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 February 21, 2013, 4:30 p.m. at the Antioquia Assembly of God Church, 10409 Helen Street, Wellton, Arizona 85356.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Darren Hawkins
Vice Chair Irene Garza
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra
Council Member Mary Beth Turner
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez
Council Member Judy Watkinson

Members Present Via Conference Call:

Council Member Laurie Gail Senko
Council Member Ricardo Perez joined the meeting at approximately 4:55pm

Members Absent:

Council Member Pilar Moreno
Council Member Gloria Cisneros
Council Member Kim Fanning

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.

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the January 17, 2013, 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.

Discussion on Therapist Recruitment

Regional Director Rudy Ortiz engaged the Regional Council in a discussion of therapist recruitment. At a prior meeting the Regional Council approved the amendment to the Recruitment of Therapist-Stipends/Loan with final approval by the State Board in December 2012. The final cost of the Recruitment and Retention of Therapist Strategy is $174,660 and was to include a total of three therapists (one of each: Occupational Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist and Physical Therapist) with each eligible to receive Loan forgiveness and Stipends. Regional Director Ortiz reported that the Bureau of Health Systems Development Arizona Department of Health Services has successfully recruited a bilingual speech therapist and ongoing efforts continue to recruit an occupational and a physical therapist. An option presented to the Regional Council was the recruitment of a second speech therapist or continue with the original goal of one speech/occupational and physical therapist. It was the consensus of the Regional Council to recruit for a second speech therapist with the stipulation to not make a final decision now but rather add the item to the April 2013 meeting agenda for discussion and possible action on this item. The Regional Council also requested an updated waiting list of children requiring services. Regional Director Ortiz will continue dialogue with Sherry Haskins (Arizona Department of Health Services) on behalf of the Regional Council.

Debrief on Chair/Vice Chair Forum

Chair Hawkins, Member Turner and Member Perez shared their thoughts on the Chair/Vice Chair Forum they attended on February 7, 2013 in Phoenix, AZ.

Discussion on FY2013 Financial Report and Update on Child Care Scholarships

Regional Director Ortiz shared a brief update on the FY2013 financial report and child care scholarships. The report included an update on monies awarded and expended for Quality First Child Care Scholarship Strategy. Sites will be required to be a 2 star rating and above site by FY2015 to receive scholarships and a 3 star rating and above in FY2016. The market value cost formula used per scholarship in Quality First was based on a 3 star site and at an infant care cost which is higher than a pre-k scholarship. There is a waiting list for the Yuma Quality First scholarships.

The Food Security Strategy has expended 22.5% of its' awarded amount ($50,000). A meeting with the Yuma Community Food Bank will be scheduled to discuss any possible improvements/enhancements of distribution of food vouchers and backpacks out to the community.

Discussion on Early Childhood System Building

Regional Director Ortiz summarized the outcome of the 1:1 dialogues with each member of the Regional Council. The Regional Council is passionate of building a strong Early Childhood System and using any tools that will help accomplish the goal. The Regional Council emphasizes the need to maintain/recruit local talent and service coordination in Yuma. A possible workgroup may be organized to discuss different venues to help organize/implement the resource guide.

Presentation by Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach

A brief update was provided by Eight, Arizona PBS-Educational Outreach staff Kim Flack and Mark Becker on the Early Literacy Workshops and Professional Development Based Training. The update included pre and post survey data collection.

Regional Director's Report

a) Grantee Meeting Update: this meeting has had outstanding success and very good participation from various agencies in the community including grantees.

b) Board Roundtable: scheduled on February 25, 12:30pm, Yuma Regional Medical Center Main Campus.

Call to the Public

Sharon Brady, Reach Out and Read Arizona Director, reported the success of the program in the community. Ms. Brady stated recruitment of clinics continues and that there are currently 2 clinics in the recruitment process. The program has exceeded the goal of recruiting 3 sites instead currently there are 6 sites currently participating in Reach Out and Read in the Yuma region.

Announcements

There were no announcements at this time.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on March 21, 2013, 4:30 p.m., Yuma Regional Medical Center Main Campus, 2400 S. Avenue A, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

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

March 21, 2013