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 August 16, 2012, 4:30 p.m. at the Antioquia Assembly of God Church, 10409 Helen Street, Wellton, AZ 85350.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:41 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Council Member Pilar Moreno

Members Present Via Conference Call

Member Gloria Cisneros
Member Laurie Gail Senko

Consent Agenda The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the June 21, 2012, Yuma Regional Partnership Council regular meeting and Executive Session and minutes of the July 9, 2012 special meeting. A motion was made by Member Ramirez to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Perez and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present. Vice Chair Garza abstained from voting on the consent agenda due to the confidentiality of the executive session minutes.

Vice Chair Garza did not participate in the executive session held on June 21, 2012 due to a Conflict of Interest and a copy of the executive session minutes was not provided to her.

Conflict of Interest

Members Turner and Fanning declared conflict of interest with Agenda item #6 Discussion and Possible Action on Quality First FY2013 Allotment and recused themselves from participation during the discussion due to substantial interest in allocation of funds.

Discussion on 2012 Regional Needs and Assets

A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the 2012 Regional Needs 7 Assets Report, seconded by Member Turner and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Discussion on FY2013 Community Awareness Budget

The Regional Council reviewed the proposed 2013 Community Awareness Budget. The total amount of the budget is $35,000.00. The budget will be submitted to FTF Management for approval. A motion was made by Member Perez, seconded by Member Watkinson and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Discussion on Quality First FY2013 Allotment

The Quality First FY2013 Allotment was up for review by the Regional Council. The review included proposed strategies, allotment amount, target service units and goal area. A motion was made by Member Watkinson to approve the Quality First FY2013 Allotment, seconded by Member Ramirez and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Discussion on Recruitment of Therapist

Senior Regional Director Gary P. Arnold and Regional Director Rudy J. Ortiz engaged the Regional Council in a discussion of the Recruitment and Retention of Therapists Strategy. The total cost for Speech Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapists is $46,000 and the cost for Physical Therapist is $56,000. This was a strategy in FY12 and resulted in the recruitment of four therapists to the region. The strategy continued in FY13 to fund administrative costs. There is additional interest from newly licensed therapists to move to the region. The Regional Council directed First Things First staff to do additional research for this strategy and bring the recommendations to the Regional Council at the next regular meeting scheduled on September 20, 2012.

Easter Seals Blake Foundation Presentation

Nohemi Ortega, Easter Seals Blake Foundation shared a powerpoint presentation on the Yuma Parents As Teachers Programs. The presentation included the objectives of the programs, KIPS Assessment Tool (Keys To Interactive Parenting Scale), short, intermediate and long term outcomes.

Regional Director's Report

a) Introduction of new Regional Director Rudy Ortiz.

b) Update on Pre-K slots-currently there are 76 full time slots and 211 part time slots.

c) Update on Community Based Training-No applications received for this RFGA (Request for Grant Application) Other options are being explored such as a government to government agreement. The council requested that the options be presented at the September Council meeting.

Community Outreach Report

Nena Garcia, Community Outreach Coordinator, provided an update on the ongoing efforts on community outreach for the region.

Call to the Public

Sharon Brady, Reach Out and Read Arizona, expressed gratitude to the Regional Council for continued support provided and stated the program is an evidence based program.

Erica Jiminez, Child and Family Resources Inc-Quality First Coach shared an informational presentation on the success of the Quality First program and reviewed the rating system with the Regional Council.

Announcements

Arizona Diamond Backs will be donating a percentage of profits from their September 2012 event to Reach Out and Read. A flyer was distributed.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled for September 20, 2012, 4:30 p.m., Yuma Main Library, 2951 S. 21st Dr., Yuma AZ 85364.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

Irene Garza, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Vice Chair

September 20, 2012