Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on January 26, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the First Things First Board Office, 4000 N. Central, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Members Present:
Steve Lynn, Nadine Mathis Basha, Dr. Pamela Powell, Dr. Eugene Thompson, Vivian Saunders, Hon. Cecil Patterson and Dr. Arturo Gonzalez

Ex-Officio Members Present:
Will Humble, Mary Ellen Cunningham, Molly Bright and Amy Corriveau

Consent Agenda
A motion was made by Member Powell to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item F, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Gonzales to approve item F that was pulled from the Consent Agenda, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports and Updates
Member Powell updated the Board on the January 19, 2010 Program Committee meeting that was devoted to discussing the strategies for the funding plans that are on the agenda for approval.

Member Mathis Basha updated the Board regarding a Children’s Growth Council webinar for the state of Maine for which she was a presenter.

Member Humble gave an updated report on the Arizona Department of Health Services on proposed child care licensing rule changes. He provided a web site address where proposed rules could be viewed by the public.

Chairman Lynn reported to the Board that a Taskforce has been convened to develop the Arizona Early Childhood Plan. Invitations were sent to over 35 community leaders from around the state to be part of this important project. Board members appointed to the Task Force are Nadine Mathis Basha as Chair of the Taskforce; Dr. Pam Powell, Chair of the Board Program Committee; and, Dr. Arturo Gonzales. Incoming Executive Director Rhian Evans Allvin is also appointed, as are nine members of Regional Partnership Councils. Karen Ponder, past President and Executive Director of the North Carolina Partnership for Children will serve as the national consultant for the Taskforce.

Chairman Lynn congratulated Veronica Homer, Chair of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council and her sister, Denise Homer, for having been chosen as recipients of this year’s Women in American History Award, presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution organization.

Chairman Lynn thanked Executive Director Elliott Hibbs for his service to state government, Arizona’s children and First Things First. In honor of Director Hibbs and his service to First Things First, Chairman Lynn announced an award in the name of J. Elliott Hibbs has been established and will be given annually to a deserving staff member.
Call to the Public
Anne Varner, Maricopa County Public Health Department addressed the Board on the importance of child care health consultants.

Bruce Liggett, Executive Director of the Arizona Child Care Association, addressed the Board on access and affordability.

Jill Hoover, Osborn School District, address the Board on funding opportunities for preschool programs in the public schools.

Regional Funding Plans
Michelle Katona, Assistant Director for Regional Administration, presented to the Board a summary of the regional funding allocations by goal areas.

Central Maricopa
Jackie Garner, Chair of the Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Central Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. JoAnne Floth, Coordinator, supported Chair Garner’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Thompson that the funding plan recommendations by the Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Southwest Maricopa
Colleen Day, Chair of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Eric Santiago, Coordinator, supported Chair Day’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Patterson that the funding plan recommendations by the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion approved.

Northwest Maricopa
Dr. Deborah Pischke, Vice Chair of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Christina Lyons, Coordinator, supported Vice Chair Pischke’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Powell that the funding plan recommendations by the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion approved.

Southeast Maricopa
Dee Tamminen, Chair of the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Southeast Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Terri Duhart, Coordinator, supported Chair Tamminen’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha that the funding plan recommendations by the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Gonzalez. Motion approved.

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
Lori Calderon, Chair of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Funding Plan. Yolanda Adams, Coordinator, supported Chair Calderon’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the funding plan recommendations by the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Yavapai
Ann Babinsky, Chair of the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Yavapai Regional Funding Plan. Marcia Jacobson, Coordinator, supported Chair Babinsky’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Gonzalez that the funding plan recommendations by the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.
Navajo Apache
Melissa Webb, Chair of the Navajo Apache Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Navajo Apache Regional Funding Plan. Kate Dobler-Allen, Coordinator, supported Chair Webb’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha that the funding plan recommendations by the Navajo Apache Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

North Pima
Naomi Karp, Chair of the North Pima Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the North Pima Regional Funding Plan. Erin Lyons, Coordinator, supported Chair Karp’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Thompson that the funding plan recommendations by the North Pima Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Central Pima
Dr. Andrew Arthur, Chair of the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Central Pima Regional Funding Plan. Jessica Brisson, Coordinator, supported Chair Arthur’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Patterson that the funding plan recommendations by the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

South Pima
Jane Kroesen, Vice Chair of the South Pima Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the South Pima Regional Funding Plan. Eleanor Droegemeier, Coordinator, supported Chair Kroesen’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Powell that the funding plan recommendations by the South Pima Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion approved.

Santa Cruz
Dana Gallardo, Chair of the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Santa Cruz Regional Funding Plan. Teresa Morales De Phillips, Coordinator, supported Chair Gallardo’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Gonzalez that the funding plan recommendations by the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Tohono O’odham
Louis Johnson, Chair of the Tohono O’odham Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Tohono O’odham Regional Funding Plan. Travis Le Duc, Coordinator, supported Chair Johnson’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the funding plan recommendations by the Tohono O’odham Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Pascua Yaqui
Shanna Ioane Tautolo, Chair along with Hector Youtsey and John Jensen, members of the Pascua Yaqui Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Pascua Yaqui Regional Funding Plan. Tiburcia Yocupicio-Chambers, Coordinator, supported Chair Tautolo’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Thompson that the funding plan recommendations by the Pascua Yaqui Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion approved.

