



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 January 20, 2011, 4:30 p.m. at the Yuma Regional Medical Center Special Service Dining Room, Yuma, AZ 85364.

Chair Francisco Vargas deferred to Council Member Rev. Darren Hawkins for the order of meeting. Council Member Rev. Darren Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

Members Present:

Chair Francisco Vargas was present by means of a conference call
Vice Chair Irene Garza was present by means of a conference call
Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra was present by means of a conference call
Council Member Rebecca Ramirez
Council Member Rev. Darren Hawkins
Council Member Judy Watkinson
Council Member Pilar Moreno

Members Absent:

Council Member Ricardo Perez

First Things First Staff:

Regional Manager Gary P. Arnold
Regional Coordinator Carmen Hurtado
Administrative Assistant Marie Megui
Parent Awareness Community Liaison Magdalena Garcia

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None declared

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the December 16, 2010 regular Regional Council meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Watkinson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Ramirez and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Easter Seals Blake Foundation

Annabel Ratley and Mary Lamm, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Regional Council. Items covered in the presentation were the goals, purpose and operation of the programs. Expected results, staff training, challenges and collaboration were also items included in the presentation. Easter Seals Blake foundation reported two new programs for the Yuma region have been launched, Promoting Inclusive Settings of Special Needs and Home Visitation Parent Coaching for Parents of Children At Risk for Developmental Delays.

Department of Economic Security Division of Developmental Disabilities

Miriam S. Podrazik and Alta Gasque, DES Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), reported DDD serves approximately 30,000 children and adults statewide. DDD will be partnering with Arizona State University. Ms. Podrazik expressed her concern of shortage of therapists in the community stating that universities are currently training approximately 20 therapists per year. Ms. Podrazik further stated that the data as of December 2010 showed there are currently 37 (age 3-6) children and 157 (age 6+) on the waiting list for Occupational Therapy in the Yuma community. There are approximately 23 (age 3-6) and 85 (age 6+) children on the Physical Therapy waiting list. The waiting list for Speech Therapy is approximately 38 (age 3-6) and 161 (age 6+) children in need of these services. Ms. Podrazik is hopeful therapists from the local school districts will assist in providing services to children on the waiting list. DDD will be partnering with Arizona State University and encourages the community to communicate with the universities to help build a more suitable infrastructure for the education of therapists in the state of Arizona.

PBS Eight Educational Outreach: ASSET

Michelle Santillan and staff, PBS Eight Educational Outreach, shared an informational powerpoint presentation, which included testimonials by the participants, with the Regional Council. Eight Educational Outreach provides Early Literacy in combination with Food Nutrition education through PBS resources to educators, childcare providers, parent, and caregivers as an educational extension of the programming found on PBS through a variety of workshops and professional development opportunities online and through face to face workshops. A series of 6 (2 hour) workshops for parents and caregivers of children birth to age 5 have been developed by Eight Educational Outreach.

Family Support Grantees

Regional Director Roselia Ramirez and staff from Child & Family Resources, Inc. provided a program summary report of their programs which included an update on the Choices For Teens, Parent Awareness, and Healthy Families program. Staff felt confident their target service numbers would be met and were enthusiastic of the positive results achieved.

Wendy Puga, Maternal Child Health Program Coordinator from Yuma County Health Services District reported there was an 80% retention rate in their program. Enrollment is currently at 90 participants with a benchmark of 100.

Coordinator's Report

Carmen E. Hurtado, Coordinator informed the Regional Council that of the 92 childcare slots (acquired with approved Regional Council carry forward monies) 61 slots have been distributed throughout the centers further stating the remainder of the 31 slots will be distributed in February 2011.

Gary Arnold, Regional Manager provided a brief financial report to the Regional Council which included the approved budget, amount expended and submitted as well as the remaining balance by Yuma grantees and strategies. The report also included a financial update on strategies at the State-Wide and Multi-Regional level noting the figures indicated may not reflect the updated amounts.

Call to the Public

None

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council is scheduled for February 17, 2011, 4:30 p.m., Child & Family Resources, Inc., located at 201 S. Third Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY:

Francisco Vargas, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

February 17, 2011