



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

aztf.gov

**Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership
Council Meeting Agenda and
Supporting Documentation
February 15, 2013**



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azftf.gov

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council Meeting – 02/15/2013

Packet Table of Contents:

Meeting Agenda	3 - 4
Attachment 1: Draft Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2012	6
Attachment 2: Draft Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2012	8 - 13
Attachment 3: SFY2014 Funding Plan Implementation Documents	15 - 20
Attachment 4: 2014 Needs and Assets Vendor Selections Discussion Documents	22 - 26
Attachment 5: Benchmarking Documents	28 - 36
Attachment 6: Community Outreach Report	38
Attachment 7: January State Board Summary	44 - 46
Attachment 8: Announcements	48



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

aztf.gov

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council Meeting Agenda

February 15, 2013

9:00 a.m. –

West-MEC, 5487 N. 99th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona, 85305

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (1), A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (2) and A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3), the Regional Partnership Council may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the general public, to discuss personnel items, records exempt from public inspection and/or to obtain legal advice.

The Regional Partnership Council may hear items on the agenda out of order. The Regional Partnership Council may discuss, consider, or take action regarding any item on the agenda. The Regional Partnership Council may elect to solicit public comment on certain agenda items.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order** **Dr. Debbie Pischke, Chair**

2. **Call to the Public** **Dr. Debbie Pischke, Chair**
This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Council may not discuss or take legal action regarding matters that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

3. **Review and Approval of November 21, 2012 and December 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes** **Dr. Debbie Pischke, Chair**

4. **Presentation from Maricopa County First Teeth First Program** **Kimberly Richards**
First Teeth First Program Coordinator

5. **Presentation from Southwest Institute for Children and Families' Parents as Partners Program** **Catherine Otto**
Director of Educational Services, SWI

6. **Discussion on SFY 2014 Funding Plan Implementation** **Dr. Debbie Pischke, Chair**
Christina Lyons, Regional Director
 - a. **Grantee Agreement's**
 - b. **Renewals**
 - c. **Update and Discussion on 2014 Regional Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Strategies**
 - d. **Developmental Screening Strategy Development**

7. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding 2014 Needs and Assets Vendor Selection** **Dr. Debbie Pischke, Chair**

8. **Discussion on Benchmarking** **Dr. Debbie Pischke, Chair**

9. Staff Updates

- a. **Community Outreach Update**
- b. **Director's Update**

- i. **January 23, 2013 State Board Meeting Update**
- ii. **March 8, 2013 Meeting/ Discussions with the State Board**
- iii. **Family Resource Center Collaboration Update**
- iv. **Update on Regional Boundary Taskforce**

Christina Lyons, Regional Director
Angela Mussi, Community Outreach Coordinator

10. Council Member Updates

Council Members

11. Adjourn

Dr. Debbie Pischke, Chair



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

aztf.gov

ATTACHMENT 1

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2012



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

November 21, 2012 - Draft Special Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

The Special Meeting of the First Things First Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at the First Things First Glendale Office, 18001 N. 79th Ave, Suite A6, Glendale, Arizona 85308.

Regional Director Lyons welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 2:36 p.m.

Members Present Via Conference Call:

Patrick Contrades, Annette Johnson, Margaret Morales, Dr. Deborah Pischke, Janelle Radoccia and Lynda Vescio

Members Absent:

Judy Brengi, Stacey Cassidy, Ashley Flowers and Karon Ford

Guests:

None.

Discussion and Possible Action on 2013 Funding Plan Development:

Council Member Contrades made a motion that the Council utilize State Fiscal Year 2013 carry forward dollars to increase its allotment to regional strategy "Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships" in the amount of \$126,000.00 with the intent that funding will be used to allot additional scholarships to the Nadaburg Elementary School District. Motion was seconded by Council Member Vescio.

Regional Director Lyons requested a Roll Call –

Council Members stating "Aye" for voting purposes: Johnson, Dr. Pischke, Radoccia, Morales, Vescio and Contrades

Motion to approve that Council utilize State Fiscal Year 2013 carry forward dollars to increase its allotment to regional strategy "Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships" in the amount of \$126,000.00 with the intent that funding will be used to allot additional scholarships to the Nadaburg Elementary School District was carried out by unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Regional Director Lyons adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azfff.gov

ATTACHMENT 2

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2012



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

December 17, 2012 – *Draft* Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on Friday, December 17, 2012 at West-MEC, 5487 N. 99th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona 85305.

Chair Dr. Pischke welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:22 a.m.

Chair Dr. Pischke announced that Council Member Karon Ford resigned from the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council effective December 10, 2012. There are now only nine Council Members and there are two positions open (Health and Philanthropic Seats).

Members Present:

Judith Brengi, Stacey Cassidy, Patrick Contrades, Annette Johnson, Margaret Morales, Dr. Deborah Pischke and Jannelle Radoccia

Please Note: Jannelle Radoccia joined the meeting via teleconference.

Please Note: Council Member Morales joined the meeting at approximately 9:34 a.m.

Members Absent:

Ashley Flowers and Lynda Vescio

Call to the Public:

None.

Review and Approval of November 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Contrades made a motion to approve the November 16, 2012 meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and carried out by unanimous vote.

Review and Discussion of 2012 Regional Needs and Assets Addendum Report:

Council discussed the Regional Needs and Assets Addendum Report.

Vice Chair Contrades asked if it would be possible for the Needs and Assets Vendor to do a presentation that gives an overview summarizing some of the findings for the Needs and Assets Addendum Report.

Regional Director Lyons will invite the vendor to come and do a presentation for the Council. The Developmental Screening Subcommittee will meet once the report has been approved to look at developing a strategy that can be implemented based on the recommendations. At that time the Policy Team will be invited to be a part of that group so that the Council can discuss what they are hoping to impact.

Council Member Brengi made a motion to approve the 2012 Regional Needs and Assets Addendum Report. Motion was seconded by Council Member Cassidy and carried out by unanimous vote.

SFY 2014 Funding Plan Development Discussion and Possible Approval:

Chair Dr. Pischke requested verbal declaration of Conflict of Interest and explained that if any Council Member believes that a Conflict of Interest is present the member must disclose that Conflict using the Member Disclosure Form and must sign the Statement of Disqualification at the bottom of the Disclosure Form. Chair Dr. Pischke asked Council Members to state their conflict into the meeting record. Council Members who had a Conflict of Interest were as follows:

Janelle Radocchia – Conflict of Interest with Agenda Item #5, – Council Member Radocchia disclosed that she is an employee of Apostles Lutheran Church who receives funding for Quality First and Pre-K scholarships.

Stacey Cassidy – Conflict of Interest with Agenda Item #5, - Council Member Cassidy disclosed that she is employed at Tots Unlimited which is a Quality First Center and they receive Quality First scholarships, Pre-K scholarships, TEACH and are assigned Child Care Health Consultation.

Annette E. Johnson – Conflict of Interest with Agenda Item #5, – Council Member Johnson disclosed that she is an employee of Peace Lutheran Preschool who participates in Smart Support, SNACK and TEACH and they are currently on a waiting list for Quality First.

Dr. Deborah Pischke – Conflict of Interest with Agenda Item #5, – Chair Dr. Pischke disclosed that she is an employee of the Peoria Unified School District and they receive Pre-K and Quality First scholarships and they have Quality First Centers and employees with TEACH scholarships.

Declaration of Conflicts revealed that a quorum of the Regional Partnership Council had a conflict of interest with the items up for approval. In order to conduct business, Chair Dr. Pischke invoked the Rule of Impossibility. Chair Dr. Pischke requested a Roll Call -

Council Member Brengi made a motion that the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council allot \$171,234.00 in State Fiscal Year 14 for strategy Child Care Health Consultation. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Contrades. Council Member Radocchia abstained. Motion carried 6 to 1.

Council Member Brengi made a motion that the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council allot \$2,371,013.00 in State Fiscal Year 14 for strategy Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Contrades. Council Member Radocchia abstained. Motion carried 6 to 1.

Council Member Brengi made a motion that the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council allot \$1,117,565.00 in State Fiscal Year 14 for strategy Quality First. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Contrades. Council Member Radocchia abstained. Motion carried 6 to 1.

