How do the collective strategies within each goal area build on each other to create a service delivery network?
3. How do our combined strategies work together to achieve the desired outcomes, compliment what exists in the region and have a system impact?
4. What coordination and collaborative efforts are critical to achieve the desired outcomes?

Chairman Allsbrooks stated his disappointment in the lack of applications for the T.E.A.C.H. program. He suggested reducing funds for T.E.A.C.H. scholarships next year so as not to tie up money that might be available to use in other programs.

Member Holloway asked if the lack of participation was due to not having a T.E.A.C.H. contract in place with Mohave Community College (MCC) when the applications first became available.

Coordinator Beckett stated that there are a number of barriers (such as the required sponsor contributions) that are being addressed with further outreach to center directors and that there is strong support at MCC to increase the ECE course offerings next semester to utilize T.E.A.C.H. scholarships.

Coordinator Beckett reviewed the recommendations from the Funding Plan Workgroup and asked for feedback from the Council in order to prepare the SFY 2011 Funding Plan for review and discussion at the next Council Meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Inclusion of the New Attendance Policy into the Regional Governance Policy**

Coordinator Beckett advised the Council that the State Board had approved a Regional Council Member Attendance Policy and that in order to be consistent throughout the regions the State Board is asking Regional Councils to adopt the statewide policy.

Chairman Allsbrooks stated the Board-approved attendance policy is too lenient.

Vice-Chair Knudtson stated the La Paz/Mohave attendance policy exceeds the standard of the State Board policy.

Chairman Allsbrooks called for a motion and hearing none continued to the next item on the agenda.

**Coordinator Report and Possible Discussion**

Coordinator Beckett notified the Council that the State Board had approved their Preventive Health recommendations and that the two funded grantees would begin services October 1, 2009. Coordinator Beckett reviewed the results from the Council Member Survey s and a memo clarifying the number of votes needed to pass a motion.

**Set Nov./Dec. 2009 and Jan. – Dec. 2010 Meeting Dates and Locations**

This item will be included for discussion at the next Council Meeting.

**Adjourn**

Vice Chair Knudtson made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Member Mongeau. Motion to adjourn carried with a unanimous vote by the members present.

There being no further business, Chairman Allsbrooks adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes **NOT** approved

**SUBMITTED BY:**

---

**Della Gray, Administrative Assistant**

**Approved by:**

---

**Williams Allsbrooks, Chair**