

## **Regional Director's Report**

### **February 13, 2013**

#### **Statewide Updates**

##### **January 22-23 First Things First State Board Meeting**

- ❖ A copy of a summary of activities and decisions from the FTF Board meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> has been provided.
- ❖ Key highlights:
  - Funding Plan Presentations- The Fiscal Year 2014 Central Pima Regional Funding Plan was approved unanimously by the FTF Board. In addition, the 30 other funding plans from across the state were approved. The plans represent the second year of a 3-year planning cycle and include the regions' projected spend-down of carry-forward balances.
  - Professional Development Presentations- *Building Arizona's Early Childhood Professional Development System – System Framework* and the two-year strategic plan was presented to the FTF Board. The draft report, *Arizona's Unknown Issue- Early Learning Workforce Trends* was also presented to the FTF Board. Both reports and the strategic plan will be exceptional resources to Central Pima and addressing the professional development systems issue of accessibility to higher education in the region.
  - All Board documents, including the professional development presentations can be found on the FTF website at [www.azftf.gov](http://www.azftf.gov). Hard copies of any of the Board documents, including the presentations are available to members upon request.

##### **Regional Boundary Taskforce Update**

- ❖ The First Things First State Board has convened a taskforce to conduct the next review of the regional boundaries.
- ❖ The taskforce is being co-chaired by Jack Jewett from the Flinn Foundation and Judy Mohraz from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.
- ❖ The taskforce has now convened twice; on October 25<sup>th</sup> and January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The next meeting of the Boundary Taskforce will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Tucson, at the City of Tucson Resource Center, 320 North Commerce Park Loop. *Important note: The meeting location has been changed and was originally scheduled at Westside Police Station; however the meeting has been moved to the City of Tucson to accommodate telephone needs.*
- ❖ At the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Taskforce will be recommending changes, which includes a recommendation for the Pima regions. Considerations under discussion are whether to continue three Pima county regions or to consolidate North Pima and Central Pima into one region and whether to move certain zip codes from one region to another.
- ❖ The Taskforce adheres to Open Meeting Law and includes Call to the Public, which Regional Council members and community members have an opportunity to make a statement.

##### **Quality First Scholarships**

- ❖ Through fiscal monitoring of the Quality First Child Care Scholarships strategy, there was evidence of a significant number of Quality First child care scholarships are under-utilized by eligible providers whereas some Quality First sites have families on wait lists for scholarships.
- ❖ The under-utilization is an overall statewide issue, not a regional-specific or geographic isolated issue.
- ❖ To address the utilization in Fiscal Year 2013, FTF leadership and finance worked with the grantee to establish the following next steps:
  - All Quality First providers who were not utilizing the full allotment of child care scholarships were contacted to confirm that they would not utilize them for the remainder of this fiscal year.
  - Unused scholarships will be offered to Quality First participating providers who utilize the scholarships for up to double the cap provided for under the Quality First model for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013.
  - The increase in the cap has been designated to programs that have rated at a two star or higher and programs that are enrolled in Quality First.
  - Steps to address the under-utilization of Quality First Child Care Scholarships are being considered for Fiscal Year 2014.

### Quality First Ratings

- ❖ Public launch of Quality First Ratings has been set for the week of August 12<sup>th</sup>. This has been moved back from the original target month of April 2013 to allow for Arizona specific messaging research around how we can best talk to parents and caregivers about Quality First and quality settings.
- ❖ Earned media efforts related to the launch will begin in August.
- ❖ As of January 2013, the following table represents the rating distribution for Central Pima (note assessments and ratings continue to be underway; the ratings will continue to change):

<i>1 Star</i>	<i>2 Star</i>	<i>3 Star</i>	<i>4 Star</i>	<i>5 Star</i>	<i>Total</i>
6	58	8	3		75

### **Regional Updates**

#### Fiscal Year 2014 Renewal Process

- ❖ During the Regional Council approval of the Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Plan, members approved the continuation of the strategy, the funding level and the funding mechanism. In the case of continuing strategies, the mechanism that was approved was for a grant renewal.
- ❖ Regional Directors are working with their assigned finance specialist to identify the grantee and funding amounts.
- ❖ Finance team prepares the renewal packets and sends to eligible grantees by March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ For Central Pima, there are a total of 10 grant renewals for the Regional Council's consideration and possible approval.
- ❖ Regional Council has the opportunity to approve grant renewals during the May 8<sup>th</sup> Central Pima Regional Partnership Council meeting. It is imperative all are members present at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to ensure quorum.
- ❖ Grant renewals will be considered and up for approval at the FTF Board meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Update of Family, Friend and Neighbor Strategy

- ❖ The FTF Board has approved the Central Pima Family Friend and Neighbor strategy allotment for \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2014 with the intent to maintain the funding level in Fiscal Year 2015 for \$150,000.
- ❖ Central Pima and South Pima have committed to a joint partnership and joint release of a Request For Grant Application (RFGA) to serve Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers.
- ❖ The RFGA is anticipated to be released in March and with the intent services and implementation will begin July 1, 2013.

#### Regional Evaluation

- ❖ **Family Support Targeted Evaluation Study-** Harder + Company recently met with the Regional Directors of the five regions that are participating in the study. At the meeting, Harder + Company presented the draft survey that will be given to parents and families who are currently enrolled in one of our family support programs. Data collection will continue into the spring months.
- ❖ **Early Childhood Workforce Evaluation Study-** McREL has provided an update of progress (refer to attachments 2 and 3). At the April 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Council meeting, McREL anticipates presenting another update to the Regional Council; however this update will be in person.

#### Upcoming Events

- ❖ **February 19-** Regional Boundaries Taskforce meeting, City of Tucson Resource Center, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson in the Sentinel Building, Rillito and Sabino Rooms.
- ❖ **February 28-** Southeast Area Regional Grantee Coordination meeting, 10:00-Noon at Casa De Los Niños, 40 N Swan Blvd.
- ❖ **March 6-** Southeast Area Regional Councils present to FTF Board Fiscal Year 2014 Regional Funding Plans and dialog with members of the FTF Board; Catholic Community Services, 140 W. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85705.
- ❖ **March 9-10-** Tucson Festival of Books, University of Arizona, Tucson.

#### Accompanying Reports

- ❖ The Fiscal Year 2013 Quarter 2 Program Narrative Report *Attachment #5*
- ❖ Updated Fiscal Year 2013 Expenditure Report *Attachment #6*