Council Member Brengi made a motion that the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council allot \$3,569,728.00 in State Fiscal Year 14 for strategy Quality First Child Care Scholarships. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Contrades. Council Member Radocchia abstained. Motion carried 6 to 1.

Council Member Brengi made a motion that the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council allot \$104,000.00 in State Fiscal Year 14 for strategy Scholarships – TEACH. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Contrades. Council Member Radocchia abstained. Motion carried 6 to 1.

Review and Discussion of Council Policy Regarding Presentations to Council:

Regional Director Lyons informed Council that a policy was adopted around Presentations to the Council at the June 20, 2008 Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council meeting. Regional Director Lyons gave some background on the process and why this policy was adopted. Regional Director Lyons asked Council if the current policy regarding Presentations to the Council is still applicable to the way Council wants to conduct business.

Vice Chair Contrades brought up a key point of clarification regarding the Policy on Presentations. This is specifically presenting to the Council being an agenda item. There is still an opportunity for the Public to use time for a Call to the Public to do a presentation without being on the agenda. This is one of the fundamentals of Open Meeting Law that Council hear from the public with a time limit as to how long someone can speak during the Call to the Public. Council is not able to respond when there is a Call to the Public whereas if on the agenda Council can respond to or ask questions.

Council Member Brengi suggested that Council consider allowing the Chair and Regional Director of the Council to show some flexibility on deciding who will present at the Council meetings.

Council Member Radoccia asked the question of how other Councils are handling their policy on Presentations to Council.

Senior Director, Maricopa Regions Wendy Sabatini gave some examples of how some of the other Councils handle Presentations to Council.

Vice Chair Contrades would like to keep the approved policy in place with one small change, shifting decision making on request from Council to Council Chair. Vice Chair Contrades proposed that all request to be on the agenda shall be submitted in writing to the Council, with discretion given to the Chair to make the decision as to whether request is honored.

Council consensus was to adopt Vice Chair Contrades proposal, requiring request to formally present to the Northwest Maricopa Regional Council as an agenda be submitted in writing. Council also agreed that request are to be reviewed by Council Chair, who will then make the decision on the request.

Discussion on Discretionary Funding:

Chair Dr. Pischke - The State Board is looking for Council feedback on the Discretionary Funding. The History is that the Discretionary funding is currently being distributed to the Council using the same formula applied to regional allocations. The State Board is asking for Councils feedback on alternative ways to allocate the Discretionary funding. The Council is also being asked to consider, should there be a change from the formula method what might be the impact on Councils and currently funded strategies?

Regional Director Lyons –Regional Director Lyons referred Council to Attachment 2 in the meeting packet, 2014 Proposed Funding Plan Summary and Attachment 3, Discretionary Funding Discussion Document. The Board is asking that Councils discuss their thoughts on how there might be a better way to distribute the money. Some suggestions or things to consider could be capacity building, research and innovation, building public private partnerships and making it available for cross regional collaboration projects.

Council discussed and talked about ideas on how they thought the Discretionary Funding should be used or distributed.

Vice Chair Contrades asked how the current system is limiting what Councils can do and what the total dollar amount is?

Regional Director Lyons mentioned that the Discretionary dollar subtotal is approximately twenty eight million dollars.

Chair Dr. Pischke cautioned that if this does happen it should happen slowly.

Some of the Councils suggestions were as follows:

Council Member Brengi mentioned that she is reluctant to see competition because there can be winners and losers which can cause animosity between Councils. One suggestion is that the Board take a small portion of the pot and make it competitive. Overall Member Brengi would rather see the State Board establishing a priority collaboration stating that this funding is available for something specific and if you don't do it you don't get it but if you do it you get your share of the pot.

Vice Chair Contrades mentioned a concern that if it stays the way it is using the funding method, it should be put in the funding method and should be allowed to flow out the doors and then reduce the dollar percentage. Maybe it is only 5 % discretionary not 10% where it can then be used with categories and themes. With categories and themes being used to make some determinations it can then be at the State Boards discretion. Here is the pot of money go ahead and move it towards what the Councils decide.

Chair Dr. Pischke hopes that the Councils will be presented with something from the State Board as to what they are thinking before anything changes and also agrees with suggestions from Member Brengi and Vice Chair Contrades.

Council Member Johnson asked if it would be possible for the State Board to adopt other formulas to take the discretionary dollars and use a different formula to decide who gets what.

Regional Director Lyons mentioned that it is at the discretion of the State Board to adopt any formula they deem appropriate.

Vice Chair Contrades mentioned that the Board may choose to distribute monies outside of formula funding, ways that are not competitive. Some examples that the Federal Government uses are education innovation grants, district and other types of grants. Other examples include funding research and collaboration.

Chair Dr. Pischke suggested the idea of setting priorities and using discretionary funding to support identified priorities. When Councils are doing their funding plans they have indicators and every strategy that is adopted must be aligned with indicators. This is an opportunity to look at funding for innovative strategies that may not tie into capacity building and being able to fund some strategies that do not directly align with the indicators.

Vice Chair Contrades suggested Public Private Partnerships and mentioned that there are National and International grants that require some sort of matching of funds which would be a great opportunity and great use of discretionary funding. Some other things to consider are Brain Development and Research at a local level. There have been conversations about the idea of learning another language. Students in high school are required to take a second language and brain development shows that this is not the best time. This might be an opportunity to test this model.

Council Member Radoccia added that she liked the idea of collaboration, putting money towards the collaboration of regions.

Vice Chair Contrades suggested not using discretionary funding for one time needs or short term needs. Use as part of a systems building initiative, as long as it is going to achieve what is sustainable and systematic. Cross Regional has to be sustainable.

Council Member Brengi mentioned that with one time funding what has to be looked at is the future effect and down the road how is this going to help.

Regional Director Lyons - When the State Board is looking at making these changes is there anything they need to take into consideration around the implications that this is going to have on Councils?

Council Member Cassidy suggested that they don't take it all at once.

Vice Chair Contrades - Depending on the direction they go for example if we don't have to fund the needs and assets anymore but it still going to be done it is easier to absorb the decrease in our funding. We don't need to put it in our budget. If there are any other general categories that we have to pay for don't put the money in our budget, simply pay for it up front. Make it more research based. One other concern that needs to be addressed as conversations are occurring is the Governance issue and the application end of it. Who makes those decisions, how is that process? It is a challenge filling out lengthy applications.

Discussion on the First Things First Data System:

Chair Dr. Pischke referred Council to Attachment 4 in the meeting packet, First Things First Research and Evaluation Plan 2013-2017: Key Points for Regional Partnership Councils. The Board is requesting information on what Council would like to see on the site and what would be helpful for Council to go on this website. Chair Dr. Pischke asked how often this website would be updated and would the Needs and Assets data be pulled from there? There are a number of centers on waiting lists how do you get the information out there indicating that because a center does not have a star rating it doesn't mean there a zero star it means they haven't been selected for ratings yet. This is important information and needs to be updated before it is put out there.

Vice Chair Contrades - When this is released there will be free publicity for First Things First. They have looked at other states and counties who are doing this and it looks very user friendly.

Regional Director presented Council with a Power Pointe and overview of the plan and infrastructure goals. At the last meeting Council Member Flowers asked for a breakdown of the budget around Evaluation. Regional Director Lyons included the breakdown that was requested. The Board is asking Councils to discuss the following:

What do you need to understand, integrate and use the data in your work as a regional Council?

How do you want to see the data – what would useful for you?

Overall questions, other ideas?

Council discussed and talked about their ideas.

Council Member Johnson suggested that there be many specific filters and that the data be analyzed, accurate and up to date.

Chair Dr. Pischke suggested that information pertaining to childcare centers that are not participating in Quality First, how many childcare centers there are out there and how many children do not attend a childcare program be included in the data. Other important information to include is where the children are during the day, immunization data, special needs data, foster care families, household demographics and anything tied to the Councils Strategies. Pulling up custom or standardized reports would be helpful.

