FIRST THINGS FIRST

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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 November 20, 2014, 4:30 p.m. at the Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church, 150 W. 28th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Darren Hawkins
Vice Chair Irene Garza
Member Janell F. Johnson (by phone at approximately 4:45 p.m. physically at approximately 5:15p.m.)
Member Judy Watkinson
Member Mary Beth Turner
Member Pilar Moreno
Member Ricardo Perez
Member Kim Fanning
Member Rebecca Ramirez

Members Absent:

Member Gloria Cisneros
Member Dr. Mario Ybarra

Conflict of Interest

Member Fanning and Member Turner identified a conflict of interest with agenda item #6 Review and Discussion on Funding Plan Recommendations and item #7 Discussion and Possible Action on FY2016 Funding Plan in reference to Quality First Scholarships and Quality First Package and recused themselves from participation in the discussion and voting process for this portion of the discussion. Member Fanning is the owner of Quality First site with substantial interest in funding. Member Turner is employed by school district that is a recipient of Quality First Scholarships.

Member Garza identified a conflict of interest with agenda item #6 Review and Discussion on Funding Plan Recommendations and item #7 Discussion and Possible Action on FY2016 Funding Plan in reference to Reach Out and Read recused herself from participation in the discussion and voting process for this portion of the discussion. Member Garza is presently employed by Reach Out and Read.

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the October 16, 2014, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Member Turner to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Moreno. Motion carried.

Call to the Public
Mike Ivers, Yuma Community Food Bank, provided an update on the food insecurity rate in Yuma County and the State of Arizona. Sharon Brady, Reach Out and Read, provided an update on the Reach Out and Read program and its success in the Yuma region.

Regional Director's Update
The update included information on: Yuma Early Childhood Collaboration meeting, Early Literacy & Word Gap, Kith & Kin Site Tour, Incredible Years-Easter Seals Blake Foundation, and Yuma Hopeful Hearts.

Discussion on Funding Plan Workgroup Recommendations
Regional Director Rudy J. Ortiz provided a final review of the workgroup recommendations and an updated financial report on Quality First prior to the Regional Council taking action on the FY2016 Funding Plan. The Funding Plan will be up for consideration by the State Board in January 2015 for final approval. It was the consensus of the Regional Council no further discussion was needed on the workgroup recommendations and proceeded to the next agenda item.

Discussion on FY2016 Funding Plan
The voting process for the funding plan was divided into Goal Areas listing the designated strategies for each goal area. The following action was taken by the Regional Council on the Goal Areas/Strategies for the FY2016 Funding Plan:

A. **Strategy: Quality First Scholarships**

A motion was made by Member Ramirez to approve the Quality First Scholarships Strategy which includes 279 Quality First Scholarships with a budget allotment of $1,967,960, seconded by Member Watkinson, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present eligible to vote.

B. **Strategy: Quality First Package**

A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the Quality First Package for 14 centers and 20 homes, with the budget allotment as presented in today's Funding Plan Summary, seconded by Member Perez, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present eligible to vote.

The Quality First Package includes the following strategies for enrolled providers:

- **Quality First Coaching & Incentives**
- **Quality First Academy**
- **Quality First Specialized Technical Assistance**

C. **Goal Area: Quality and Access**
- **Inclusion of Children with Special Needs Strategy**
- **Family, Friends and Neighbors Strategy**

A motion was made by Turner to approve all strategies and target service units included in each strategy designated under the Quality and Access Goal Area of the FY2016 Funding Plan, seconded by Vice Chair Garza. Motion Carried.

D. **Goal Area: Professional Development**
- **College Scholarships for Early Childhood Professionals**
- **Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals Strategy**

A motion was made by Member Perez to approve all strategies and target service units included in each strategy designated under the Professional Development Goal Area of the FY2016 Funding Plan, seconded by Member Moreno, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present eligible to vote.

E. **Goal Area: Family Support**
- Home Visitation Strategy
- Food Security Strategy
- Parent Education
- Parent Outreach and Awareness Strategy (includes Reach Out and Read)

A motion was made by Member Moreno to approve all strategies and target service units included in each strategy designated under the Family Support Goal Area of the FY2016 Funding Plan, seconded by Member Watkinson, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present eligible to vote.

F. **Goal Area: Health**
- Oral Health Strategy
- Child Care Health Consultation
- Family Support – Children with Special Needs Strategy

A motion was made by Member Turner to approve all strategies and target service units included in each strategy designated under the Health Goal Area of the FY2016 Funding Plan, seconded by Member Fanning. Motion carried.

G. **Goal Area: Community Awareness**
- Community Awareness Strategy
- Community Outreach Strategy
- Media Strategy

A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve all strategies and target service units included in each strategy designated under the Community Awareness Goal Area of the FY2016 Funding Plan, seconded by Member Perez. Motion Carried.

H. **Goal Area: Evaluation**
- Statewide Evaluation Strategy

A motion was made by Member Johnson to approve all strategies designated under the Evaluation Goal Area of the FY2016 Funding Plan, seconded by Vice Chair Garza. Motion Carried.

Awards and Recognition
Awards and Recognition was given to local child care providers for their commitment to providing a quality program to the children and families in the region. Child Care providers are participants of the Quality First program funded by First Things First and were centers rated at 3-5 star rating.
Mary Jo Smith received the annual Champion for Young Children Award presented by the Yuma Regional Partnership Council.

Announcements
None at this time.

Next Meeting
The Regional Council will not meet in December. The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on January 15, 2015, 4:30 p.m., Regional Center for Border Health, 214 W. Main Street, Somerton, Arizona 85350.

Adjourn
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

Rev. Dr. Darren C. Hawkins, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

January 15th, 2015