



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

**Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board
Cochise Regional Partnership Council**

**Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2009**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 2:30 PM at the Cochise College Benson Center 1025 State Route 90 Benson, AZ 85602.

Council Members Present:

Ana Bae-Limb, Del Cabarga (telephonically), Mary Sue Houser, Dave Howe, Renae Humburg, Jane Strain, Melodi Polach, Ginger Ryan, Nancy-Jean Welker and Evelyn Whitmer

Council Members Absent:

Vaira Harik

Others Present:

Melissa Avant, Cristal Martin, Sarah Laumus, Lorna Sedillos, Leann Duncan and Priscilla Whitlock-Coates

Chair Strain welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 2:36 PM. Chair Strain led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of the October 29, 2009 Meeting and the November 4, 2009 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Chair Strain to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2009 Meeting and the November 4, 2009 Special Meeting. Seeing no objections, the minutes will be posted as published.

Call to the Public

Sarah Laumus with Reach Out and Read Southern Arizona shared with the regional council how Reach Out and Read has impacted the Cochise region working with four different medical providers and serving 29% of the Cochise region's birth through five population. Last year 55,000 books were handed out to 34,000 children in southern Arizona. Chair Strain requested to have Melissa Avant, Cochise Regional Coordinator, contact Ms. Laumus in order to have her back on a formal agenda to discuss the topic more fully.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Needs and Assets Consultant

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, Cochise Regional Partnership Council, provided an update on the bid summaries for the Needs and Assets consultants. Ms. Avant explained that due to the state-wide process and evaluation department needing to ask critical questions of the vendors, the summaries will not be complete until December 7, 2009. The discussion and approval of needs and assets consultant was moved to December 15, 2009 at 10:30 AM in the Cochise College Benson Center.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Partnership with 2010 Census

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, discussed the possible partnership with the 2010 Census. A partnership with the 2010 Census could help raise awareness in the region as well as provide the data needed. Ms. Avant stressed the importance of having birth through five children in the region counted as this is how funding is determined. In addition to a partnership, \$3000 could be provided for materials and marketing through a grant with the Frontera Assets Building Network.

Member Humburg moved that Cochise Regional Partnership Council become partners with the 2010 Census. Member Whitmer seconded the motion. Member Cabarga declared a conflict of interest and recued himself. Member Welker abstained. The Regional Council discussed ramifications of Arizona House Bill 2008 and its impact on the 2010 Census as well as the benefits of partnership.

Motion carried 7:1.

Member Bae-Limb moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council discuss and apply for a grant with the Frontera Assets Building Network. Member Houser seconded the motion. Member Cabarga declared a conflict of interest and recued himself. Member Welker abstained. The Cochise Regional Partnership Council discussed how grants funds are to be used.

Motion carried 7:1.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Avant gave an update on the First Things First board and program meetings held on October 27th and 28th respectively, and informed the Regional Council that the First Things First website provides a direct link to all meeting documents.

Ms. Avant gave an update on communications from First Things First. Ms. Avant discussed talking points concerning the state budget, First Things First funds, and quantifying the work of First Things First. Ms. Avant also provided the Regional Council with a detailed handout of talking points.

Ms. Avant provided the Regional Council with the 2011 funding plan that will be presented to the Board on December 8, 2009 by Chair Strain and Vice Chair Howe.

Ms. Avant discussed the possibility of sending either holiday cards or a year-end letter out to key members and organizations in the Cochise region as a way to increase awareness of First Things First in the community. Ms. Avant provided the Regional Council with a sample of both the holiday card and the year-end letter. Ms. Avant explained the cards could not be purchased with First Things First funds whereas a year-end letter could.

Member Welker moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council send out holiday cards along with a year-end letter, with funds to be provided by the council. Member Whitmer seconded the motion. The Regional Council discussed revisions to be made on the holiday card as well as the year-end letter. Motion carried.

Announcements

Next regular meeting: January 21, 2010 located at the Valley Telecom Building in Willcox at 2:30 PM.

A special meeting is set for December 15, 2009 at 10:30 AM at the Cochise College Benson Center.

Chair Strain and Vice Chair Howe will be meeting to present the funding plan to the State Board on December 8, 2009 in Phoenix.

The Regional Council shared some of their community events:

Member Whitmer attended a meeting in October with First Things First Communications Department. Ms. Whitmer shared the expected results from the community mobilization effort.

Member Houser attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children National Convention in Washington D.C. Ms. Houser discussed how many of the concerns facing the Regional Council are also national concerns.

Member Polach informed the Regional Council that the Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse is hosting a pancake breakfast on December 5, 2009.

Member Polach and Robin Faulkner from the Cochise County Health Department will be attending a RFGA Focus group in Vail on December 10, 2009 to review the grant process.

Member Ryan announced that on November 3, 2009 an initiative on the ballot in Douglas passed that transferred, for a nominal fee, 15th Street School to Chiricahua Community Health Center.

Member Welker shared a story about Southwestern Power Group (SPG). Southwestern Power Group is trying to build a power plant in Bowie. In their commitment to the local community, SPG bought 100 turkeys in an effort to insure no family went without for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Adjournment

There being no further discussions, Chair Strain adjourned the meeting at 4:12 P.M.

Dated this 21 day of January, 2010.

Submitted By: Cristal Martin
Administrative Assistant

Approved By: Jane Strain
Chair, Jane Strain