Vice Chair Contrades mentioned that Data Sources are going to be very important. The issue is more the source of the data, is it consistent screen to screen and does the data match. The other thing is the example of dash boards, they are very important because they are a one page snapshot category. There are several dashboards and what is missing from

the tabs is anything health related. There needs to be a balance to health related issues. Vice Chair Contrades cautioned that Related to Health in the Financial Tab can be very misleading. There should be a better display of the information especially for those who are not familiar with what they are looking at. This should be put in context and tie something into financials. Vice Chair Contrades mentioned the importance of the indicators and somehow tying what has been done to the outputs and what the impact is?

Staff Updates:

a. Community Outreach Update

Community Outreach Coordinator Rabago-Mussi provided Council with a copy of the November 13, 2012 – December 13, 2012 Community Outreach Coordinator Report.

- Outreach Coordinator Rabago-Mussi shared a success story “Healthy Beginnings” from a local childcare center that participated in the SNACK Program.
- Outreach Coordinator Rabago-Mussi shared some Outreach Tools such as the First Things First Branded Thank You Cards and some Palm Cards.
- Future Outreach Activities - Early Childhood Everyday Training on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at West-Mec, 5487 N. 99th Ave., Multi-purpose Room, Glendale, AZ 85305. Another site visit is being planned in February and the location has not yet been determined. Suggestions are welcome and all are welcome to attend.

b. Director’s Update

Regional Director Lyons – The funding plan will go the Board on January 23, 2013 around 9:30 a.m. and all are welcome to attend. The next Chair/Vice Chair meeting will be on February 7, 2012 and Regional Director Lyons will send out a formal invitation.

Council Member Updates:

Council Member Brengi suggested that Council consider a different site/location in the spring for future Council Meetings.

Vice Chair Contrades mentioned that a survey was sent to Council Members about the Regional Task Force Boundaries. The Task Force will meet again in early January 2013. There is still time to fill out the survey, input is needed and the timeline for the Regional Boundary Task Force is very aggressive. They are trying to wrap up their work by this summer.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Dr. Pischke adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azftf.gov

ATTACHMENT 3

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

SFY2014 Funding Plan Implementation Document

NORTHWEST MARICOPA: 2014 FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY

Allocations and Funding Sources	2014
FY Allocation	\$10,288,819
Population Based Allocation	\$7,974,464
Discretionary Allocation	\$1,707,140
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$607,215
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$4,418,215
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$14,707,034
Strategies	Approved Allotment
Recruitment into Field	\$280,000
Scholarships non-TEACH	\$45,945
Service Coordination	\$75,000
Statewide Evaluation	\$673,913
Community Awareness	\$75,000
Community Outreach	\$77,000
Family Resource Centers	\$675,000
Food Security	\$100,000
Home Visitation	\$500,000
Media	\$200,000
Mental Health Consultation	\$369,000
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	\$650,000
Oral Health	\$400,000
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$300,000
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships	\$2,371,013
Quality First	\$1,117,565
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$3,569,728
Child Care Health Consultation	\$171,234
Scholarships TEACH	\$104,000
Total	\$11,754,398

SFY 2014 Funding Plan Implementation

New Contracts to be released for a July 1, 2013 start date:

New grantee agreement to be ready for Council review and approval at the regular April Council meeting.

- Food Security: St Mary's Food Bank \$100,000
- Family Resource Center: Peoria Unified School District \$50,000
- Family Resource Center: Pendergast Elementary School District \$100,000 – *New multi-regional contract to include Southwest Maricopa and South Phoenix.*

Contract renewals, by strategy, to be distributed:

FRC:

- Benevilla - \$475,000
- Glendale Elementary School District -\$100,000

Home Visitation:

- Chicanos Por La Causa - \$500,000

Parent Education CBT:

- Benevilla - \$100,000
- Teen Outreach Pregnancy Service - \$200,000

Nutrition/Physical Activity:

- Maricopa County Department of Public Health - \$650,000

Oral Health:

- Maricopa County Department of Public Health - \$400,000 – *Strategy to be expounded in SFY2015 so a one year contract extension to be offered. Multi-regional contract to include Northeast and Southwest Maricopa*

Recruitment into the Field:

- Peoria Unified School District: \$240,000

Statewide Renewals:

- TEACH
- PCPP (non-TEACH scholarships)
- Mental Health Consultation
- Quality First
- Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
- Child Care Health Consultation

Strategies still in development:

- Recruitment into the Field: Grant Agreement with Dysart Unified School District: \$40,000
- Developmental Screenings: Funding Total and Mechanism TBD

Renewal Process Timeline for SFY14

March 2013

- **Renewal Packets Sent to Grantees: March 8, 2013**
- **Renewal Responses Due Back from Grantee: April 1, 2013**

April 2013

- **Renewal Materials to Council: April 19, 2013**

May 2013

- **All Board Materials Due: May 17**

June 2013

- **Recommendations Presented at June 11, 2013 State Board Meeting For Board Consideration**
- **Grantees Notified of Board Decision June 12-14**

Northwest Maricopa Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Strategies – Guiding Document

First Things First SFY 2014 Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Policy Implementation:

All programs must have a 3, 4 or 5 star rating to be eligible for Pre-K Scholarships. To receive a star rating, programs must be enrolled in Quality First. There are multiple ways to fund Quality First for Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship recipients.

- Full Participation Quality First with Quality First Scholarships – these programs will receive the full QF package of services and both Quality First Child Care Scholarships and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships.
- Full Participation Quality First without Quality First Scholarships – these programs will receive the full QF package of services and only Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships.
- Rating Only – these programs will receive 6 months of coaching during the year that this is funded and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships. ***In FY2014 and beyond, these programs must already be rated at a 3 star or higher to continue funding in this manner.***

If a program achieves a star rating below 3 stars in FY 2013, the following options that can be considered:

Programs Already Enrolled in Full Participation Quality First:

- Program can remain in Full Participation Quality First and receive the base number of Quality First Scholarships
- Program can remain in Full Participation Quality First and receive double the cap of Quality First Scholarships
- Program can remain in Full Participation quality First and receive over double the cap of Quality First Scholarships with submission and approval of a waiver*

Programs Enrolled in Rating Only Quality First:

- Not funding the program at all to continue in either Quality First or Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships.
- Funding the program in Full Participation Quality First with the base number of Quality First Scholarships
- Funding the program in Full Participation Quality First with double the cap of Quality First Scholarships
- Funding the program in Full Participation Quality First with over double the cap of Quality First Scholarships with submission and approval of a waiver*

The Quality First Scholarship waiver will be provided by the Regional Director to programs that were receiving Pre-K Scholarships who do not meet the 3 – 5 star levels. The program will complete the waiver, which includes information about why the program is requesting over double the cap and what other funding sources might be available for blending and braiding funding (i.e. Title I, DES Subsidy, IDEA, Parent Fees, Community Ed., CTE, Philanthropic, etc.).

Northwest Maricopa Funding;

SFY 2013 Funding:

- \$1,377,483 invested in Quality First (\$1,183,058 FP / \$194,425 RO)
- \$2,580,518 invested in Quality First Scholarships
- \$2,000,000 invested in Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
- 58 Quality First Full Participation (FP) Centers / 10 Quality First Full Participation Homes
- 21 Quality First Rating Only Sites (RO) – All School Based
- 445 Quality First Scholarships
- 247 Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
 - Distributed among 33 Sites
 - 5 Quality First Full Participation Centers
 - 28 Schools (7 FP Sites / 21 RO Sites)
 - 11 Sites Receive Both Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships

Current status of Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Site:

*All data is preliminary and ratings have not yet been determined/issues. Information is speculative based on available information.

