



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Yuma Regional Partnership Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First-Yuma Regional Partnership Council was held on October 20, 2011, 4:30 p.m. at the Easter Seals Blake Foundation, 1060 S. Fifth Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Darren Hawkin
Vice Chair Irene Garza
Council Member Ricardo Perez
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez
Council Member Kim Fanning
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra
Council Member Judy Watkinson

Members Absent:

Council Member Gloria Cisneros
Council Member Pilar Moreno

Conflict of Interest

Chair Hawkins provided the Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. None declared.

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the October 20, 2011, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Ramirez and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach

Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach Staff, Kimberly Flack and Barbara Baum provided an update on the accomplishments and objectives of Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach as well as the pre and post data collection process. Included in the presentation was informational literature and outreach efforts for recruitment of staff for the the Yuma Early Literacy Project (YELP).

Quality First! Update

First Things First Senior Program Specialist, Dr. Judy Walruff, addressed the Regional Council and reported on the Quality First! Program. Dr. Walruff reviewed the program highlights and changes to the program and how changes may affect the funding plan. Dr. Walruff further stated beginning in 2013 Regions will be asked to assume responsibility for slots previously available through state monies adding that Quality First Centers will now be tied to the scholarshiping program. Child Care Scholarships will be available for all programs in full participation enrollment.

Community Outreach Report

Community Outreach Coordinator, Nena Garcia, reported currently approximately 1200 champions have been enlisted and the availability of the updated resource guide. Ms. Garcia has reach out to school districts, Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona Western College, Head Starts and Preschools.

Easter Seals Blake Foundation

Easter Seals Blake Foundation Representatives, Paula Dwornicki and Edith Provazek, presented to the Regional Council an overview, outcome and success stories of the YPAT (Yuma Parents as Teachers Program). This program is a support to families with children with special needs that do not qualify through AzEIP. Services provided by the program are home visits, health ,vision and hearing screenings (every 6 months), as well as group connections with the families and referrals to the community services. Ms. Dwornicki expects to reach capacity enrollment by January 2012 with the current funding at which time a wating list will be in place.

Early Head Start and Family Child Care Option

Chicanos Por La Causa Western Regional Coordinator, Arturo Magaña and Child & Family Resources, Inc. Regional Director Western Arizona Roselia Ramirez shared an informational update on the Early Head Start and Family care Option. Mr. Magaña stated the goal is to increase collaboration and communication between Head Start, Child Care Administration and Group Homes in the region.

Funding Plan Presentation

Regional Director, Carmen E. Hurtado engaged the Regional Council in a discussion of the Funding Plan options. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the Priority Indicators recommended by the Strategic Session Planning Stakeholders, seconded by Vice Chair Garza and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present. The Regional Council also discussed proposed changes in the goal area of Professional Development, Quality Access and Affordability, Family Support and Health. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the proposed changes as discussed with the exception of Professional Development, seconded by Vice Chair Garza and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Regional Director's Report

Membership recommendations to the Regional Council will be going before the State Board at the December 2011 meeting. The agreement from Eight, Arizona PBS – Educational Outreach has been received by First Things First. Regional Director Carmen E. Hurtado stated the agreement for the Oral Health Strategy is still pending. Regional Director Hurtado reminded the Regional Council of the upcoming Check Presentation , October 25, 2011, at Harvest Preparatory Academy.

Call to the Public

Association for Supportive Child Childcare T.E.A.CH. Program Specialist, Angelina Escobedo, addressed the Regional Council and provided an update on the T.E.A.C.H. program.

Announcements

Check Tour Presentation, October 25, 2011 9:00am, Harvest Preparatory Academy, Yuma AZ.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled for November 17, 2011, 4:30 p.m., Somerton Public Safety Building, 445 E. Main Street, Somerton, AZ 85350.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

Rev. Darren Hawkins, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

November 17, 2011