

Policy Council Head Start Program Meeting Minutes
8/28/23 • 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, 7 members in attendance in, 6 in person and 1 virtual; quorum was not established.

Policy Council 23-24	PRESENT In person or virtual	VOTING
Early Head Start Center Base		
Leah Gladden		
Maria Tesorero Ojeda		
Monica Gonzalez		
Shareli Romero		
Abril Anduaga		
Sara Snyder		
Nicolasa Castro	x	
Head Start Chandler-Gilbert		
Carmen Martinez		
Marie Kouam		
Shemiah Johnson		
Leydy Quirazco	x	
Rosemary Hayes		
Marisol Romero		
Jamme Alexander		
Monica Jacome		
Head Start Tempe-Guadalupe-Scottsdale		
Michele Rodriguez		
Laura Peralta	x	
Ariana Gonzalez		
Michelle Haworth		
Juan Carlos Jimenez	x	
Head Start Center Base Mesa		
Sofia Cordero	X Virtual	
Allana Vokes		
Carmen Perez		
Robert Sotomayor	x	
McKenzie Whitman		
Mishianand Mack	x	
Kira-Marie Filippelli		
Dalila Hernandez		
Alma Chavez		
Alicia Espinoza		
Orlenys Malaver		
Juan Mejia		
Helen Diaz		
Community Representatives		
Mayada Abdalla		
Board of Supervisors		
*8 Members for quorum TOTAL	7	

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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-Virtual
Jessica Figueroa	Family Support Specialist Supervisor	Desi Hightower	Inclusion Coordinator
Sylvia Pena-Virtual	Family Support Specialist	Evelyn Maximo	Administrative Assistant
Nickia Newman	Operations/Program Manager		

3. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report

Board of Supervisors, *nothing to report.*

4. Human Services Director's Report

BOS Liaison, *nothing to Report.*

5. Head Start Director's Report

Head Start Director, *Eve del Real*, reports that it has been a very busy time here with the program. She is very proud of the management team and leadership teams in launching this program year. This is the first time that they have resumed full in person services at the highest capacity. There were minimal issues and is grateful for the number of new teachers that they now have. Funding and enrollment are less than before, but the program is stable, sound and still able to provide high quality services. Eve just recently came back from Washington, DC with National Head Start Association and received a lot of support, she was able to represent and talk about the amazing job that we do here in Maricopa County. Eve will be going back to Washington, DC next month and taking a group of staff for training and learning about some other programs.

6. Approvals

- A. **Eye Spots**
- B. **Playgrounds**
- C. **Financial Statements**
- D. **Policy Council Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2023**

7. Program Services Report

- **Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance (ERSEA)**
Linda Roldan, ERSEA Assistant reports the final numbers for the end of the school year 2022-2023. *Please see attachment for further detailed information.*
- **Family Services, Community, and Partnerships**
Jessica Figueroa, Family Support Specialist Supervisor reports that the family services team started off the program year offering two health events. These events were held at the Mesa office and hosted by the Family Support Specialist and students from Alverno College. Collaboratively they were able to serve over 200 families in health screenings, nutrition information and program enrollment support. The department looks forward to announcing future health events throughout the program year. FSS's will be conducting hearing and vision screenings in the classroom, once completed the results will be prepared and resources given for follow ups. The diaper bank distribution is going on every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00-4:00 pm. Parents or family volunteers are welcome during those hours and when shipments come in. If you would like more information, please contact the office at 602-372-3700.
- **Inclusion**
Desi Hightower, Inclusion Coordinator reports information on bedtime for preschoolers. Getting enough sleep is important for your child's mental and physical development. The recommend sleep for a preschooler is about 10-12 hours a day. The key to establishing a healthy bedtime habit is to start a routine early on with your child. To help your child develop a good sleeping habit, start with setting a routine bedtime, wake up time and nap time. If a child isn't tired at bedtime, try increasing their activity and outdoor play but not within three hours of getting to bed. *Please see handout attachment for further detailed information.*
- **Education**
Nikki Newman, reports that teaching staff completed the initial visits to start the 2023-2024-part year. Professional development, PAS and family services teams hosted pre-service to kick off the school year, which included a week of professional development for the Childcare Partnership teaching teams. PAS and the education team is also back in the field supporting classroom set-up, challenging behaviors and monitoring health and safety. As for school readiness outcomes, the children's scores have increased (Social Emotional 4%, Physical 4%, Language 5%, Cognitive 9%, Literacy 8%, Math 9%).
- **Mental Health**
Nikki Newman, reports that over the summer they were able to send nine staff members to the conscious discipline conference, and also hosted a training during pre-service. A combined total of over 400 training hours were completed by the education and family services teams. During initial visits, teaching staff completed parent DECA (behavioral assessments) all children to support positive outcomes in the classroom. Completed training for the year of more than 500 hours was also done in mental health support.

8. Policy Council Member Reports

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

9. Call to the Public



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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)

10. Adjournment

Robert Sotomayor, Policy Council Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:21 PM.

Next Meeting:

Monday, September 25, 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.

