

Central Pima Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order & Introductions

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Central Pima Regional Partnership Council was held on January 9, 2013 at Make Way for Books, 3955 E. Fort Lowell Rd., Suite 114, Tucson, Arizona 85712.

Chair Peg Harmon welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Chair Harmon called upon Regional Council members and staff to briefly introduce themselves.

Members Present: Peg Harmon, Dr. Dorothy Johnson, David Hill, Teri Meléndez, Bob Hehli, Susan Pitt, and Kelly Burroughs

Members Present Telephonically: George Rushing

Members Absent: Jolene Mutchler

Others Present: Jessica Brisson, Central Pima Regional Director, Erin Lyons, Senior Director of the Southeast Area, Rhian Evans Allvin, Chief Executive Officer, Eleanor Droegemeier, South Pima Regional Director, Tiburcia Yocupicio-Cambers, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Director, and Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012 Central Pima Regional Council Meeting with the correction of a typographical error on page 4, seconded by member Kelly Burroughs. Motion carried.

Call to the Public

Jenny Volpe, *Make Way for Books Assistant Director*: Ms. Volpe introduced herself to the newer members of the Regional Council and shared that Make Way for Books runs the Raising a Reader program for Central Pima. She provided information to the Regional Council regarding a fun run fundraiser and invited anyone to attend.

Diane Hiratsuka, *Pima County Health Department, Child Care Health Consultation*: Ms. Hiratsuka introduced herself and her colleague to the Regional Council. She provided information about her program and some very preliminary data they collected on regional obesity numbers in preschool children. Ms. Hiratsuka informed the Regional Council that they were able to provide all families with education, and the centers with the highest percentage of obesity rates with nutrition curriculum and resources on physical activity.

Lisette DeMars, *Parent Awareness & Community Outreach Coordinator, First Things First*: Ms. DeMars presented a copy of the monthly outreach report and highlighted portions of the report. She shared two stories on the report and encouraged the Regional Council to share any ideas for further outreach opportunities with her.

Recognition of Former Central Pima Regional Council Member, Martha Rothman

Chair Harmon began this agenda item by sharing the Council's sadness at Member Rothman's retirement. She introduced and thanked First Things First Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rhian Evans Allvin for helping to recognize Ms. Rothman. Ms. Allvin stated that it is always good to be back in Tucson and that it is an honor to recognize Martha. She shared Ms. Rothman's extensive contributions to early childhood, which included creating programs to support children and families in Southern Arizona, and founding Child & Family Resources Inc. She also shared personal stories of Martha's advocacy work from the beginning of the initiative work to create First Things First. She ended by stating that what she values the most of Martha is her passion and the courage of her convictions, and presenting Martha with a letter of thanks from First Things First Board Chairman Steven W. Lynn and her. Ms. Rothman thanked Ms. Allvin and the Regional Council, and wished them luck as they continue their work.

FTF Updates and Discussion with CEO Rhian Evans Allvin

CEO Rhian Evans Allvin continued to address the Regional Council. She recognized member George Rushing for his one year of service with First Things First. Ms. Allvin first spoke of the National Research and Evaluation Panel, stating that they had two major recommendations and sharing more detail on each. First, that a longitudinal study is not the best fit for First Things First, rather that the agency should focus on developing an excellent database. If it is done well, the data First Things First was after in the study would be obtainable. The second recommendation was the creation of the Statewide Developmental Kindergarten Readiness Entry Assessment is a good plan, and should be conducted during the first three months of kindergarten, not prior to the child's entry into school. Discussion is now occurring around what type of tool to use, with a grant awarded by the Virginia Piper Trust for the purpose of developing or adapting a tool and determining appropriate use. Ms. Allvin also provided updates on the taskforces created for Public/Private Partnerships as well as the regional boundaries, and legislative updates. Ms. Allvin ended with an entry discussion on systems building, and addressed questions related to specifics about evaluation, data and intensely political issues of tracking children before age five.