- 15 RO Sites will be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
- 6 RO Sites will not be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
 - 3 sites in lower income zip codes and could be eligible in SFY15
 - Receiving 44 part-time (PT) Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
 - 3 sites will not be eligible in SFY15
 - Receiving 10 full-time (FT) and 6 PT scholarships
- 1 RO Site too early in rating process to speculate on eligibility
- 5 FP Sites not eligible
 - 4 Schools
 - 2 school not eligible due to missing rating deadline (4/1)
 - 2 schools in rural communities
 - 1 Center
 - Located in lower income zip code
- 7 FP Sites too early in rating process to speculate on eligibility
 - 3 Schools
 - 1 school in lower income zip code
 - 4 Centers
 - 2 Centers in lower income zip codes
 - 45 FT and 54 PT Scholarships

Approved SFY 2014 Funding:

- \$1,117,565 invested in Quality First (All FP – as RO is only funded every two years)
- \$3,569,728 invested in Quality First Scholarships
- \$2,000,000 invested in Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
- 58 Quality First Full Participation (FP) Centers / 10 Quality First Full Participation Homes
- 21 Quality First Rating Only Sites (RO)
- 508 Quality First Scholarships
- 247 Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships

****Preliminary recommendations for considerations:**

- Move the 3 RO sites that could be eligible in SFY15 for Scholarships into FP
 - Provide these sites with waivers, as needed, for up to double the cap for Quality First Scholarships.
- 5 FP Sites not eligible
 - Provide 2 current Pre-Kindergarten scholarship sites in rural communities with waivers to sustain current scholarship allotments.
- Purchase one additional FP Quality First site for the 1 RO still in process (hopefully not needed- but just in case).

Other suggestions for consideration:

- 5 FP Sites not eligible
 - Provide current Pre-Kindergarten scholarship sites located in lower income zip codes with waivers, as needed, for up to double the cap for Quality First Scholarships.
- 7 FP Sites too early to speculate.
 - Provide current Pre-Kindergarten scholarship sites in lower income zip codes with waivers, as needed, for up to double the cap for Quality First Scholarships.

Proposed SFY 2014 Funding Plan Changes if all recommendations and suggestions are approved:

- Add 4 Quality First Full Participation slots
- Purchase 95 FT Quality First Scholarships
- Reduce Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships to 200 FT slots



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azftf.gov

ATTACHMENT 4

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

2014 Needs and Assets Vendor Selection Documents

**Northwest Maricopa
2014 Needs and Assets Report - Proposed Vendors**

Providers	Costs
Applied Survey Research	\$17,000 maximum per report at \$100 per hour.
Communities in Schools of Arizona	\$16,800 maximum per report at \$105 per hour.
UA - Norton School (ISA)	\$17,000 maximum per report at \$85 per hour.
Wholonomy Consulting	\$16,995 maximum per report at \$103 per hour.

Proposal Summary
First Things First Regional Needs and Assets

Vender Name: Applied Survey Research

Proposal is for the following Region: Northwest Maricopa

Not to Exceed Hourly Rate: \$100.00

Proposed Cost for Each Region: \$17,000

Contact Information: Susan Brutschy (831) 728-1356

The proposal indicates that the vender has experience and knowledge of:

		NOTES
Conducting community assessments	Yes	History of creating community assessment reports; many successful large scale projects in other communities
Data Analysis	Yes	Proposal indicates early childhood development and community data collection experience. Understanding of needs assessments, survey research and data collection/analysis. Experience in performing long-term, complex research and program evaluation using multi-source data collection and integration methods.
Regional Partnership Council Area	Not included	
Vender indicated willingness to expand scope beyond base report:	Yes	Plan for additional data collection is included.
Proposed timeline meets statutory requirements and presents a clear plan	Yes	

Applied Survey Research - This is a California based national social research firm with extensive experience in conducting community assessment projects, community health assessments, children’s reports, homeless census and surveys, program evaluation and community strategic planning. In 2007, Applied Survey Research won the first place Community Indicator Consortium Innovation award sponsored by the Brookings Institution. Applicant has extensive experience in early childhood projects mostly with the Zero to Five programs in California. Community assessments and family studies were conducted for two dozen “First 5 – Zero to Five” programs. They have done several projects in Arizona mostly in the Coconino region including the Coconino County Community Health Assessment in 2003 and the Alliance for Children’s Early Success Community Assessment in 2007 (Coconino County).

Proposal includes an extensive list of data sources. They have extensive experience in face to face surveys. They are proposing to do Family and Community surveys. They propose to use family portraits to identify the needs of families in the regions.

The proposal is for Coconino County, but they state that they have the capabilities to serve all of Maricopa County including the adjacent tribal regions. The staffing proposed do not include any Maricopa County based staffing, but the company handles multiple projects each month and has staff and resources to take on additional work. They state that they have a pool of talented and experienced professionals to draw from in order to complete the projects in an expert and timely manner.

Vendor has completed Regional Needs and Assets Reports in past. Familiar with Report Outline and Template. Prior work had met objectives, however, Regional Councils feedback indicates that vendor was not as responsive to Councils’ individual needs as Councils’ would have desired.

Proposal Summary
First Things First Regional Needs and Assets

Vender Name: Communities in Schools of Arizona

Proposal is for the following Region: Northwest Maricopa

Not to Exceed Hourly Rate: \$105

Proposed Cost for Each Region: \$16,800

Contact information: Alexis Smith-Schallenberger (602) 252-5312

The proposal indicates that the vender has experience and knowledge of:

		NOTES
Conducting community assessments	Yes	Proposal indicates experience in community assessment, especially working Maricopa County School Districts
Data Analysis	Some	Proposal generally indicates experience in data analysis
Regional Partnership Council Area	Yes	Previous experience in the area – established, working relationships with school districts.
Vender indicated willingness to expand scope beyond base report:	Yes	Plan for additional data collection is included.
Proposed timeline meets statutory requirements and presents a clear plan	Yes	

Communities in Schools Arizona - Proposal is for all Maricopa County Regions as well as Tribal Regions within the Maricopa County Boundaries. Communities in Schools of Arizona was formed in 1994 with a focus to keep children in school and to prepare them for college, career and life. The applicant is a leader in the “Community Schools” concept which is a vision of schools as a vital center for the entire community and delivery point for services and resources. They recently completed a community needs assessment within Greater Phoenix Area – Communities in Schools of Arizona. Currently serving Washington, Littleton, Avondale, Phoenix, Riverside and Creighton Elementary school districts as well as Phoenix and Glendale Union High School Districts.

Applicant is willing to expand the scope of work to meet regional needs. The applicant has a proven track record in gathering and analyzing county and community level data. Deliverables include regional data mapping, interviews, focus groups and comprehensive data analysis. This applicant has extensive experience in Arizona, but most of the focus seems to be on elementary and high school. Proposed staff has extensive experience with elementary and high school focus, but it is unclear regarding applicant’s experience in Early Childhood Education and Health issues.

Applicant has not been selected to complete a Regional Needs and Assets Report in prior years.

Proposal Summary
First Things First Regional Needs and Assets

Vender Name: University of Arizona

Proposal is for the following Region: Northwest Maricopa

Not to Exceed Hourly Rate: \$85 per hour

Proposed Cost for Each Region: \$17,000

Contact information: Michelle Walsh

The proposal indicates that the vender has experience and knowledge of:

		NOTES
Conducting community assessments	Yes	Extensive experience in creating community assessment reports; including many successful large scale projects in other communities.
Data Analysis	Yes	Detailed plan for data collection and analysis. Proposal indicates early childhood development and community data collection experience. Understanding of needs assessments, survey research and data collection/analysis.
Regional Partnership Council Area	Yes	Previous experience in the area through extension office.
Vender indicated willingness to expand scope beyond base report:	Yes	Plan for additional data collection is included.
Proposed timeline meets statutory requirements and presents a clear plan	Yes	Detailed timeline that meets requirements

University of Arizona: Through the Extension offices, the University of Arizona has proposed to conduct the needs and assets report for all regions in the state. Applicant proposed a detailed plan for data collection and analysis, including a comprehensive survey of key stakeholders and parents. Additional deliverables include regional data mapping, interviews, focus groups and comprehensive data analysis.

Applicant is willing to expand the scope of work to meet regional needs. The applicant has a proven track record in gathering and analyzing county and community level data. Applicant is currently working with First Things First on the external evaluation project and the child care study project. Staff proposed to work on the needs and assets report are highly qualified with expertise in early childhood.

Has completed Regional Needs and Assets Reports in past, including multiple Maricopa Regions. Familiar with Report Outline and Template. Prior work met all objectives and timelines. Final report was well received by Regional Councils and all feedback was positive.

