



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

### Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

#### Draft Meeting Minutes

##### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on September 22, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the Mohave County Library, 3269 North Burbank, Kingman, Arizona 86409.

Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at approximately 8:35 a.m.

##### Members Present:

Steve Lynn, Rhian Evans Allvin, Nadine Mathis Basha, Dr. Pamela Powell, Dr. Eugene Thompson and Dr. Arturo Gonzalez

##### Ex-Officio Members Present:

Mary Ellen Cunningham, Brad Willis and Amy Corriveau

##### Absent:

Vivian Saunders and Hon. Cecil Patterson

##### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to approve A, B, C, D and F on the Consent Agenda and pull off Agenda Item C (iii), E, G and H for further discussion. Seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

After clarification on agenda items C (iii), E, G and H the Board made the following motions:

A motion as made by Member Evans Allvin to approve item C(iii) on the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

A motion as made by Member Thompson to approve item E on the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

A motion as made by Member Evans Allvin to approve item G on the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion approved.

A motion as made by Member Evans Allvin to approve item H on the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

**Board Member Report/Updates**

Member Corriveau gave a State Board of Education update and thanked First Things First staff for their participation with the early childhood strategy presentation.

Member Evans Allvin announced that T.E.A.C.H. received an \$80,000 grant from Boeing for early childhood teachers from the east valley and Phoenix areas.

Member Mathis Basha reported to the Board that she and Marcia Jacobson, Coordinator for the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council, spoke to the Yavapai County League of Women Voters and it was well received. Member Mathis Basha mentioned she presented to the Greater Phoenix Leadership on First Things First and the emphasis on accountability.

Chairman Lynn reported to the Board that he and Member Evans Allvin met with the Regional Partnership Council Chairs and Vice Chairs on September 10, 2009. The Council members stressed the value of open dialogue between the Board and the Councils.

Chairman Lynn thanked Merritt Beckett for putting together an amazing community event on September 21, 2009. He also thanked the Legacy Foundation and Wells Fargo for their contributions and Julie Beyer and Shirley Cunningham for providing the tour of the Kingman High School Little School Child Development Center.

Member Gonzalez reported to the Board that on November 14, 2009 he will be presenting at a forum to educate pediatricians on First Things First.

Member Cunningham reported to the Board that the child fatality report will be submitted to the governor by November 15, 2009 and can be found on the Department of Health Services web page along with the H1N1 flu update.

**Call to the Public**

Judge Richard Weiss, presiding Juvenile Court in Mohave County, thanked First Things First and is looking to partner on behalf of children and families.

Honorable Janet Watson, Vice Mayor of Kingman, thanked the Board for coming to Kingman and congratulated them on their achievements.

Reverend Pete Imus, Chair of the Hualapai Regional Partnership Council, and Lynn Bergeson, R.N., who works in the Hualapai community, updated the Board on the Regional Council's progress and the positive impact of maternal child health program in the Hualapai community.

Dr. Peggy Federici, Education Program Director, Mohave Community College, updated the Board on efforts made by Mohave Community College in early childhood education, T.E.A.C.H., American Reads, and CDA programs.

Susan Williams, Tobacco Education Program, Department of Health Services, updated the Board on the systems and infrastructure in the schools and community regarding tobacco education. Ms. Williams mentioned that Mohave County has the highest rate of tobacco use in the state.

**Regional Administration**

***Proposed Policy Change for Construction Related Funding Requests***

The Board directed staff to bring the policy back to the Board and restate the premise to highlight the expectation of quality early childhood programming in organizations affected by the policy.

Regional Council Survey Results

Elliott Hibbs, Executive Director of First Things First, reviewed with the Board the Regional Partnership Council member satisfaction survey results. Overall approximately 47% of the members responded in the areas of Council functioning, building community support, funding plans and implementation, and Board functioning.

**Evaluation Surveys and Studies**

Dr. Amy Kemp, Assistant Director of Evaluation, updated the Board on the First Things First's evaluation efforts including internal and external evaluation and additional studies plan. Dr. Kemp stated that the external evaluation is focused on measuring the outcomes of early childhood efforts through the comparison of children's outcomes over time. The internal evaluation is focused on the First Things First key measures and performance measures. Data will be gathered from grantees and partners to monitor the status of children and families directly impacted by FTF funds as well as the status in Arizona as a whole.

**Financial Report and Preliminary FY2011 Budget**

Director Hibbs presented to the Board the preliminary FY2011 budget for review and will bring it back in October for approval.

**General Discussion**

Chairman Lynn discussed with the Board the new agenda item "General Discussion". Chairman Lynn stated that the Board may engage in general discussion regarding items of possible interest as new business, regarding the agency's mission, goals, initiatives and priorities and strategies. The Board's discussion may include First Things First staff members. No official action will be taken under this agenda item; any matters deemed appropriate for future action will be placed on a future agenda for deliberation and a possible vote.

Member Cunningham requested child care centers and DHS licensing be put on a future agenda.

Member Evans Allvin requested that First Things First identify five points that can be used when talking with legislators and gubernatorial candidates to impress on them the vision for young children in Arizona.

**First Things First Policy Position Regarding Current Economic Crisis**

The Board discussed a policy position regarding the current economic crisis and the role of First Things First. The Board asked staff to draft a policy statement that reflects the original intent of the initiative.

**Executive Director Report**

Director Hibbs presented to the Board the Executive Director Report for September.

Operating Budget Report

Director Hibbs reported that for the month of August 2009 we were under budget by 5.7% and fiscal year to date 10.6% under the budgeted amount. Revenues receipts for August 2009 were \$11,013,597, nearly 20% below August 2008. The first two months of this fiscal year revenues are down over 17%.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held October 27, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chairman Lynn adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:58 a.m.