

Policy Council Head Start Program Meeting Minutes
2/27/23 • 5:30 pm • 1001 w. Southern Ave., Suite 106, Mesa, Arizona 85210

1. Call to Order

Call to order by Robert Sotomayor, Policy Council Chair, at 5:35 PM

2. Roll Call

Mishianand Mack, Policy Council Secretary, did roll call, 13 members in attendance in, 8 in person and 5 virtual; quorum was established.

Policy Council 22-23	PRESENT In person or virtual	VOTING
Early Head Start Center Base		
Leah Gladden	X virtual	X
Maria Tesorero Ojeda		
Monica Gonzalez		
Shareli Romero		
Abril Anduaga	X	X
Sara Snyder		
Nicolasa Castro	X	X
Head Start Chandler-Gilbert		
Carmen Martinez		
Marie Kouam		
Shemiah Johnson		
Leydy Quirazco	X virtual	X
Rosemary Hayes		
Marisol Romero		
Jamme Alexander	X virtual	X
Monica Jacome		
Head Start Tempe-Guadalupe-Scottsdale		
Michele Rodriguez		
Laura Peralta	X	X
Ariana Gonzalez		
Michelle Haworth		
Juan Carlos Jimenez	X	X
Head Start Center Base Mesa		
Sofia Cordero	X	X
Allana Vokes		
Carmen Perez	X virtual	X
Robert Sotomayor	X	X
McKenzie Whitman		
Mishianand Mack	X	X
Kira-Marie Filippelli	X virtual	X
Dalila Hernandez		
Alma Chavez		
Alicia Espinoza		
Orlenys Malaver		
Juan Mejia		
Helen Diaz	X	X
Community Representatives		
Mayada Abdalla		
Board of Supervisors		
Cristina Arzaga-Williams		
*9 Members for quorum	TOTAL	13
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Other attendees:

Name	Role	Name	Role
Doug Alf	Grant Accountant	Nancy Kessay	FCP Manager
Linda Roldan	ERSEA Assistant	Eve del Real	Head Start Director
Jessica Figueroa	Family Support Specialist Supervisor	Desi Hightower	Inclusion Coordinator
Nickia Newman	Education and Wellness Manager	Patricia Iniguez	Mental Health Associate
Maureen McCoy-Virtual	Nutritionist	Marisol Sandoval	Family Support Specialist Supervisor
Jaqueline Edwards	HSD Director	Gloria Reyes	Admin. Operations Assistant
Catherine Gauge	Community Assessment		

3. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report

Liaison was not present.

4. Human Services Director's Report

Jaqueline Edwards reports that the Human Services Department is continuing to work very hard to deliver high quality services for years to come for the community. By being part of the Maricopa County and Human Services Department, they can leverage other programs, services, and activities to support the sustainability of HS and EHS division. One of the activities that they are working on is rating our funding sources. It's not just the federal program through HS at the federal level, it's also through DES that they are able to receive childcare subsidies for the children in the program. This allows them to provide high quality services and meet the needs of the families. They are continuing to work towards having 8-10 hours in the classroom so that families can get their own training or education. The Board of Supervisors purchased a building for the Department of Health in Goodyear; this specific area happens be a childcare desert. They are going to have classrooms at this new location that is county maintained. With the connection with Community Action Programs, they will be receiving the diaper grant. They will be able to support the EHS and HS families with diapers. In addition, looking at other opportunities such as training courses like financial empowering series and other workforce development trainings all possible because of the connection with the Human Services Department and how the services all come together.

5. Head Start Director's Report

Eve del Real reports that there was an opportunity for opening in Surprise/Goodyear. The opening for the new location was approved. We can now look forward to opening and offering services to the people in Surprise and Goodyear. They had a meeting last week with the City of Tempe discussing that one of the classrooms will be renovating and they will pilot new strategies. Federal review will take place in April. During this time there is a possibility that they will talk to the policy council members. Diapers from the diaper grant will be hosted and stored at the main office for all Head Start families and the Community.

