



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Yuma Regional Partnership Council Meeting

Yuma Main Library
Conference Room A
2951 S. 21st Drive
December 17, 2009

Minutes

Welcome/Introduction/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair Madeleine Coil.

Members Present:

Chair Madeleine Coil, Council Member Irene Garza, Council Member Pilar Moreno, Council Member Ricardo Perez, Council Member Susan Pond, Council Coranne Swift Arrow, Council Member Judy Watkinson, Council Member Francisco Vargas and Council Member Dr. Mario Ybarra. New Council Member Lisa Lemos was introduced to the Yuma Regional Partnership Council. Council Member Lemos has been approved by the State Board, however she is in the final stages of her official appointment. Council Member Lemos will fill the Child Provider seat on the council.

First Things First Staff: Regional Manager Gary P. Arnold, Regional Coordinator Roselia Ramirez and Administrative Assistant Marie Megui were also present.

Members Absent:

Vice Chair Sarah Seneker

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Coil provided the Council with an opportunity to declare any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda. Chair Coil declared a conflict of interest with agenda item number 5, Emergency Child Care Scholarships.

Call to the Public

Kelland's Kiddie College Director, Melissa Zaja asked the Council to consider extending the timeline for the Emergency Childcare Scholarships. Ms. Zaja was addressing the council on behalf of her center as well as two other centers not able to be present. She expressed concerns of the hardships to be encountered by both families and centers, once the scholarships come to an end. Quality First Coach, Lorena Larios Magaña addressed the council with the concerns from child care centers, group home providers and parents regarding the Emergency Child Care Scholarships.

Consent Agenda

The items on the Consent Agenda included the Council Minutes of the November 19, 2009 regular council meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Pond to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Dr. Ybarra. Motion passed.

Strategy 2 Technical Assistance and Strategy 3 Case Management

Regional Coordinator Ramirez provided an update regarding Strategy 2 Technical Assistance and Strategy 3 Case Management and asked the Councils' direction concerning the two strategies. Coordinator Ramirez also asked the Council to consider organization of workgroups in order to define and implement the logic model along with the scopes of work for these strategies. A motion was made by Council Member Pond to appoint Coordinator Ramirez as the organizer for the proposed workgroup. Seconded by Council Member Dr Ybarra. Motion passed. Volunteers for the workgroup were as follows:

Council Member Garza
Council Member Moreno
Council Member Pond
Council Member Vargas
Council Member Watkinson

Emergency Child Care Scholarships

Chair Coil deferred to Coordinator Ramirez on this agenda item due to her declared conflict of interest. Coordinator Ramirez informed the Council that as of November the total amount spent was \$166,045 with a remaining balance of \$369,221 with the projection that the Emergency Scholarship funding will be exhausted on January 22, 2010 unless the Council decides to allocate funds to extend them. Coordinator Ramirez shared three options available to the Council and asked for the Council's direction on the scholarships. The following were the three options presented to the Council:

Option 1: Includes only Quality First Providers and excludes those not currently participating in Emergency Scholarships.

Option 2: Includes all Quality First Participants including outreach to those not participating and offering them scholarships. If any decline, their scholarships can be reassigned.

Option 3: Maintain current level of providers including those not enrolled in Quality First. This option will require the allocation of \$1,025,024 through June 30.

A motion was made by Council Member Vargas to accept option 1 which includes only Quality First Providers and excludes those not currently participating in Emergency Scholarships and to increase the Emergency Child Care Scholarships by an additional \$500,000 noting that research be made by First Things First Staff as to accepting centers going through an accreditation process to improve quality. Seconded by Council Member Watkinson. Motion passed.

Needs and Assets Vendor Selection

Coordinator Ramirez stated that the vendor list was not currently available. The Council has the following options:

- a. Regional Council can delegate a review committee,

- b. Regional Council can delegate selection to the Regional Coordinator, who would then work with a review committee of council members to include coordination with the Cocopah Council,.
- c. Regional Council can select a vendor at a regular meeting. (Must meet by January 15, 2010 in order to present that selection to the State Board by the end of January 2010).

A motion was made by Council Member Vargas to appoint Coordinator Ramirez to delegate vendor selection with the assistance of a review committee. Seconded by Council Member Garza. Motion passed.

Quality First Update

Quality First Coach, Lorena Larios Magaña, shared a brief update with the Council on Quality First.

Regional Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Ramirez shared regional data in regards to Quality First which included 16 slots that are state funded/awarded slots and 13 slots regionally funded/awarded slots. Among the information included was also an update on Strategy 9 Center-Based Enrollment Opportunities , Strategy 8 Early Pre-natal care and access, current funded strategies and continued outreach efforts for the T.E.A.C.H. program.

Announcements

The Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board Members will be meeting on February 23, 2010, Yuma Main Library, 2951 S. 21st Drive, Yuma, AZ 85364. Chair Coil engaged the Council in a discussion of a social event and program presentations on the evening of January 22, 2010.

Next Meeting

January 21, 2010 , 4:30 p.m., Yuma Private Industry Council Industry (YPIC), Community Development Center Board Room, located at 3818 W. 16th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Madeleine Coil, Yuma Regional Partnership Council Chair

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant II