



Foundations is the early childhood program of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, which includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.

AFK Vision: *The Alliance for Kids is dedicated to making El Paso County the best place to raise a child.*

AFK Mission: *The Alliance for Kids will serve as a vehicle that brings together agencies and individuals to work collaboratively on a seamless system of care for young children and their families in El Paso County.*

AFK Council Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
6/18/2024 | 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM | [Google Drive](#)

Attendees, Deana Hunt, Liz Denson, Melissa Gibson-Steiner, Shay Almonte, LaQuita Allen, SherryLynn Boyles, Kandy McDaniel, Jennifer Mussaw, Lorri Orwig, Yesenia Torres, Angela McKibben, Josie Watters, Dwanette Martinez,

Members Not in Attendance: Chelsy Harris, Eryn Weems, Jeanne Prather, Kathy Dobyms, Melody Alvarez, Melissa Rogerson, Michael Gaal, Paulette Olson, Rebecca Pontieri, Sandi Kwesell, Stacey Buzbee, Steven Lewis, Susan Silva, Tiffany Pieper, Tina McGrath, Amber Rotramel, Kelly Hurtado, Noreen Landis-Tyson, Ryan Barry, Shelley Ettleman, Alma Wiley, Lori Ganz, Laurie Noblitt, Hannah Levis

AFK COUNCIL

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| Welcome | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yesenia Torres opened with an icebreaker |
| Approval of May Minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deana Hunt Approved, Yesenia Torres Second |
| Review of May Data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shay Almonte updated • The annual report will be coming in July with overall progress and future planning strategies and will be presented for review at the August 20, 2024, UPK & AFK Council meeting to include where the council stands, how far the council has come, and what the next steps are moving forward. • Highlights include quality improvement initiatives and an increase in CCAP providers due to the partnership between CCAP and DHS which allowed for quality expansion funds for different programs which in turn increased the numbers of CCAP providers from 0 to 4 in the past three months • Early childhood mental health programs have seen an increase in individual child services. Currently, there are six embedded sites in the ECMH program. • Career navigators have seen more connections, particularly with Spanish-speaking providers and those interested in continuing their education. There is also a need for additional navigators. |
| Council-Year Two | <p>Strategies for Year Two of the strategic plan include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and refreshing the plan to identify specific topics and actions that need to be addressed, developing sub-committees to work on those areas, and providing solution-oriented reports. • Council membership adjustments include being more engaged in meaningful ways with participants to encourage more successful discussions. • Redefine committee structure whereas sub-committees used to guide the strategic plan but are now seeing the council develop strategies and then directing the sub-committees to fulfill the objectives. Or dissolving sub-committees and re-imagining their purpose. • Revising bylaws, whereas a recent shift since the revision in 2023 has been identified, and the possibility of adjusting the representation requirements that are not legally required. • Planning for future meetings and roles. |

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| <p>Sub-Committees</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to dissolve Subcommittees and absorb their functions into AFK council to refresh the Year-Two strategic plan (Vote Passed) • Suggestion to explore different types of committees and their purposes to fulfill the objectives of the strategic plan on an as-needed basis • Consider the creation of AD-HOC program-oriented project groups based on specific topics and actions. • Seek interested parties to participate in the recruitment process, and narrow participation based on a specific group and the need for input from the larger community. • Legislative session identified as a priority for additional support. • Request for committee members to share any ongoing projects or tasks to allow for a discussion on how committee members can be better utilized in a more intentional way |
| <p>Council Positions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council co-chair positions will be available after the current chair terms expire in August. • Extend an invitation for interested individuals to express their interest, nominate someone for the position, or participate in the selection and recruitment process |
| <p>Wrap-up and Action Items</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send an email to council members to gather suggestions and gauge their interest in participating in the recruitment process for council membership adjustments. • Revise the bylaws to include the fiscal year for council terms. |
| <p>NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: August 20, 2024, 1:30-3:30 Location: JI (Joint Initiatives) Office – Ponderosa Room</p> | |