6. Community Assessment Update

Catherine Gouge, reports Head Start and Early Head Start community needs assessments. They are doing the 2022 data and have been updating the other community assessments according to requirements set forth in 1305.3(c) (1)-(6) data gathered are used to set program goals and data. They are using two methods to gather data, quantitative and qualitative. As we set off to the needs assessment, they have added SNAP to the eligibility criteria. The projected population by 2060, it is that we will see an unexpected increase in ages 0-5 years due to the children born during Covid. They must show that areas still have a need for services. In the regions we are seeing 15.2 children living under the poverty level. They also look at households receiving SNAP, 7% of those families are Head Start families. In TANF recipients there was a decline of those receiving these benefits. Enrollment has fallen over time and it has shown that Covid is the contribution to this. Recruiting services in all age groups is important currently. Please see attachment for further detailed information.

7. Approvals

- **Non-Federal Share Waiver:** Juan Carlos Jimenez did first motion. Sofia Cordero seconded it. Approved by all members present, no opposes.
- **Continued Funding Application:** Mishianand Mack did first motion. Sophia Cordero seconded it. Approved by all members present, no opposes.
- **Financial Statements:** Robert Sotomayor did first motion. Juan Carlos Jimenez seconded it. Approved by all members present, no opposes.
- **Policy Council Meeting Minutes – January 30, 2023:** Robert Sotomayor did first motion. Juan Carlos Jimenez seconded it. Approved by all members present, no opposes.

8. Program Services Report

• Education and Operations

Nickia Newman, states that they need to go back and train staff to make sure that the children are being rated appropriately. With the recent data collected they aren't used to seeing the numbers look like the collected data until the end of the school year. The numbers are concerning since there has been an elevated report of classroom behaviors. Roughly 70% of children meet expectations. They should be around scoring around 60% at this time of year.

• Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance (ERSEA)



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Linda Roldan, ERSEA Assistant reports that a lot of children are continuing to be absent. There have been a few small improvements. Please see attachment for detailed information.

- **Family Services, Community, and Partnerships**

Nancy Kessay, FCP Manager reports and remind us that we need to look out for the surveys that will come out on March 1, 2023, through the learning genie. She asks that we please complete the surveys and be honest, they are completely anonymous. Surveys will be available for about 3 weeks.

- **Health**

Nothing to report.

- **Inclusion/Mental Health**

Desi Hightower, Inclusion Coordinator reports and gives handout on “Sensory-Friendly Events”. We were educated about understanding how senses impact experiences. The five commonly known senses are hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch. Please see attachment for further detailed information.

Patricia Iniguez, Mental Health Associate reports and gives handout on “Biting: A Fact Sheet for Families”. Biting has been found to be common in toddlers. It is caused by stress and children not being able to translate their needs. One of the things we can do to help is have snacks available for them or even showing empathy to redirect the behavior. Having time on our laps, making visuals of that they can do and can’t do, is also a great way to help redirect and promote positive behavior. Please see attachment for further detailed information.

9. Policy Council Member Reports

- **Parent Representatives**

Nothing to report.

- **Community Partner Agency**

Robert Sotomayor addresses the concern of not having information on hand to contact the staff or someone at the site when no one is present onsite. Currently parents only have access to the classroom number. Christina Arzaga states that she will implement a supervisor to be in place for situations like this won’t happen again. In this incident, there was not staff present at the site, which left parents and children at the site waiting with no knowledge of what was happening with educational instruction for the day.

10. Call to the Public

Public comment on matters pertaining to Maricopa County Head Start. Please limit comments to two minutes. Note that pursuant to Arizona Open Meeting Law, Council members may not discuss matters raised under this public comment portion of the meeting; however, an individual Council member may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Council, ask staff to review an issue raised or may ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda. (Public comment is at the discretion of the Chairperson)

11. Adjournment

Robert Sotomayor, Policy Council Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Next Meeting:

Monday, March 27, 2023, at 5:30 pm In-person at 1001 W. Southern Avenue Suite 106 Mesa, AZ 85210 Conference Room 116, and online via Microsoft Teams. All parents are invited to attend all Policy Council meetings.

