

Policy Council Head Start Program Meeting Minutes
4/24/23 • 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 5:36 PM

2. Roll Call

Mishianand Mack, Policy Council Secretary, did roll call, 9 members in attendance in, 5 in person and 4 virtual; quorum was established.

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

Policy Council Head Start Meeting Minutes

4/24/23

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 |
| Maureen McCoy-Virtual | Nutritionist | Evelyn Maximo | Administrative Assistant |
| Jaqueline Edwards-Virtual | HSD Director | | |

3. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report

Board of Supervisors, *Cristina Arzaga* reports that the Board of Supervisors is beginning the process of filling two legislative vacancies for District 13 and District 26 according to a process dictated by state law. In Legislative District 13 the nominees are Liz Harris, Julie Willoughby, and Steve Steele. District 13 covers much of Chandler and part of Gilbert, and is within supervisorial district 1, represented by supervisor Jack Sellers. In legislative District 26 nominees are Rep. Cesar Aguilar, Rep. Flavio Bravo and Quant'a Crews. District 26 covers a significant part of west central Phoenix and is within supervisorial district 5, represented by supervisor Steve Gallardo. This year, there is a May Jurisdictional Election for voters in Carefree and Tempe on May 16. These jurisdictions will hold a "Ballot by Mail" election and all qualified voters within the city or town are automatically mailed a ballot. All ballots must be received by the Elections Department by 7 p.m. on Election Day. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has approved a 10 million increase to the HVAC repair and replacement fund that helps homeowners in the county with cost of energy efficiency home improvement projects. The County's Home Improvement Program has completed 299 projects to eligible households so far, and with the additional funding they estimate that another 600 households will be supported with HVAC repairs and or full system replacements. To apply or if you need more information visit maricopa.gov/helpwithbills.

4. Human Services Director's Report

HSD Director, *Jacqueline Edwards*, reports, and recaps from last month that the department continues to work on updating the goals and strategies. These five goals and a multitude of strategies allow the department to meet the mission and reach the vision. Jacqueline shared the mission of the department and the five goals that are in place which have been designed for the needs and benefits for families. Last week Jacqueline attended a forum where a parent said to her, "Don't just meet us where we are at, meet us where we dream". With this statement being made, this is exactly the direction in which the department wants to go. They would like to meet the parents and children where they are, to engage with the children and parents to dream big. They are looking to partner with each Head Start family to reach goals and to be able to reach their dreams. The only way they can provide this to families is if they have a sustainable program such as Head Start for today and years to come. They are now in the process of implementing problematic changes in which many are behind the scenes, but they are making sure that the program is of the highest quality.

5. Head Start Director's Report

Head Start Director, *Eve del Real*, reports that they are going through a transition period with lots of change and exciting news as well. Today they recorded a new campaign add, which included the policy council president Robert Sotomayor. The pictures that they took last month will be utilized and posted throughout the hallways. Last week they met with the teacher assistants and talked with them about the changes coming within their positions. Their new role and revision will now include them doing the assessments along with documentation and observations. Their contribution to the assessments will be important as they too have important information that needs to be included as part of the assessment team. On top of everything else going on, Eve states they are still going through the national accreditation process and planning to submit the application by Friday of this week.

6. Approvals

- A. **Selection Criteria** *Leydy Quirazco* did the first motion. *Abril Anduaga* Seconded it. Approved by all members present, no opposition.
- B. **Financial Statements** *Robert Sotomayor* did first motion. *Abril Anduaga* Seconded it. Approved by all members present, no opposition.
- C. **Policy Council Meeting Minutes** *Abril Anduaga* did first motion. *Robert Sotomayor* Seconded it. Approved by all members, no opposition.

7. Program Services Report

- **Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance (ERSEA)**
Linda Roldan, ERSEA Assistant reports the numbers for March 2023. They have met the 10% goal of servicing children on IEP's and IFSP. *Please see attachment for further detailed information.*
- **Family Services, Community, and Partnerships**
Nancy Kessay, FCP Manager reports that train passes will be provided for those attending the National Head Start conference scheduled for May 8-11, 2023. *Jessica Figueroa*, Family Support Specialist Supervisor, reports that they are continuing the Mens Discussion Group for males 18 and over. This is a group open to anyone interested.
- **Inclusion/Mental Health**
Desi Hightower, Inclusion Coordinator reports that if your children are going to kindergarten next year, to please make sure that registration has been done so that they can prepare for the upcoming school year by having enough teachers. Desi also discussed, "The Power of the Pen: Drawing and Scribbling". It is important for our children to see us writing. By us doing this helps implement the importance and teach the skills of writing. When children write, draw, or scribble it is important because they are using a form of communication with us. When children are drawing it requires them to use more hand muscles. The more we can get the children to draw the better they will be at handwriting. So, encourage them to draw, scribble and model writing for them so that they can improve their writing skills. *Please see the handout attachment for further detailed information.*



Policy Council Head Start Meeting Minutes

4/24/23

8. Policy Council Member Reports

- **Parent Representatives**
Nothing to report.
- **Community Partner Agency**
Nothing to report.

9. Call to the Public

Robert Sotomayor addresses that the lock on the school gate may be defective. He was able to gain access to the campus with the lock being easily opened. He states that he wants others to be aware of the other sites as well, so that we can try to protect the children better. Juan Carlos Jimenez also states that at his site there are concerns with the security as well. Eve del Real suggested that maybe next school year we should try to implement a parent subcommittee so that they can start going around the sites to check and make sure that things of such are not being missed or whatever else may arise.

10. Adjournment

Robert Sotomayor, Policy Council Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Next Meeting:

Monday, May 22, 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.

