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 December 20, 2012, 4:30 p.m. at the Yuma County Public Health Services District, 2200 W. 28th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Darren Hawkins
Council Member Judy Watkinson
Council Member Kim Fanning
Council Member Gloria Cisneros

Members Present Via Conference Call

Vice Chair Irene Garza
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra
Council Member Laurie Gail Senko (disconnected at approximately 5:50pm)

Members Absent:
Council Member Pilar Moreno
Council Member Mary Beth Turner
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez
Council Member Ricardo Perez

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the November 15, 2012, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Fanning, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Conflict of Interest

Chair Hawkins provided the Regional Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. There were no conflicts declared at this time.

Discussion on FY2013 Quarter One Data Report and FY2013 Financial Report

Regional Director Rudy Ortiz engaged the Regional Council in a discussion of the FY2013 Quarter One Data Report and FY2013 Financial Report. Items included in the reports were the contracted service units and target service units achieved for the quarter for various First Things First funded programs as well as year to date expenditures.

The Regional Council also discussed possible venues to improve delivery of and or availability of the Yuma Community Food Bank vouchers and the possiblility of making food backpacks available to children in the region. The Regional Council also provided suggestions of future information they would like to see on outgoing pre/post surveys by Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach. Suggestions included but were not limited to:

- How many books are in the home
- Technology used (if any) in the home?

Discussion on First Things First Evaluation Plan

Regional Director Gary Arnold provided a brief summary of the First Things First Evaluation Plan and reviewed the infrastructure goals of the plan with the Regional Council. One item of discussion was the use of dashboards as a tracking tool for data history. One of the goals of the evaluation plan is to develop a comprehensive system that will collect and or enhance data provided by First Things First grantees. There were several suggestions provided by Council members which will be presented to the FTF Evaluation team.

Presentation by University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Megan McNeece, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Oral Health Professional, provided an informational powerpoint presentation on the First Smiles Yuma Program, an oral health program currently funded by First Things First. Included in the presentation were the goals and objectives of the program. Ms. McNeece answered questions by the Regional Council and further stated the First Smiles Program has successfully screened over 1,000 children, provided 1,256 fluoride varnish to children and families and children continually receive education on the importance of oral health.

The program has been very successful and collaborates with various partners/agencies in the community to bring the message of oral health to families in the region.

Member Senko disconnected from the conference call at approximately 5:50pm however quorum was not affected and the Regional Council proceeded with the meeting.

Discussion on System Building

The Regional Council discussed the importance and purpose of system building in relation to early childhood program effectiveness. Areas of focus on system building by the Regional Council include:

- Alternative advertisement tools used to share specific information (ei: Preschool scholarships.
- Educating parents to opt for quality versus convenience
- Childcare Centers- improving the quality of centers and homes not currently part of the Quality First
- Improve community knowledge of what is a "quality center"
- Local effort versus statewide / Focus on Region
- Parent/Family Resource Guide
- Service coordination
- Food bank collaboration with not only current children who receive scholarships but also with Head Start and Home Providers.
- Link Children who receive Oral Health Screening with dental care.
- Early identification, assessment and therapeutic services for children with special needs

Regional Director's Report

A. Grantee Meeting Update – As a result of the December 2012 meeting the group has divided itself into three subgroups:

    - Family Support
    - Early Learning
    - Health

    These groups will begin working on a parallel track of system building along with the Regional Council. They will be discussing strengths in the region, gaps in the system and who to bring to the table to close the gaps.

Community Outreach Update

A. Site Visit – Easter Seals Blake Foundation (new secondary location) will be attended by First Things First Chief Executive Officer, Rhian Allvin, January 17, 2013.

Call to the Public
There were no calls to the public at this time.

Announcements
The First Things First Yuma Regional Office will relocate to 233 S. Second Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364 effective January 17, 2013.

Next Meeting
The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on January 17, 2013, 4:30 p.m., Yuma Police Department, 1500 S. First Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

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

SUBMITTED BY:

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

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

January 17, 2013