



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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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 July 24, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the La Paz County Boating Safety Center, 8484 Riverside Drive, Parker, Arizona 85344.

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present

Alisa Burroughs, Jose Garcia, Lenore Knudtson, Betsy Lewis, Nancy Mongeau, Debra Weger and Howard Weiske
Riley Frei and Vijette Saari participated telephonically

Members Absent

Terri Holloway and Catie Sondrol

Call to the Public

There were no responses to call to the public.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Garcia made a motion to approve the June 26, 2014 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Weiske seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Possible Approval of 2014 Needs and Assets Report DRAFT

DeeDee Avery, MS, MPH from the University of Arizona reviewed highlights of the 2014 Needs and Assets Report. She described the population characteristics of the ten areas that encompass the region, and reviewed various elements of interest to the council for strategic planning process. Ms. Avery discussed results of the childcare census survey, as there was extensive information collected. Vice Chair Weiske made a motion to approve the 2014 Needs and Assets Report with the caveat that Regional Director Merritt Beckett will work with the University of Arizona to complete any final edits. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Director Beckett requested members submit final corrections to her by next week for integration into the report.

Colorado River Indian Tribes Region Update

Ashley Pascual, Regional Director, Colorado River Indian Tribes gave a brief presentation on the work of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council. Their priorities are quality and access, improving children's health and professional development. Director Pascual discussed recent workshops that have included a variety of topics, and other events that have utilized a family approach to involve adults in improving early literacy. The region has two Quality First sites. Director Pascual described several unfunded priorities, which include early care, court coordination and raising awareness of infant and toddler mental health needs. Cross regional collaboration between the La Paz/Mohave and Colorado River Indian Tribes regional partnership councils has helped support the goal of a circle of support around the community. Director Beckett will present to the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council on August 5.

Western Arizona Council of Governments Update

Deb Hanney, Head Start Director provided a snapshot of the services the Western Arizona Council of Governments offers, and noted they are serving 1,044 children this year through Head Start. Additionally, they are providing Early Head Start for the first time ever, and Early Head Start grant funding is available. There was discussion about foster child prioritization, and outreach to foster families. Chair Mongeau noted the lack of transportation continues to be an issue. A new center is opening in Lake Havasu City, and another

is reopening in downtown Kingman. Senior Director Gary Arnold suggested connecting with local foster care licensing agencies to increase awareness. Director Beckett mentioned the partnership to offer a Child Find event in Ehrenberg on September 19.

Department of Economic Security Child Care Administration Update

Sandra Garrison, Regional Program Manager and Teresa Walaszek, District Supervisor presented a brief overview of the Arizona Department of Economic Security Child Care Administration. The subsidy program requires participants to pay a portion of the cost, and there are eligibility requirements; however, children referred by the Arizona Department of Child Safety are automatically eligible to receive services. Provision of services is based on the need of the parent, not the need of the child, and rates have not been updated since 1998. There is a critical lack of infant care available in the region, with very few childcare centers accepting infants and toddlers. Ms. Garrison reviewed several programs designed to improve the quality of childcare and noted that Yuma, La Paz and Mohave counties have the highest rate of Child Development Associate credentialing in Arizona.

Possible Approval to Become Expect More Arizona Partner

Donna Davis, Senior Community Mobilizer for Expect More Arizona presented an overview of the organization. As an education advocacy organization, they work to raise awareness of education issues by engaging and mobilizing parents and voters. Ms. Davis presented statistics on the condition of education in Arizona. Expect More Arizona has established a partnership campaign to encourage everyone to take responsibility for education. Member Burroughs made a motion to become an Expect More Arizona partner. Vice Chair Weiske seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Outreach Update

Erin Taylor, Community Outreach Coordinator talked about the First Things First statewide media campaign, which features Judge Weiss and others. There was an event Tuesday at the Lake Havasu City Museum attended by children and parents, and more events are anticipated in the future. Mohave High staged a Parent University on July 12, with sessions on early literacy, child safety and bullying, among others. The Havasu Stick'em event is scheduled Saturday, August 2.

Regional Director's Report

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 financial report, noting grantees have forty-five days following the end of the fiscal year to submit their final reimbursement. This time last fiscal year, grantees had expended 72% of the allotted amount, and this year 86% has been expended. Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 program data report, advising she will present the final version at the September meeting. Grantees are on track to meet or exceed contracted service numbers, and the grantee narratives contained great information. Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2015 funding plan summary, noting the expansion strategy is included. Director Beckett reviewed the strategic planning process for SFY 2016-2018, which begins in August. An added consideration in the process is the need to consider other agencies with common goals, and a new component of the funding plan template will require regions to describe unfunded approaches and system-building efforts in the region. Director Beckett will contact members to discuss further, and requested volunteers who would be able to serve on the funding plan workgroup that will meet in September. The workgroup recommendation will be presented to the council in October, with the final plan submitted for approval in December. Director Beckett recognized Member Knudtson for six years of service. Director Beckett announced she would submit a revised governance policy to the council for a first read in September.

Next Regular Meeting

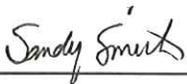
The next meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council will be at 9:30 a.m. (Arizona time) on Thursday, September 25 at the El Capitan K-12 School located at 255 North Cottonwood Street in Colorado City, Arizona 86021.

Adjourn

Member Garcia made a motion to adjourn at 11:42 a.m. Member Knudtson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant



Nancy Mongeau, Chair