Proposal Summary
First Things First Regional Needs and Assets

Vender Name: Wholonomy Consulting

Proposal is for the following Region: Northwest Maricopa

Not to Exceed Hourly Rate: \$103 per hour

Proposed Cost for Each Region: \$16,995

Contact information: Cassandra O’Neill (520) 403-0687

The proposal indicates that the vender has experience and knowledge of:

		NOTES
Conducting community assessments	Yes	Extensive experience in creating community assessment reports; including many successful large scale projects. Consultants have experience with FTF Needs and Assets Reports (through Lecroy & Milligan) and AEEF community assessments.
Data Analysis	Yes	Willing to include Collaborative Inquiry Cycle which would include Regional Councils and other key stakeholders in interpretation and analysis of data.
Regional Partnership Council Area	Yes	Conducted AEEF community assessments.
Vender indicated willingness to expand scope beyond base report:	Yes	Plan for additional data collection is included.
Proposed timeline meets statutory requirements and presents a clear plan	Yes	

Wholonomy – This applicant is a national network of consultants with a hub in Arizona. Wholonomy is a consulting firm dedicated to positive organizational development. They approach their work with an exploration of how to best leverage and maximize community strengths, increase impact of existing community resources, elevate community input and dialogue and create sustainable change through the identification of needs that when met will have the greatest impact in meeting identified goals. Several of the team members were subcontractors to LeCroy & Milligan in the development of the First Thing First 2008 Regional Needs and Assets reports. While the proposed staffs are qualified and experienced in similar work, the proposal does not indicate experience of Wholonomy in conducting similar projects.

Applicant is heavily focused on community engagement and is willing to do adjacent tribal regions. The proposed plan includes details of the implementation process and data collection process that seem to meet the intent of the proposal, but little detail is available on process for collecting data. This applicant is only willing to do eight regions statewide and does not have the capacity to do all regions in Maricopa County.

Vendor has completed a Regional Needs and Assets Reports in past. Familiar with Report Outline and Template. Prior work met all objectives and timelines.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azftf.gov

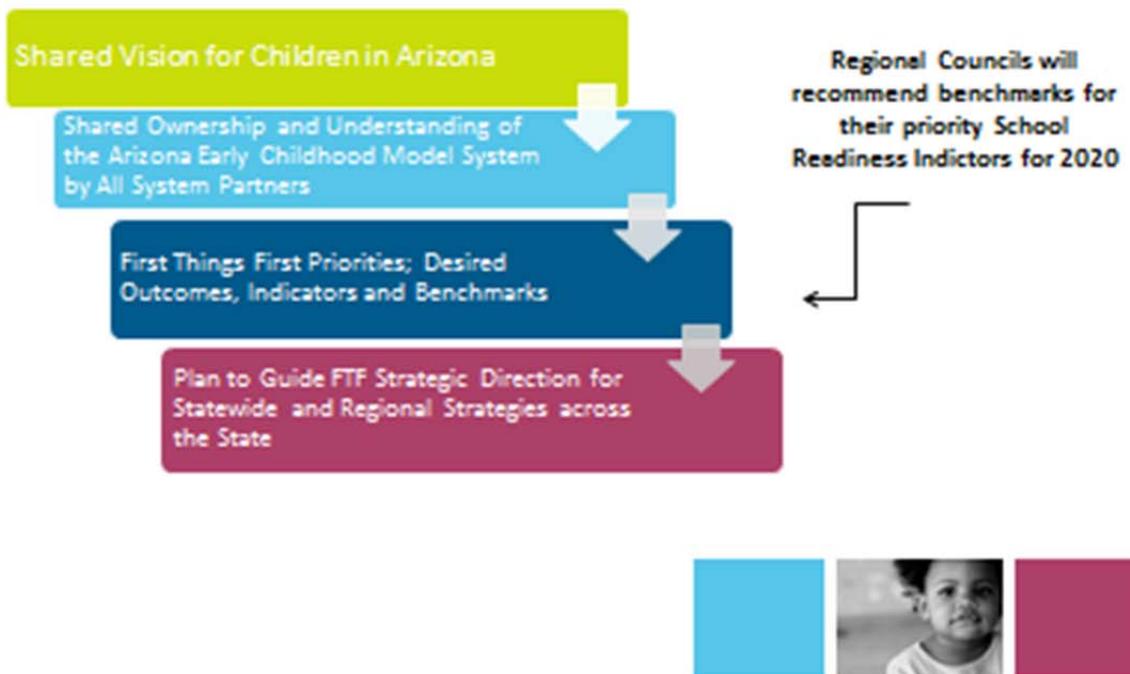
ATTACHMENT 5

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Benchmarking Documents

Vision and Strategic Direction



This graphic may be familiar to you because we have been using it for over 2 years now. It shows the aligned process we've used to develop our vision and strategic direction for our work at FTF in the early childhood and health system. We began in January 2010 by convening the Early Childhood System Task Force, which developed the "model" early childhood system and then recommended strategic priorities for FTF. Last year, our Program Committee convened 3 Advisory Committees in the Early Learning, Health, Family Support and Literacy, and those committees recommended 10 School Readiness Indicators that FTF will use through 2020 to measure progress on implementing the strategic priorities. State level benchmarks, or targets, have been approved by the Board, so now we begin the regional process, which will occur over the next 18 months.

FTF Roles

9 Priority Roles

1. Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation
2. Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum and Assessment
3. Quality, Access and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings
4. Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services
5. Nutrition and Physical Activity
6. Supports and Services for Families
7. Professional Development System
8. Building Public Awareness and Support
9. Early Childhood System Funding



These are the 9 Priority Roles approved by Board in 2010.

School Readiness Indicators

1. Children demonstrating kindergarten readiness in developmental domains
2. Children enrolled in high quality early learning programs
3. Children with special needs/rights enrolled in high quality early learning programs
4. Families accessing affordable high quality early learning programs
5. Children with newly identified developmental delays in the kindergarten year
6. Children exiting special education prior to kindergarten
7. Children at healthy body weight
8. Children receiving timely well-child visits
9. Children with untreated tooth decay
10. Families competent and confident about ability to support their child



Last year, Advisory Committees recommended 10 School Readiness Indicators that reflect the 9 priority roles. These School Readiness Indicators are a collective group of indicators, and each one relates to one or more of the priority roles (not just a 1:1 correspondence of 1 Indicator to 1 priority role).

By measuring our progress on these child specific indicators, we can also measure our progress on making positive system changes that impact school readiness for kids.

The indicators chosen by the Northwest Maricopa Council to address are 1,2,9, and 10.

Using Benchmarks for Planning

- Benchmarks are used to monitor progress on the School Readiness Indicators in large populations of children and families using data aggregated at the state and local level
- Indicators and benchmarks measure all efforts in the early childhood system, not just FTF efforts
- Use for planning and guiding FTF work at state and regional level (including work that is funded as well as unfunded work with partners on system and community development)
- Is one way to monitor and measure progress and impacts of FTF investment, along with other evaluation and research studies
- Aligned with National Advisory Panel research and evaluation recommendations



The School Readiness Indicators and benchmarks are not a system evaluation, a program evaluation or a research study.

The indicators and benchmarks have a different purpose and measure than conducting a program or strategy evaluation, and the benchmarks measure more than just FTF funded efforts.

We don't use benchmarks to measure changes or outcomes due to a specific program strategy, but they measure specific shifts in populations - in our case, populations of kids and families.

Regional Benchmarks

Timeline	Activity
August – December 2012	Data Knowledge and Understanding
January – March 2013	Data Review and Analysis
April – July 2013	Decisions on Benchmark Recommendation
August – September 2013	Solicit Public Feedback
October – December 2013	Finalize Recommendations
April 2014	Recommendations to Board



Regional Benchmarks

Benchmark Decision Making (April –July 2013):

- Determine desired process to select recommended benchmarks—considerations
 - Individually by regional council; cross regionally
 - Committee of the regional council; full regional council; engagement of partners in the region to participate in process
 - How will the work be facilitated—staff facilitated; team of facilitators?
- Steps and process for working through tribal permissions for data collection and interface with the Tribe in establishing the benchmarks—communication and approvals needed
- Moving from identification of data source to establishing baseline and trend line to establishing the benchmark



Northwest Maricopa: School Readiness Indicators and Proposed State Level Benchmarks

Indicator 1:

#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical

Intent:

Increase the number of children with equal opportunity to be successful in school and close the achievement gap before kindergarten entry.