Update and Discussion: FTF National Advisory Research and Evaluation Panel

Chair Peg Harmon introduced the agenda item and alerted the Regional Council she would have to leave soon. She then turned the floor over to Ms. Brisson. Ms. Brisson took the Regional Council through the evaluation presentation in their packet. Ms. Brisson said thanks to Rhian's introduction earlier, she would focus on the data dashboards, providing them with different examples of dashboard information. She then asked the Regional Council if they ideas for what sort of data might be useful to them. Conversation was had by members of the Regional Council on the ways the dashboards might be able to illustrate overlap and possible duplication of services as well as gaps, different nomenclature of similar services effecting the ability cross-map when names might vary even if services are similar, and what is the role the Regional Council at this point with the data, as at this point the back end of the database is being built. Members further discussed having outside data to layer over the first things first data, such as poverty rates, school district data etc., as well as outside programs to assist both the regional council and the parents and providers to enable them to see what is available in their community. Member Meléndez shared an example from her school district of tracking a program helping to see where it is not being effective, and also stated she liked the idea of the maps to create an immediate picture and then allow you to delve into the data from there.

Chair Harmon left the meeting at approximately 5:17 p.m.

Update and Discussion: Discretionary Funding

Vice Chair Johnson introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Ms. Brisson. Ms. Brisson took them briefly through the document provided regarding discretionary funding and provided them with information from the discussion had on this topic at the last Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting. She then asked members for their thoughts on the current versus different ways of distributing the discretionary funding. Members discussed and shared their ideas, including that the current method seems fair; a desire to not have there be a competition between Regional Councils; that the idea might be less concerning and more to be considered were the Central Pima and other Regional Councils not currently maximizing their funding; the current system appears equitable, and that members like the way Regional Councils help each other now. Members also agreed that high value systems might be worth setting aside a small pot of funding for.

Systems-Building Discussion

Vice Chair Johnson introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Ms. Brisson. Ms. Brisson took the members through a presentation on systems building included in the meeting packet. She provided an example of a systems issue within the professional development strategy that was identified with the help of a grantee, and the grantees facilitation of conversation between staff and other grantee partners to begin to address the issue. This illustrated how the Regional Council is a piece in the system. She stated that as Central Pima was encountering these issues, there was a chance the at least the other two Pima councils might be as well. She asked the Regional Council if the Systems Building discussions were something that the Regional Council wished to engage in cross-regionally, and also asked if there were other systems issues that the Regional Council should address. Members shared their ideas and thoughts regarding the need for some statewide or larger region focus outside of zip codes for similar areas in

order to provide real impact for families and track families who tend to move between similar areas. Members shared other thoughts on cross-regional discussions, the barrier to achieving quality when the pay for educators and child care providers is so low, the less is more approach in terms of looking at getting in-depth information on a few indicators rather than all, and need versus overwhelming factors. Ms. Allvin responded to a few comments particularly in terms of the last comments, and the balance of the need for big picture versus what is feasible and meaningful.

Update on FTF School Readiness Indicators and Benchmarks

Vice Chair Johnson introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Ms. Brisson. Ms. Brisson stated that as the Indicators were touched upon briefly in the previous discussion, she could email the Regional Council members to see who might have interest or be available to have a cross-regional committee discussion on benchmarks. Members concurred.

Regional Director's Report

Ms. Brisson stated that she did not want to keep the members long, so she would be brief and leave the members to read the details on their own time. She informed the members that a selection of the 2014 Needs and Assets Vendors will occur at the February meeting. She provided information about the Quality Assurance Framework, Regional Boundaries Task Force, and regional evaluation. She touched on the expenditure report and a few points from the data packet.

General Discussion

None at this time.

Call to the Public

None at this time.

Adjourn

A motion was made by member Teri Meléndez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by member Susan Pitt. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:38 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Dorothy Johnson, Vice Chair

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.