



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 23rd, 2010** at 9:00 a.m. at the Parker Public Library, located at 1001 S. Navajo Ave., Parker Arizona 85344.

Chairman Allsbrooks called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members present: William Allsbrooks, Jose Garcia, Terri Holloway, Vijette Saari, Nancy Mongeau, Riley Frei, Alisa Burroughs, Lenore Knudtson (telephonically), Betsy Lewis (telephonically) - arrived late.

Members Absent: Debra Weger and Melissa Howell

Approval of Agenda

Member Holloway made a motion to approve the day's agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Garcia. Motion passed unanimously by members present.

Conflict of Interest

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

Call to the Public

Mathew Capalby introduced himself to the Council stating he is the Northern Arizona Coordinator for the Saving First Things First "No on 302" campaign. Mr. Capalby stated they are focusing on grassroots campaigning and are dependent on supporters, such as the Council, to get the word out on the importance of First Things First (FTF). Mr. Capalby stated they are finding that most people don't understand the significance of FTF and those that do think they should vote YES to preserve FTF. The "No on 302" campaign is working to educate the public to vote NO to preserve FTF. Mr. Capalby provided the Council with a tool kit that provides talking points for speaking to groups as well as information on how to write letters to the editor and conduct outreach to friends and neighbors. Chair Allsbrooks thanked Mr. Capalby for his time and reminded the Council and others to vote NO to preserve FTF.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the minutes of August 26th, 2010. Member Mongeau made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with one correction as noted. Motion seconded by Member Holloway. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

Regional Council Member Report on the 2010 Arizona Early Childhood summit

Member Holloway gave a brief summary of the Early Childhood Summit stating there were good speakers and workshops were well presented. Member Mongeau stated that prior to the Summit, she had received feedback from Council members that administration was not addressing their concerns. Member Mongeau came away from the Summit feeling they accomplished a great deal in communicating with administration to understand those concerns and felt it was well worth the trip. Coordinator Beckett provided Council with a handout summarizing the results of the survey taken at the Summit. Coordinator Beckett stated there was general consensus among Regional Councils that there is a need for identifying priorities in order to have a measureable impact and outcomes at the statewide level. Although the Regional Councils agreed on this, they were not convinced that having the State Board direct large portions of regional funding was the best way to accomplish it.

First Read: Annual Review of Governance Policies

Coordinator Beckett stated Member Holloway volunteered to assist reviewing the Governance Policy. The following changes were recommended for the first read of the Governance Policy:

1. 1-103 Meetings of the Council. Change the number of days that packets will be sent out prior to regular meetings from ten days to seven days.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Council held discussion regarding electronic mail versus hard copy due to cost and time of mailing. Other than Member Lewis, Council Members prefer an electronic version. With the exception of Member Lewis who will continue to receive hard copies via mail, Coordinator Beckett will send packets via electronic mail to Council Members 7 days prior to Regional Council meetings and provide hard copies at the meeting. Council agreed to make the change as stated with a second read and a vote at next month's meeting.

2. 1-108 Council Officers & Their Duties. Recommendation was for Vice-Chair to *automatically* ascend to Chair person in the event Chair resigns. The current policy states Vice-Chair does not *automatically* ascend to Chair person.

Chair Allsbrooks does not agree with this change stating it is his opinion that the Vice-Chair should have a choice. Vice-Chair Knudson agrees with Chair Allsbrooks and prefers having the option of accepting the Chair position stating she would possibly be forced to resign if being made Chair was mandatory. Member Mongeau also agreed stating it's best to leave that option open due to outside obligations. Chair Allsbrooks stated the Council can strike this recommendation and continue 1-108 as previously stated. This can be notated with a second read and a vote next month. Member Mongeau suggested adopting the change to 1-103 as stated and strike the amendment to 1-108. Member Frei, Member Garcia, and Member Lewis agreed. Changes will be made as stated with a second read and a vote at next month's meeting.