Benchmark 2020:

- It is anticipated that a benchmark for 2020 may be recommended in FY15 upon analysis of baseline data from an Arizona kindergarten developmental inventory.

Baseline:

- It is anticipated that data will be collected and a baseline established in FY15 through either an initial phase or full scale implementation of a kindergarten developmental inventory instrument and data collection system.

Data sources considered:

There is currently no data on school readiness at kindergarten entry available at the statewide level in Arizona. Considerations were given to possible use of public school district or school site level data, but data availability is not consistent, as districts or schools determine whether any data is collected. Additionally, if school readiness is assessed, a wide variety of instruments and processes are used.

Data sources recommended for Benchmark:

A data source to establish this benchmark will be confirmed in the future through ongoing discussions between the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), First Things First, the State Board of Education and the Governor's Office to determine an Arizona kindergarten developmental inventory instrument that is appropriate for all Arizona children to be administered at the beginning of the kindergarten year to measure areas of school readiness. Representatives from these agencies are also participating in national conversations that originated in the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant application process to determine how other states are developing measures of school readiness at kindergarten entry. Public input will also be solicited and considered in making final recommendations and decisions on the Arizona process and age-appropriate tool used for the kindergarten developmental inventory.

Indicator 2:

#/% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars

Intent:

Increase the number of children with access to affordable high quality early learning programs.

Benchmark 2020:

- Increase by 10-20% over baseline the #/% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars.
 - o Numerator: # of AZ children in regulated ECE centers and homes with Quality First 3-5 Star Rating
 - o Denominator: # of AZ children in regulated early care and education centers and homes

Baseline:

- The baseline number will be determined from the Quality First Rating data in July 2013 (at completion of initial year of Quality First Rating process).

Data sources recommended for Benchmark:

First Things First Quality First Rating data collected annually.

Indicator 9:

#/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay

Intent:

Increase the number of children who begin at an early age and regularly visit an oral health professional to receive preventive oral healthcare and services necessary to treat tooth decay.

Benchmark 2020:

- 32%-34% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay.

Baseline:

- 2007 Arizona Oral Health Survey: o 35% of Arizona Children with untreated tooth decay at Kindergarten entry (Arizona Oral Health Survey).

Data sources recommended for Benchmark:

Arizona Oral Health Preschool Survey conducted at a regular intervals; next survey is in 2013, with data available in 2014.

Indicator 10:

% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being

Intent:

Increase the number of families who report they are competent and confident to support their child.

Benchmark 2020:

- 73% of families report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being.

Baseline:

- 2012 Family and Community Survey: o 63% of families report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being.

Data sources considered:

First Things First Family and Community Survey

Data sources recommended for Benchmark:

First Things First Family and Community Survey conducted every two - three years. The Family and Community Survey is designed to measure many critical areas of parent knowledge, skills, and practice related to their young children. The survey contains over sixty questions, many of them exploring multiple facets of parenting. There are questions on overall knowledge of the importance of early childhood, questions which gauge parent knowledge of specific ages and stages, parent behaviors with their children, as well as parent practices related to utilization of services for their families. It is critical that this early childhood indicator be one, clear number that represents a composite measure of critical parent knowledge, skills, and actions. First Things First conducted an analysis on several of the relevant survey indicators to arrive at this composite measure.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azftf.gov

ATTACHMENT 6

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Community Outreach Report



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Community Outreach Report

December 16, 2012 – February 6, 2013

Media: Promoting press release: “Programs Now Available to Support Grandparents Raising Young Grandkids - Focus on “second-time” parents critical to help build strong families”

Summary of recent Outreach Activities:

Speakers Series Trainings –

Trained 8 various grant partners in Part 1, *Early Childhood Everyday*;

Trained 20 staff members of Parenting Arizona – Parents as Teachers home visiting program in Part 1, *Early Childhood Everyday*

Events/Networking meetings/Presentations:

- ✓ One on One meetings: Mike Cassidy, executive director of Dysart Community Center; Marnie Cooley of Radio Disney; Donna Davis, Expect More Arizona; Tina Bronson of Duet; Lora and Dave Rice, owners of Rice Family Upholstery; Robin Cook, owner of Marketing with A Flair
- ✓ Networking meetings: Peoria Toastmasters; West Valley Human Services Alliance; Arizona Lions’ Clubs; Washington Elementary School District Business Advisory Quarterly Meeting
- ✓ Outreach to Quality 1st centers: Academy for Early Learning, Wickenburg; Hassayampa Child Development Center, Wickenburg
- ✓ Presentation to Arrowhead Kiwanis Club

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

Site Tour of Maricopa County Office of Oral Health’s First Teeth First Program

Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 9 a.m., program site is inside the Maricopa County WIC Thunderbird office at 5422 W. Thunderbird Ave., Suite 6, Glendale.

Angela Mussi, Community Outreach Coordinator
602-771-4965, amussi@azftf.gov

Angel Aguirre, Community Outreach Consultant
adm-aaguirre@azftf.gov



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azfff.gov

ATTACHMENT 6

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

January 22-23, 2013 State Board Meeting Update

FY14 FUNDING PLANS: \$155M INVESTMENT IN YOUNG KIDS

On January 23, the First Things First Board approved regional funding plans representing a \$155 million investment in young kids during fiscal year 2014.

The plans represent the second year of a 3-year planning cycle and include the regions' projected spend-down of carry-forward balances, Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona told the Board.

The regions considered the latest data from regional needs and assets reports, current funded strategies, and future growth. They also took in to account recent decisions at the Board level, including changes to regional allocations made by the Board after consideration of tobacco tax revenues, population changes in the regions, and its revised sustainability model. Regions will continue to monitor spending in current strategies, examine their FY15 funding allocations (to be approved in October 2013) and revise their spending plans accordingly.

Katona also stressed the increased cross-regional coordination and collaboration that is helping maximize resources available for young kids.

Following Katona's overview, FTF regional directors presented their FY 14 funding plans (see successes on page 2). After the plans were approved, Board members expressed their thanks to the regional councils and staff for their hard work.

"I am so impressed with the volunteers and staff; the obvious dedication and commitment they have shown," said Janice Decker, the newest member of the Board. "This is such a huge undertaking with so many tentacles."

Chair Steve Lynn said this funding plan cycle demonstrates that regions are learning from their experience with strategies and making tough decisions to fund programs to scale and help future generations of children.

"We're coming in to maturity; strategies have a track record, and we have a future to consider," Lynn said. "Regions are deciding not only what will be here from year to year, but generation to generation, and putting things in place that will benefit children long after we are gone."

STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF FY 14 REGIONAL FUNDING PLANS

- **Early Learning Quality/Access: \$75.5 million (49%)** Includes Quality First, QF and pre-kindergarten scholarships, transition to kindergarten, inclusion of children with special needs, expansion (increased slots/capital expenses), center based literacy and family, friends and neighbors.
- **Family Support: \$38.9 million (25%)** Includes home visitation, parent education (community-based training and curriculum development), family resource centers, native language enrichment, newborn follow-up, coordination, outreach and awareness, food security, and Reach Out and Read.
- **Health: \$20.4 million (13%)** mental health & child care health consultation, oral health, nutrition/obesity/ physical activity, prenatal outreach, developmental and sensory screening, care coordination/medical home, comprehensive preventive health programs, health insurance enrollment, injury prevention, physician education and outreach, and recruitment.
- **Professional Development: \$7.9 million (5%)** Includes TEACH and non-TEACH scholarships, Professional REWARD\$, community-based professional development, director mentoring/training, learning labs, language and communication consultation, conference scholarships and recruitment in to the field.
- **Evaluation: \$7.7 million (5%)** Includes regional needs and assets additions, regional family support and early childhood workforce studies, and statewide evaluation.
- **Community Awareness: \$3.2 million (2%)** Includes community outreach, community awareness and media.
- **Coordination: \$1.3 million (1%)** Includes court teams, community partnerships and service coordination.

