



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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 April 17, 2014, 4:30 p.m. at the Yuma County Library District Somerton Branch, 240 W. Canal Street, Somerton, Arizona 85350.

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

Members Present:

Vice Chair Irene Garza
Member Dr. Mario Ybarra
Member Judy Watkinson
Member Kim Fanning
Member Rebecca Ramirez
Member Gloria Cisneros

Members Present Via Conference Call:

Member Laurie Gail Senko
Member Ricardo Perez

Members Absent:

Chair Darren Hawkins
Member Mary Beth Turner
Member Pilar Moreno

Conflict of Interest

Vice Chair Garza 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 March 20, 2014, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Dr. Ybarra, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Presentation by Chicanos Por La Causa

Ana Bribiesca and Esgardo Cuen, Chicanos Por La Causa, shared a power point presentation which included the mission, vision, key areas of service and successes of the organization.

Discussion on School Readiness Benchmarks

Over the course of the last several months the Regional Council has discussed the School Readiness Indicators and Benchmarks as prioritized by the Regional Council. The indicators were subject to public vetting via an in-person forum and an online survey, however public input did not result in any substantive change to the Benchmarks. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the Benchmarks for School Readiness Indicators #3: 75% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First Rating of 3-5 stars by 2020, #7: 73% of 2-4 year olds in the Yuma area at a healthy weight by 2020, and #10: 58% families competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being by 2020, seconded by Member Dr. Ybarra, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

FY2014 Update

The FY2014 update included a status report of the various programs funded by the Regional Council.

Regional Director's Report

The Report included a brief update on System Building, 1:1 meetings with Regional Council Members, accomplishments, priorities and future goals, strategic planning for FY2016-18, Arizona Town Hall and a status update on the 2014 Needs & Assets Report. Regional Director Rudy Ortiz reviewed the three common priorities/goals derived from individual meetings with Council Members are:

- Yuma Children Ready To Succeed In Their Academic Career
- Healthy Children
- Strong Families

The Regional Council reflected on the Arizona Town Hall conference, its' impact and statement and integrating it into our strategic planning.

Other areas of discussion by the Regional Council:

- Parents/Business Leaders advocating utilizing the Arizona Tax Credit for a child care center of their choice
- Including the special needs component
- Infusing Early Literacy in our everyday life/activities
- Programs/Grantees strong advocates of Early Childhood System
- Social Media

Discussion on FY2016 Allocation

Senior Regional Director, Gary Arnold, shared a brief summary of the State Finance Committee recommendations to the Board regarding FY16 allocation and what the recommendations meant to regions. The recommendations would allow First Things First to maintain its program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9-15 years. The Board will take action on the recommendations at the June 9-10, 2014 Board Meeting.

Call to the Public

Sharon Brady, Reach Out and Read Arizona, reported there are currently 16 Reach Out and Read sites in the Yuma Region and have served approximately seven thousand children and are providing a retraining at the San Luis Walk-In Clinic.

Sherri Jones, Association for Supportive Child Care, provided a brief update on the Arizona Self Study Program and T.E.A.C.H. Program. There are currently 11 graduates in the Yuma region through the T.E.A.C.H. program. Any information/questions should be directed to T.E.A.C.H. Program Coordinator John Cregg. Ms. Jones stated the Arizona Self Study is providing support to 19 programs in the Yuma area majority are family child care providers. Arizona Self Study is an accreditation facilitation program funded by the Economic Department of Security.

Announcements

The Early Childhood Education Conference is scheduled on April 26, 2014, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled on May 15, 2014, 4:30 p.m., Yuma Community Food Bank, 2404 E. 24th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85365.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:



Irene Garza, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Vice Chair

May 15th, 2014