



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council was held on October 13, 2009 at the Graham County Health Department, 820 W. Main Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Safford, AZ 85546.

Chair Laurie Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 1:57 p.m.

Members Present:

David Alford, Cindi Alva, Jan Elliott, Ryan Henry, Ann Johnson, Donna McGaughey, Pam Patt, and Laurie Smith

Members Absent:

Stacy Kramer and Retha Russell

First Things First Staff Present:

Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator; Edith Lee, Administrative Assistant; Marla Chamberlain, Central East Regional Manager; Alicia Smith, Senior Policy Specialist

Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public.

Consent Agenda

A motion to approve minutes from the September 14, 2009 meeting made by Member McGaughey, seconded by Member Patt. Motion carried.

Discussion & Possible Approval of SFY2011 Regional Needs and Assets Funding

Member Henry provided the recommendation by the Needs and Assets Work Group, in place of Member Kramer, the Needs and Assets Work Group Chair. Member Henry indicated that the work group did feel that additional dollars should be spent on the Needs and Assets Report. Specifically recommending that the following data be added:

Gather data on the public health and welfare services currently available and their current usage by Graham/Greenlee County residents including services that are available (public health, food banks, WIC); number of children/families served in each service and demographics of those served; number of staff and training & experience of personnel for each service/agency; family evaluation of service; staff identified needs to improve & expand service (e.g. professional development needs).

Member Alva moved to accept the recommendation of the Needs and Assets Work Group. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Member Henry shared an additional recommendation by the Needs and Assets Work Group in regards to the vendor selection process. Based on this recommendation, Member McGaughey moved “that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership use the Staff (Coordinator, Manager and Policy) to make a recommendation/rationale to the whole council on the approved bidders for the Graham/Greenlee Region.” Member Alva seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion & Possible Approval of Evaluation Funding

Member Henry provided the recommendation by the Needs and Assets Work Group, in place of Member Kramer, the Needs and Assets Work Group Chair. Member Henry indicated that the work group did not feel it was necessary to put additional dollars towards evaluation. Member Patt moved to accept the recommendation of the Needs and Assets Work Group. Member Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion & Possible Approval of SFY2011 Health Strategies

Member Henry, Chair of the Health Work Group, shared that the work group recommended refunding the Therapist Incentive Strategy by allocating \$75,000 in scholarships to two students pursuing a therapist degree who agree to live and work with children 0-5 in the region for two years after completing their program. The work group also recommended the funding of some type of an oral health strategy in the amount of \$75,000. Member McGaughey moved to accept the recommendations of the Health Work Group. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion & Possible Approval of SFY2011 Quality and Access Strategies

Member Alford, Chair of the Quality and Access Work Group, shared that the work group recommended continuing to fund the *Quality First!* participants from SFY2010. They also recommended adding \$20,000 in \$300 monthly stipends to the \$80,000 from SFY2010. Member Alva moved to accept the recommendations of the Quality and Access Work Group. Member Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion & Possible Approval of SFY2011 Family Support Strategies

Member McGaughey, Chair of the Family Support Work Group, shared the recommendations of the work group. The work group recommended refunding the Home Visitation Strategy and doubling the service numbers (from 55 families to 110) by increasing the allocation to \$300,000. The work group also recommended refunding the Early Literacy Project in the amount of \$100,000. The work group did not suggest allocating additional dollars to the Parent Kit Program.

Prior to voting on each strategy conflicts of interest were stated.

Home Visitation Strategy – Member Alva and Member Alford both declared conflict of interest. Member Patt moved to accept the home visitation strategy recommendation by the Family Support Work Group. Member Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Early Literacy Strategy – Member Elliott declared conflict of interest. Member Johnson moved to accept the early literacy strategy recommendation by the Family Support Work Group. Member Alva seconded the motion. Motion carried. Marla Chamberlain expressed her concern with the education piece attached to the book club component of this strategy.

Diaper Bank – Member Johnson declared conflict of interest. Member Alva moved to allocate \$10,000 towards a community diaper bank to include the “working poor”. Member Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Coordinator Report

Regional Coordinator Shari Elkins provided a coordinator’s report.

- Emails were sent out to healthcare community list serve in regards to the Regional Council's vacant Health Services seat.
- Site visits to Teddy Bear Haven and Methodist Preschool & Daycare have been done to encourage participation in *Quality First!*.
- Emails were sent out to child care providers on the list serve in regards to *Quality First!* & Emergency Scholarships.
- The Central East Staff Meeting was hosted in Safford last month.
- An Oral Health joint work group has been formed with the Gila Regional Partnership Council, and the work group met on October 8th for the first time.
- A Chair and Vice Chair meeting was held in Phoenix, resulting in an interest in getting the Regional Councils together.
- Update on Strategy #1 – Bulldog Boulevard Preschool & Child Care enrolled in *Quality First!* on September 18th. The *Quality First!* assessment took place for Mt. Graham Child Care Center on September 3rd & 4th.
- Update on Strategy #4 – Parent Kit distribution and orientation took place on September 29th.

Council Member Updates/Comments

Member Alva inquired about an update on communication efforts at the state level. The Regional Partnership Council's survey results indicated that the councils desired more interaction and communication between the Board and the Regional Councils. Therefore, a conference call took place this month between a member of the Board and any interested Chairs and Vice Chairs from the Regional Councils. The Regional Council discussed Executive Director Elliott Hibbs' recent resignation announcement. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council expressed their appreciation of Director Hibbs and feels fortunate that he was a part of First Things First.

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the Safford Library.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Johnson, and seconded by Member McGaughey. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Shari Elkins, Regional Coordinator

Approved:

Laurie Smith, Chair