SUCCESS STORIES PUT A FACE ON REGIONAL FUNDING

The following are success stories shared with the statewide FTF Board as part of the funding plan approval process. They highlight the impact that FTF-funded strategies are having in communities throughout Arizona. They are listed in the order that they were presented to the Board. In cases where no success story was part of the presentation, the region was asked to select one following the meeting.

PHOENIX REGIONAL AREA

North Phoenix – Family Resources Centers are a wonderful asset to parents in the area, including one gentleman who found himself single-handedly raising his first child – in his 60s! The gentleman – who works nights – found help through parenting classes and with finding child care to meet his unique needs.

South Phoenix –The co-location of various early learning strategies at one school in the Roosevelt District has created a continuum of support for parents and educators alike! Among the programs available there are: pre-kindergarten scholarships, T.E.A.C.H., Professional REWARD\$, health and mental health consultants and a Family Resource Center. Through the loan forgiveness strategy, the facility also has a child psychologist on site.

Central Phoenix – The region's family support grantees are working in concert to ensure families are aware of and have access to coordinated support services. At one preschool, for example, outreach to the school's administrators resulted in 3 or 4 families being referred for services that same day!

GRIC – The region's pre-kindergarten expansion strategy – planned, funded and implemented in partnership with the Gila River Indian Community – will ensure that 84 percent of 4-year-olds in the region have access to preschool within the next five years.



NORTHEAST REGIONAL AREA

Coconino – The region's commitment to early learning – through the expansion of Quality First centers and homes, child care scholarships and the Summer Transition to Kindergarten sites – led County Superintendent of Schools Robert Kelly to hail FTF as a leader in helping to close the school achievement gap *before* it starts!

Navajo Nation – The Regional Council's investment in pre-kindergarten scholarships has allowed four preschool classrooms to open in Kayenta and one to open in Pinon, providing early learning opportunities for 72 young children. Additional support from the regional council will allow that number to grow to 11 classrooms serving 150 children – and include young kids from the Chinle area – by then end of the next school year.

Yavapai – The native language preservation strategy – implemented in partnership with the Yavapai-Apache Nation – has resulted in 5 early childhood books being published in both Yavapai and Apache, both endangered languages.

White Mountain Apache Tribe – Community outreach efforts have resulted in a partnership with a local radio station that on a monthly basis allows the regional director to share information about FTF, the importance of early childhood and a featured strategy or grantee. The information is presented in both English and Apache.

Navajo/Apache – The region's oral health strategy is using tele-dentistry – where images are taken of a child's teeth in a remote area and reviewed electronically by a dentist in another part of the state – to bring much needed dental screenings and preventive dental services to underserved areas.



SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AREA

Pascua Yaqui Tribe – The Tribal partner that is implementing the Home Visitation strategy has worked closely with the Tribal Head Start to access the center waiting list and provide support to the families that are ready to receive services. The partner also has worked with the Hiaki High School to provide services to teen parents. In addition, the Home Visitation staff participated in a training to become certified to give vision screenings and will assist the Head Start staff beginning the next school year so more young children will receive vision screenings.

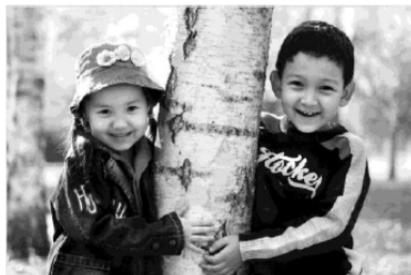
Tohono O'odham Nation – Through a partnership with the T.E.A.C.H. program, 12 early educators have received their Child Development Associate credential. The local community college has established an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood and talks are under way with Northern Arizona University to establish a 2+2 program so that local early educators could earn a bachelor's degree without having to leave the nation.

Santa Cruz – The region's three Family Resource Centers are aligned with the elementary school districts they serve to support the early learning of children transitioning to kindergarten.

South Pima – The region's support for early learning has resulted in preschool programs being offered in communities where limited or no early learning programs previously existed, including the areas of Ajo, Amado and Three Points.

North Pima – The region's focus on professional development has brought skill-enhancing educational opportunities in the first quarter of implementation to 115 child care providers in the region.

Central Pima – The region is blending their funding with the Arizona Department of Health Services and issuing a joint Request for Grant Agreement to expand the research-proven Nurse Family Partnership home visitation strategy to more families in the region.



WEST REGIONAL AREA

La Paz / Mohave – Four of the region's nine pre-kindergarten expansion sites currently in operation are in areas where the FTF-funded program is the only regulated early learning program that exists in the area, including Littlefield, Topock, Bouse, Mohave Valley). Agreements for two additional sites in remote communities – Salome and Quartzsite – are in process.

Hualapai – The region's one-time funding of several strategies in FY13 is leading to the expansion of early learning opportunities. The region is partnering with the tribe on a capital project that will become the only child care center in the community, and a Native Language Preservation strategy will result in books being available in the Hualapai Language to encourage early literacy in both languages.

Colorado River Indian Tribes – The region has partnered with the tribe to link its nutrition and obesity prevention strategies and provide more opportunities for young children to eat healthier and move more!

Yuma – The region's scholarship and recruitment strategies for therapists has led to services being available in the region, with the potential of eliminating long waiting lists and/or travel times for families to access needed therapies for their young kids.

Cocopah Tribe – Ten families completed training in the Family, Friend and Neighbor program through a partnership with the Yuma Regional Council. This included training on the importance of early childhood, child development, safety and early literacy.

CENTRAL EAST REGION

Pinal – The region’s family support strategy was able to help a mom who had 1 child with autism and another child displaying the traits of autism. By providing services specific to each child’s needs, the child with autism is starting kindergarten on track for success, and his sibling is no longer displaying the traits of autism that he was mimicking from his brother.

Gila – The region’s community-based parent education strategy is reaching the adult caregivers of every young child in this small, rural area. Caregivers – including adult and teenage parents, grandparents and child care providers – attend bi-weekly classes where they learn tips for interacting with their young kids and supporting children’s development in positive ways. After class, they are able to put in to practice what they have learned in their child’s preschool classroom.

San Carlos – Through a partnership with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the region has begun implementing a Family, Friend and Neighbor strategy. Ten volunteer home care providers who provide child care for 1-4 children in their home will receive training, workshops, materials/equipment and awareness of health, safety and early childhood development that supports quality child care at home.

Cochise – Community outreach efforts in the region on helping to build both awareness of the importance of the birth to 5 years, but also to build the early childhood system. From military leaders to car dealerships, more and more of the community is engaging in the conversation on how to help young children succeed.

Graham/Greenlee – The region has made the ultimate commitment to improving the quality of early learning – 100% of its licensed child care centers are enrolled in Quality First!



MARICOPA REGION

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community – Funding from the FTF Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Council helped establish a pre-kindergarten classroom, the Tribe has made a commitment to take over the longer term continuation of funding for this early learning environment.

Northeast Maricopa – The regional council is collaborating with several early childhood partners to host The Ultimate Play Date – a family event focused on literacy and the importance of play for young kids!

Northwest Maricopa – The region’s professional development strategy is working with high school students in the Peoria District’s Early Childhood Career and Technical Education Program to establish an educational pathway whereby high school students graduate with the skills and tools needed to successfully enter the workforce or higher education.

Southwest Maricopa – The region’s Family Resource Center in Gila Bend is a great example of leverage/blending funds to bring much-needed services to the community. This center – funded by FTF and operated jointly by Care 1st and the City of Gila Bend brings up to 26 separate programs to an area largely isolated due to its remote location and lack of transportation among residents.

Central Maricopa – Through the work of regional council members, FTF and early childhood have a growing voice on city committees looking to improve education in their communities, including Tempe, Guadalupe and Chandler.

Southeast Maricopa – The region’s home visitation grantees have created a centralized screening and intake line so that parents in the region are paired with family support program and provider that best meets their needs.

