



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD SOUTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The special meeting of the First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on October 25, 2010 in the Palo Verde Room at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, 4341 East Broadway Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85040. Chair Robert Donofrio called the special meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance: Dr. Patricia Merk, Educator; Dr. Robert Donofrio, Chair; Mary Thomson, Philanthropy; Jasmine Sanchez, Parent; Riann Balch, Child Care Provider; James Washington, Vice Chair; and Dr. Eva Marie Shivers, At Large Member.

Members Not in Attendance: Dr. Ida Rose Florez, At Large Member; Reverend Charles Newman, Faith Based Member.

Member Present By Phone: Christy Langley-Wells, School Administrator

Quorum: Established.

Guests in Attendance: None

Staff in Attendance: Jonathon Gonzales, Regional Coordinator; Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant, and Tracey Craig, Regional Manager.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Member Dr. Merk moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2010, second by Member Mary Thomson, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

3. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None.

Chair Donofrio advised that he received a letter from the Board Chair, Steve Lynn requesting that Dr. Donofrio serve on the Finance Committee for the Board. Chair Donofrio informed the Council that he accepted the offer.

Chair Donofrio brought up during this meeting that the Council is in need of a spider phone or some communication tool for those Council Members that are unable to attend in person.

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CRISIS PREVENTION STRATEGY:** Coordinator Gonzales gave the Council a brief overview of the crisis prevention strategy, and the work that has been done by Jonathon and Dr. Shivers on the Standards of Practice. Jonathon would like the Council to consider approving this strategy so that it may go directly to the State Board accompanied by a letter from Chair Donofrio for approval. Jonathon and Dr. Shivers will continue to fine tune this strategy and finalize it. Coordinator Gonzales advised the Council of two components that will be targeted with this strategy:

1. Children in foster care placement. There are currently an estimated four hundred (400) children in foster care from the South Phoenix Region.

2. Families transitioning from homes to shelters due to foreclosures. Dr. Shivers is concerned that a number of the shelters have closed in the South Phoenix Region, and the open homeless shelters may not be serving young children and their families. If this is the case, where are the South Phoenix children going?

Brainstorming:

A Crisis Mobile Team to visit shelters in South Phoenix and help with providing therapeutic intervention services. Also discussed were physical and emotional coping strategies. A model was found, "kids on the block" which is playing with puppets. There is nothing really for ages 0-5 as a model. Member Thomson suggested that the Council contact the open shelters in the South Phoenix Region for their input. The question arose of what is a homeless shelter? Coordinator Gonzales responded with, "anyone without a permanent residence."

Coordinator Gonzales advised the Council that the crisis prevention strategy was a placeholder and the Council can increase the amount if they so choose.

Member Balch raised a logistical question of who will house the proposed mobile team. Coordinator Gonzales reminded the Council of the Scope of Work and the Standards of Practice components that are worked on by leadership and encouraged the Council to join the work group as long as they do not have a conflict of interest.

Dr. Shivers mentioned the National Center on Emotional Health, Early Childhood Mental Health Social Emotional Development and Challenging Behaviors which is developing age appropriate kits. The Council would like to see parents of children participate in any social/emotional sessions available.

Chair Donofrio asked when the Council will go through each of the fourteen (14) strategies and allocate funds to them. Coordinator Gonzales advised that this will take place at the November 16, 2010 meeting, and that the Oral Health Strategy that was approved at the October 19, 2010 meeting, and the Crisis Prevention Strategy currently up for consideration were just a few remaining strategies needing implementation.

Motion: Vice Chair James Washington moved the allocation of five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000.00) to the Crisis Prevention Strategy. Three hundred fifty thousand (\$350,000.00) to the Homeless Action Team, and two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) to Court Teams, second by Member Riann Balch, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

Motion: Dr. Shivers moved to add Member Riann Balch and Member Jasmine Sanchez to the Crisis Prevention Committee, second by Vice Chair Washington, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

5. FUNDING PLAN DISCUSSION: Provided in Council packets for review was a summary sheet that provided an overview of the needs in goal areas based on Council discussion at the October 8, 2010 meeting, and the needs and assets report. Coordinator Gonzales walked the Council through the matrix.

Comments/Discussion

Family Support: Family Resources Centers: The Council would like to see the following:

- The Council would like to beef up Family Resource Centers and have travel built into the strategy.
- See the programs funded by the Council have commonalities that help families.
- Collaborate with other Regions to see what pockets they are serving.
- See how other Family Resource Centers provide services such as childcare, literacy, and bus passes.
- Parent Education Center/Parents as the first teacher.

Chair Donofrio advised that Family Resource Centers and Parent Resource Centers are completely different.

Break: The Council took a five (5) minute break from 5:45 pm to 5:50 pm.

Health: Coordinator Gonzales informed the Council that he will participate in a health strategy workgroup meeting next Thursday as Vice Chair Washington will be out of town on business.

Care Coordination went out to Request for Grant Application (RFGA) and closed on April 14, 2010 with one response. Coordinator Gonzales informed the Council that he is currently working with Kelley Murphy, Peggy Stemmler, and Kim VanPelt to locate an administrative home for Care Coordination.

Safety/Injury Prevention: Vice Chair Washington would like the Council to look at Safety and injury prevention to include physical education and obesity. Coordinator Gonzales informed the Council that these are part of the health prevention plan.

Sensory Screening: Dr. Merk would like to see a comprehensive work plan. Pediatricians are telling Family Resource Centers to call First Things First to set up screenings. The vision equipment for young children is very expensive and the doctor's offices are unable to charge for the services. Allison Landy has a summary which Jonathon will get for Dr. Merk. Dr. Merk also mentioned that there is not a good tracking mechanism in place to account for which children have received a screening and which have not.

Dr. Donofrio mentioned that ACCCHS has been frozen and KIDS Care has been eliminated.

Professional Development: The Council would like a universal targeted approach and would like to see Reward\$ added to the South Phoenix Region. A conversation took place around the additional dollars needed to pay for incentives. Also discussed were sustainability issues and the need for a study to be done.

Regional Manager Tracey Craig and Vice Chair Washington left the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Coordinator Gonzales explained T.E.A.C.H. and Reward\$ to the Council. The Council expressed that they would like a representative from the Reward\$ Program to present at the next Council meeting.

Chair Donofrio would like to see a model to help T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient's transition from their G.E.D. to T.E.A.C.H. in order to create a viable workforce and increase the quality of the T.E.A.C.H. program. Coordinator Gonzales informed the Council that the existing contracts for statewide strategies/initiatives have minimal flexibility, and perhaps a bridge to T.E.A.C.H. program is necessary.

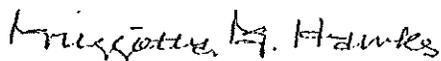
6. COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES: None

7. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 2:00 pm – 6:30 pm First New Life Missionary Church, 1902 West Roeser Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85041

8. ADJOURNMENT: Member Dr. Merk moved to adjourn the special meeting, second by Member Dr. Shivers, all in favor, no discussion, meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

APPROVED:

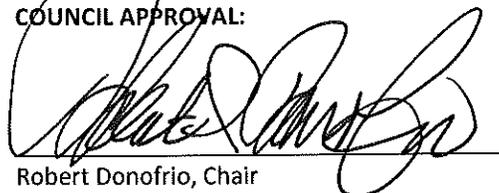


Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant



Jonathon Gonzales, Regional Coordinator

COUNCIL APPROVAL:



Robert Donofrio, Chair