



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Welcome/Introduction of Guests

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on October 24, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Havasu Unified School District Board Room, 2200 Havasupai Boulevard, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403.

Vice Chair Frei called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present

Alisa Burroughs, Riley Frei, Terri Holloway, Catie Sondrol, Debra Weger and Howard Weiske. Vijette Saari participated telephonically.

Members Absent

Jose Garcia, Betsy Lewis, Nancy Mongeau, and Lenore Knudtson.

Call to the Public

Alison Keough, Mentor with the Arizona Department of Education and Alma Quintana, Co-Partner provided an update on the work they are doing with the La Paz/Mohave pre-kindergarten scholarship programs. Tonight there will be a meeting in Lake Havasu City to explain the new kindergarten readiness framework, with additional meetings around the state, including one in Parker next week. Vice Chair Frei requested that the coaches be invited to provide an update at a future council meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Holloway made a motion to approve the September 26, 2013 meeting minutes. Member Sondrol seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Discuss SFY 2015 Funding Plan

Regional Director Merritt Beckett reviewed the SFY 2015 regional allocations and the SFY 2015 funding plan recommendations, highlighting the SFY 2013 statewide fund balance of \$421,500,000. The statewide regional fund balance declined in SFY 2013 for the first time – which is a major milestone – and the State Board implemented a new policy which allows regional councils to assume for planning purposes that 10% of funds allocated in the current fiscal year will carry-forward in to the next fiscal year. Senior Director Gary Arnold explained that the council could use this 10% supplemental carry-forward in planning rather than having to wait until the end of the fiscal year for accounts to be reconciled. Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2015 funding plan recommendations and explaining that Quality First allotments will be listed differently beginning in SFY 2014. The recommendation is to approve the proposed allotments to fund the continuing strategies for SFY 2015, and approve an increase in the Child Care Health Consultation strategy to support the higher cost of transportation. There was some discussion about using unallotted funds for transportation; however, it could potentially put the region in a deficit position for SFY 2015. Member Weiske made a motion to approve the funding plan recommendations as presented. Member Burroughs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Discuss 2014 Needs and Assets Report

DeeDee Avery, MS, MPH from the University of Arizona Norton Team of Family Consumer Sciences gave a project overview and explained the roles of the various team members. Ms. Avery focused on the goals of additional work, and described the primary data collection methods. A review of the phone-based child care survey produced several suggestions for modification, including the addition of questions to find out whether transportation is provided and/or is an issue/barrier, and whether providers have the

ability to serve children with special needs. Ms. Avery explained the objective of the key informant and web-based interviews, and how the categories are broken down. A review of the proposed key informants list resulted in several updates, and Director Beckett requested that any other changes be sent to her. Once the final list is compiled, an email will be sent to the key informants that includes the draft letter from the chair and a condensed survey. Ms. Avery reviewed the draft of the phone-based interview, and anticipates it will take about 45 minutes to complete. Several suggestions were made to help clarify questions for the interviewees. The web-based health care provider survey will only be used to fill in gaps after other methods are used. The council will receive briefs once the surveys are completed and the results will be integrated into the base needs and assets report. Additional suggestions for change may be emailed to Director Beckett.

Community Outreach Report

Erin Taylor, Outreach Coordinator reviewed the October Community Outreach report, noting that Members Sondrol and Weger attended the preschool expo on September 21. There were quite a few events with really great attendance, as well as quite a few media hits. The Topock success story was included in the First Things First Annual Report, and Director Beckett read to preschool students as part of the Love of Literacy event at the local Head Start. Coordinator Taylor mentioned several upcoming opportunities, including the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Cultural Awareness Conference November 5 and 6, and the grantee coordination meeting on November 12.

Possible Approval of Meeting Dates and Locations for 2014

Member Weiske made a motion to approve the proposed meeting calendar for 2014. Member Holloway seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation on Quality First Child Care Scholarships

Jill Thompson, Project Director, Valley of the Sun United Way explained the child care scholarships are a benefit for all Quality First providers. The basic goal is to use all the funds and provide scholarships to the maximum number of families in the most efficient way possible. Parent inquiries total about 1,600 calls per week, and about 400 emails. In September of 2013, 317 children were receiving scholarships in the La Paz/Mohave Region. Pita Wolford, Project Manager, explained the scholarship requirements.

Regional Director's Report

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 Financial Report which includes the first quarter of this fiscal year, and noted that expenditures are as expected. She noted that Maggie Wilcox will start next week as the new Child Care Health Consultant. The next coordination meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, 2013 in Mohave Valley. It is open to anyone who works with children. First Things First submitted a Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant application. Arizona is eligible for \$52,500,000 over a 4 year period. Sixteen states and Washington, DC submitted applications, and the recipients will be announced December 31. Director Beckett submitted another Delta Dental application for a \$25,000 per year for 3 years, and if awarded it would enable the Child Care Health Consultant position to be full time. Recipients will be announced in February 2014.

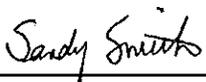
Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the Mohave Valley Elementary School located at 1419 Willow Street in Mohave Valley, Arizona 86440.

Adjourn

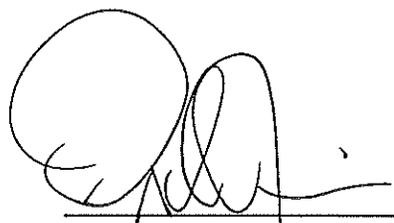
Member Holloway made a motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. Member Weiske seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:



Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:



Riley Frei, Vice Chair