DR. PAMELA POWELL ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF FTF BOARD

Dr. Pamela Powell has been elected vice chair of the FTF Board to replace Dr. Eugene Thompson, who is in the process of moving out of state.

Board members expressed their respect and admiration for the extensive expertise in early childhood Dr. Powell brings to the Board.

Dr. Powell spent more than two decades as an elementary school teacher prior to arriving at Northern Arizona University. Currently, she is dedicated to helping pre-service teachers learn to utilize current, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate practices in their classrooms, which promote better learning for all students.

Dr. Powell received her bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in Elementary Education, her Master's degree from Arizona State University in Elementary Education, with a specialization in reading, and a doctorate from Northern Arizona University in Curriculum and Instruction, with a focus on Early Childhood Education.

As an Associate Professor of Literacy and Early Childhood in the NAU College of Education, Dr. Powell and her students frequently participate in practicum experiences in schools in the Flagstaff Unified School District and in child development centers in the area.

In addition, she is very involved in the promotion of quality early learning opportunities for all children in the Arizona and our nation. She helped develop summer conferences and institutes in the NAU College of Education for early childhood educators across the state, which have provided a venue for continued conversation regarding quality early learning environments. She also is Northern Arizona AEYC's policy chair, AzAEYC Board's member at large, and participates on various early childhood committees and taskforces at NAU, in the Flagstaff community, and the state of Arizona.

"I am humbled and honored; I will serve in my best capacity," Powell said after the election. "Thank you for this opportunity."



REGIONAL BOUNDARY TASKFORCE MEETS NEXT IN TUCSON

By statute, the FTF Board may re-examine its regions every two years to determine whether changes are needed or desired in order to better meet the needs of kids 5 and younger throughout Arizona.

This year, a taskforce has been appointed to carry out this important task, co-chaired by Jack Jewett, President and CEO of the Flinn Foundation and former FTF Board member, and Dr. Judy Jolley Mohraz, President and CEO of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

The taskforce has met twice already and will meet two more times before providing its recommendations to the state Board.

The issues the taskforce is dealing with are varied. In some regions, there may be questions about whether a particular community or ZIP code would be better served by another region. In the large metropolitan areas, the issue may be whether more regions are needed or whether consolidation would yield better results for young kids.

The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for February 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the City of Tucson's Sentinel Building, Rillito and Sabino Rooms, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.



REPORT DETAILS SUCCESSES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN IMPROVING COMPENSATION & CREDENTIALS OF EARLY EDUCATORS

Research demonstrates that when child care and other early learning programs are of high quality and developmentally appropriate, children score higher on school readiness measures and do better in school. They also have better relationships with their peers and are more likely to graduate.

But the quality of early care and education depends on the professionalism, education and skills of the teacher. The 2012 Early Care and Education Workforce Survey – first administered in Arizona in 1997 and subsequently in 2001, 2004 and 2007 – provides a basis for better understanding evolving characteristics and conditions of Arizona’s early care and education workforce. The most recent survey, conducted in 2012 and funded by FTF, is the basis for the summary on the status of Arizona’s early childhood workforce.

The survey shows that – while early childhood teachers and assistant teachers are earning more college degrees – Arizona continues to struggle in two of the areas impacting retention of skilled early educators: wages and benefits.

Teacher turnover in the early care and education field remains high; averaging 30 percent or more. A national study found that teacher turnover is highest in child care centers with lower wages and lower levels of teacher education. The early care and education workforce is among the most poorly paid professionals in the United States, with the median wages for child care workers and preschool teachers being between \$7.90 and \$9.53 per hour.

Nationally, this is nearly one half of the salary earned by a kindergarten teacher, and lower than wages for parking attendants, cooks or cashiers.

This report explains the importance of a skilled early childhood workforce to educational success, examines the current qualifications and compensation of our state’s early childhood teachers, and suggests ways that early learning program providers and policymakers can enhance school readiness for all kids by supporting efforts to ensure that Arizona’s best educators are where they can make the biggest impact: with our youngest kids.

The full report will be available in the Board materials at aztff.gov, Attachment 9.

T.E.A.C.H. MODEL ASSESSED; IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED

In 2009, as part of ongoing efforts to build a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system that ensures all of Arizona’s children are ready for school and set for life, First Things First selected the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project for Arizona.

T.E.A.C.H is an acronym for **T**eacher **E**ducation **A**nd **C**ompensation **H**elps and it is a nationally recognized, comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce with access to educational opportunities.

The Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC), through funding from First Things First, operates T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA. The target population for T.E.A.C.H. scholarships are those early childhood professionals who are completing coursework in early childhood education while working in licensed and regulated center-based early care and education programs and family child care homes participating in Quality First.

After three years of implementation of the T.E.A.C.H. project in Arizona, with results that did not reach expected target service units and with significantly lower expenditures than budgeted, the Board requested that First Things First staff analyze the research and data and examine the efficacy, compatibility and suitability of the T.E.A.C.H. model and its connections within Quality First and the larger statewide professional development system.

Cami Ehler, FTF Program Specialist for Early Learning, told the Board that the assessment discovered some gaps in the way T.E.A.C.H. was being implemented, including: Quality First programs are not always prioritized for outreach, providers do not fully understand T.E.A.C.H. and its benefits to their programs; and, T.E.A.C.H. scholars do not receive enough academic advice and support.

Ehler said FTF has already started working with ASCC to implement strategies to address these issues, including making QF centers and homes a priority for outreach, improvements to how ASCC is managing recruitment and outreach, new positions to provide ore support for scholars and a more realistic growth trajectory for the program, given the experiences of other states.

In continuing to fund the T.E.A.C.H. model, Ehler also recommended adjustments to the financing model based on actual per-scholar expenditures, and working with the community colleges to provide additional support to help scholars succeed.

The Board accepted FTF staff recommendations. The full report is in the Board materials at azfff.gov, Attachment 10.



**FRAMEWORK PRESENTED TO
BUILD ARIZONA'S EARLY
CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

The Arizona Professional Development System-Building Workgroup (PDSBWG) is a working group of The BUILD Initiative, Arizona; convened and staffed by FTF. This report describes a model early childhood professional development system, the work

of the PDSBWG, and the recommendations for five system-building initiatives to be developed and implemented over the next two years.

The framework includes:

- the development of an advisory or governance structure;
- the development of workforce competencies to complement existing professional standards;
- steps to improve credentialing, including the development of an associate's degree in early childhood, and the development of a Prior Learning Assessment so that early childhood professionals can get college credit for existing knowledge;
- implementation of a professional workforce registry so that data can be used to continuously improve the early childhood workforce;
- the creation of a cross-sector coordinating body to oversee professional development funds and ensure that investments, policies and decisions are not made in silos; and,
- the development of a statewide website and registry to provide a statewide, centralized mechanism for disseminating information about workshops and community-based professional development and to assist in the gathering data about the early childhood workforce.

The two-year strategic plan the accompanied the recommendations, describes each of the recommended initiatives, the major deliverables and timelines, and the funding sources for each.

The full report is available in the Board materials at azfff.gov, Attachment 11.

Save the date! The next FTF Board meeting will be held April 8-9 in Payson.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

azftf.gov

ATTACHMENT 7

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Announcements

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Grandfamilies Conference

Saturday, March 2, 2013

9 am —3pm

SAVE This Date

FREE

AASK Building

15396 North 83rd Avenue, Suite A100
Peoria, Arizona 85382

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren face very different issues from those of young parents

Join Benevilla Family Resource Center and Duet for a Grandfamilies Conference brought to you with funding from First Things First.

Great Presenters! Interesting and Relevant Topics! Free Lunch! Childcare! GRG Camaraderie!

Free lunch for pre-registered adult participants and children registered for childcare. Participants must pre-register for **Free Childcare**. Please pack a lunch for children with allergies or who have special diets. Afternoon snacks will be provided. Call to register ASAP. Space is very limited.

To register call **SHERRY @ 623.207.6016**
or email sgriffin@benevilla.org



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.



Benevilla™
Cultivating Caring Communities

Family Resource Center
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Program



Duet
Partners In Health & Aging