Presentation on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

DJ Carpenter introduced herself to the Council and provided a brief background of her experience. Ms. Carpenter provided the Council with a summary of what *Connect to Help Circle* (C2HC) does and the services they provide. SNAP (a.k.a. Food Stamps) stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Ms. Carpenter provided a power point presentation entitled "Hunger in Arizona" and discussed myths & facts regarding SNAP and the types of items that can and cannot be purchase with the SNAP program. Ms. Carpenter stated in Arizona the Child poverty rate for 2005-2007 was 20.2%. In 2009 in Maricopa, the rate rose 31%. Ms. Carpenter stated the stigma against asking for help prevents many eligible people from applying. Ms. Carpenter advised Council about Arizona Self Help (ASH) and the assistance they provide. Discussion was held regarding changes in state policy relating to undocumented parents. DES workers must now report undocumented parents or they can be fined, face criminal charges and/or lose their jobs. In addition, SNAP benefits can be reduced for children that are born in the U.S. if their parents are undocumented. Due to this, many undocumented parents with legal citizen children will not apply for benefits. These recent policy changes affect all DES services. Chair Allsbrooks thanked Ms. Carpenter for her report.

SFY 2010 Funding Plan Development

Coordinator Beckett advised Council the 2012 funding plan is due to the State Board on January 1st. Therefore, Council must approve a fiscal year 2012 funding plan in December. Coordinator Beckett would like Council to begin work on the 2012 funding plan and think about strategic planning. Coordinator Beckett advised Council the priorities set by the Task Force that are being submitted for recommendation to the State Board on September 27th, align with the roadmap Council has already developed. This is reflected in the *Strategic Planning for SFY 2012* handout provided to the Council for review. To summarize, Coordinator Beckett advised Council they do not have any strategies that don't fall within one of the recommended priorities set by the Task Force. The Fiscal Year 2012 Funding Plan Draft will need to be approved by Council at the December 3rd Regional Council meeting or Council will need to call a special meeting. Coordinator Beckett initiated discussion on how Council would like to develop the Fiscal Year 2012 funding plan. Chair Allsbrooks stated he would like to review the latest Needs & Assets report before making decisions although he feels current funding is being dispersed appropriately. Coordinator Beckett recommended forming a workgroup to develop a draft which will be brought to the next meeting. Member Mongeau and Member Burroughs volunteered for the work group and will meet with Coordinator Beckett on the funding plan draft.

Coordinator Report and Possible Discussion

Communications Update: Coordinator Beckett stated she contacted Moses Anshell and shared Councils desire to use as much of the available funding for communications now as opposed to waiting until next spring. Coordinator Beckett provided Council with a handout outlining the use of additional funds for the fall media campaign. Della Gray, FTF Community Outreach Liaison, updated the Council on the outreach she has been conducting and the different groups and organizations she has presented to. Ms. Gray also informed the Council of future events and requested that the Council notify her if they are aware of any upcoming events she can attend to educate the public on the importance of early childhood and promote FTF. Member Frei asked if it is ok for Council Members to follow up Ms. Gray's presentations with a "NO on 302" campaign. Coordinator Beckett advised that is alright. Member Mongeau asked if Ms. Gray could make presentations in Bullhead City. Ms. Gray advised Council she can make a presentation



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

anywhere in Mohave and La Paz Counties and to any group, organization, etc., that needs to be educated regarding the work of FTF. Coordinator Beckett stated one of the biggest goals with the community outreach strategy is to recruit champions for the early childhood movement.

Legislative Update: Coordinator Beckett provided Council with information on the upcoming Town Hall meetings being held by Secretary of State, Ken Bennett. With meetings being held in Lake Havasu, Kingman, and Parker, Coordinator Beckett encouraged Council Members and stakeholders to attend as well as address the assembly and promote the work of FTF.

Upcoming Events: Check Presentation, October 7th at 9:00am, Court Team Office, 127 E. Beale Street in Kingman. Coordinator Beckett would like Council members to attend and discuss the work Council is doing in the community. Fort Mohave Tribal Council has been invited as well as elected officials who will attest to the work of FTF. The next coordination breakfast will be held in Bullhead City on October 19th at Valley View Medical Center from 7:00 – 8:00am. Invitation letters are being sent to all health professionals to raise awareness of the work grantees are doing.

Next Meeting

October 28th at 9:00a.m., Lake Havasu Unified School District, 2200 Havasupai Blvd., Board Room, Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Adjourn

Member Frei made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Member Garcia. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

There being no further business, Chairman Allsbrooks adjourned the meeting at 10:39a.m.

Minutes NOT approved

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

S. Jo Griffis, Administrative Assistant

William Allsbrooks, Chair