



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Welcome/Introduction of Guests

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on February 27, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Quartzsite Town Hall, 465 North Plymouth Avenue, Quartzsite, Arizona 85346.

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 9:43a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present

Riley Frei, Jose Garcia, Terri Holloway, Lenore Knudtson, Nancy Mongeau, Vijette Saari, Debra Weger and Howard Weiske
Betsy Lewis and Catie Sondrol attended telephonically

Members Absent

Alisa Burroughs

Call to the Public

Steve Petoskey, Superintendent of Bouse Elementary School provided an update on the preschool in Bouse and noted the need for playground improvements.

Alma Quintana, Early Childhood Education Project Specialist at the Arizona Department of Education provided an update on preschool expansion and mentoring in the region.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Weiske made a motion to approve the December 5, 2013 and December 11, 2013 meeting minutes. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Possible Approval of Regional Benchmark for School Readiness Indicator #10

Dr. Amy Kemp, PhD, Dynamic Analysis, LLC provided an overview of the state level benchmarks and the school readiness indicator process. This strategic planning process required identifying and prioritizing the needs of young children, and making them specific enough to be manageable. Dr. Kemp reviewed each school readiness indicator, noting that Arizona is part of a multi-state consortium testing these indicators. Dr. Kemp explained the importance of identifying the correct data source to measure the indicators; however, there will never be a measurement source that has no drawbacks. Dr. Kemp recommended the regional partnership council not base all measurement on continuous survey sampling, but rather collaborate with partners who have existing data sets. Discussion ensued regarding data security, data sharing, randomness of sample, and other concerns with the information obtained. Member Holloway made a motion to set the regional benchmark for school readiness indicator #10 at 69%. Member Weiske seconded the motion. There was additional discussion regarding issues related to telephone surveys, the shifting pool of respondents and the margin of error. The motion passed with 7 for and 3 against (Vice Chair Frei, Member Knudtson and Member Garcia).

Chair Mongeau adjourned at 11:26 a.m. and reconvened at 11:32 a.m.

Regional Director Merritt Beckett advised there will be a public forum regarding the proposed regional benchmark for school readiness indicator #10 on March 14, 2014 at the Bullhead City Elementary School District Board Room. Regional partnership council

members may attend; however, Senior Director Gary Arnold noted that all information from the forum will be shared with the council at their April meeting, with an opportunity to reset the benchmark then if desired. Recommendations will be presented to the State Board in June.

Possible Amendment of the Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense Strategy Contract with Arizona Department of Education

Director Beckett advised that the Bouse Elementary School has requested assistance to design improvements to their playground. The La Paz/Mohave region already has an agreement in place with the Arizona Department of Education, and an amendment would not change the current cost. Member Weiske made a motion to amend the contract to include Bouse Elementary School. Member Garcia seconded the motion. There was discussion about being mindful of special needs students in the design. Member Weiske made a new motion to amend the contract to include Bouse Elementary School with the addition of special needs considerations. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Discuss SFY 2014 Program Implementation

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 financial report and the SFY 2014 program data report. She noted that the council has over \$1M invested in health through developmental screening provided as part of every home visitation contract.

Regional Director's Report

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2015 regional funding plan which was approved by the State Board on January 22. The State Board was complimentary and expressed gratitude for the council's work.

Director Beckett shared the timeline and guidelines for contract renewals for SFY 2015. The guidelines were modified slightly this year due to the addition of quality assurance. Contracts are initially for a twelve month period, with two, one-year renewals if performing well. Director Beckett recommends sending renewal packets to all eligible grantees on March 6; however, this is the council's decision. An internal First Things First committee will make recommendations to the council at the April meeting and then forward recommendations from the regional council to the state board in June.

Director Beckett announced receipt of a \$25,000 grant from Delta Dental for an Oral Health Coalition. Maggie Wilcox, Child Care Health Consultant will provide oral health education and promotion through that grant.

Director Beckett provided an update on system coordination and the home visitation collaboration meetings. Meloney Baty, Community Coordinator for the statewide Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Visiting (MIECHV) program led a joint goal/priority setting at the last home visiting collaboration meeting in Kingman. The Mohave County Department of Public Health is the lead agency implementing the MIECHV grant in the region and recently hired a home visiting coordinator funded through MIECHV. Vice Chair Frei requested information regarding state and county plans for funding levels to return to pre-recession amounts and capacity building in La Paz and Mohave counties, so Director Beckett will invite representatives from Mohave and La Paz counties administration to attend a future meeting.

Director Beckett requested members cast their vote for the 2014 Champion for Young Children Award.

Director Beckett announced the deadline for submitting proposals for the upcoming Early Childhood Summit is February 28, 2014. Several members commented on the need for additional sessions about special needs children, and Senior Director Arnold noted that a steering committee is looking at trends now.

Director Beckett encouraged council members to attend the Infant and Toddler Mental Health Symposium March 31 – April 1. Director Beckett announced there will be another State Board/Regional Partnership Council forum on May 22, immediately following the council meeting.

Senior Director Arnold asked for volunteers from the council to serve on the nominating committee to review candidates for the five seats expiring in June, as well as a community member.

Member Weiske suggested that Director Beckett and Community Outreach Coordinator Erin Taylor speak to Mohave County about First Things First.

Member Holloway complimented the team on the crafty Christmas boxes.

Member Sondrol announced that on March 4, "Milemarkers Has Talent" children will be presenting at 6:00 p.m. at the Rodeo Grounds at SARA Park.

Next Regular Meeting

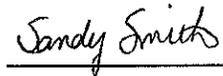
The next meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council will be at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Bullhead City Elementary School District Board Room located at 1004 Hancock Road, Bullhead City, Arizona 86442.

Adjourn

Member Garcia made a motion to adjourn at 12:13 p.m. Vice Chair Frei seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant



Nancy Mongeau, Chair