Yuma
Roselia Ramirez, Coordinator of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board on behalf of the Council an overview of the Yuma Regional Funding Plan.

A motion was made by Member Patterson that the funding plan recommendations by the Yuma Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion approved.
Gila
Alexis Rivera, Chair along with Sue Yale, Vice Chair of the Gila Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Gila Regional Funding Plan. Eva Cook, Coordinator, supported Chair Rivera’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha that the funding plan recommendations by the Gila Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Pinal
Barbara Mezzio, Chair along with Bryan Powell, Vice Chair of the Pinal Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Pinal Regional Funding Plan. Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Coordinator, supported Chair Mezzio’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Powell that the funding plan recommendations by the Pinal Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion approved.

Central Phoenix
Marilee Del Pra, Council Member of the Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Central Phoenix Regional Funding Plan. Tracey Craig, Coordinator, supported Council Member Del Pra’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the funding plan recommendations by the Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

South Phoenix
Dr. Robert Donofrio, Chair along with James Washington, Vice Chair of the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the South Phoenix Regional Funding Plan. Jonathon Gonzales, Coordinator, supported Chair Donofrio’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Gonzalez that the funding plan recommendations by the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council be approved as presented, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

First Things First Professional REWARD$ Grand Award
A motion was made by Member Thompson to approve staff recommendations to establish the Professional REWARD$ administrative home, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion approved.

University Consortium Report on School Readiness
Dr. Ron Marx and Consortium members Dr. M. Demetras, Dr. Daniel Kain, Dr. Nancy Perry and Dr. Lena Malofeeva presented a report to the Board on school readiness. The Consortium members reported on an overview of the scope of work, project design and methodology, and preliminary data for the 2009 readiness study.

Legislative/Communication Issues
Liz Barker Alvarez, Assistant Director for Communications, and Sandy Carpenter, Governmental Affairs Specialist, updated the Board on legislative and communication issues. Ms. Alvarez reported on the short-term communications plan that focuses on ensuring that major stakeholder groups, including policy makers, are informed of the impact that voter-approved funds are having on individual communities throughout the state.

Ms. Carpenter reported that First Things First is hosting a conference call for Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Regional Partnership Councils to provide an update of First Things First activities and information on any legislative actions. Ms. Carpenter reported on items in the Governor’s FY2011 budget and on the possibility of a special session.

Financial and Sustainability Issues
Impact Diversion of First Things First Funds
Elliott Hibbs, Executive Director, reported to the Board the impact of the diversion of First Things First funds based on the December 2009 proposed House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) that would temporarily suspend the voter-protected funds. Director Hibbs reported that if such a resolution is passed by the legislature and approved by the voters at a special election, the effect would devastate First Things First funding for young children statewide.
$260 Million State Loan Option

Director Hibbs reported to the Board that the Finance Division was reviewing various scenarios in which First Things First would loan $260 million to the state out of the expected FY2010 ending fund balance.

Financial Summary

Director Hibbs presented a financial summary to the Board with information provided relative to current revenues; sustainability analysis based on current plans and assumptions; impact of a legislative referendum proposed in December 2009 to sweep 50% of voter protected fund balances and revenues; the implications of the possible “loan” of First Things First funds; the financial impact of current grant and agreement spending in FY2010; and, the operations budgets.

Director Hibbs stated that current revenues continue to be substantially less than they were in FY2009. December revenues were 20.1% lower than January 2009 and year-to-date revenues are 16.4% below last fiscal year. Monthly revenues have leveled out at approximately $11 million level.

Director Hibbs reported on the status of the 2010 operating budget. Year-to-date operating expenditures are $651,499 (8.3%) less than budgeted. Savings has been mainly in holding positions vacant, reducing travel, and other operating expenditures. Some positions are scheduled to be filled before the end of the year and at least one additional regional office (Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council) will be opening this month.

Director Hibbs reported to the Board that grants and agreements are in place and approved by the Board to expend most of the funds allocated to the regions for the current fiscal year. It is likely some regions may have unanticipated funds remaining for four reasons: 1) Some grants and agreements were not implemented July 1st, so are only effective for part of the fiscal year; 2) Some approved strategies are still under development by a Region and it is highly unlikely all the funds approved for that strategy will be expended; 3) Some grantees were unable to begin delivering services as quickly as anticipated; and, 4) Some grants were unable to be awarded because of a lack of qualified bids received, requiring more work to build capacity to deliver some critical early childhood services in some regions. Given that some regions will experience higher than expected fund balances this year, and have needs for which the funds could be used, either in already approved strategies or to address emergency strategies already adopted by the Board in response to the economic crisis, it is recommended the Board consider giving Regional Councils the authority to expand approved strategies where grants or agreements now exist in the region and where expansion clearly provides added value for children in the region, or to use funds for emergency strategies previously approved by the Board. This authority would help Councils expedite implementing decisions that might help effective use of the funds available occur in a timely fashion. If they were instead to be required to come back to the Board for a modification of their funding plan, it would likely be too late to use the funds where Councils feel great value could be achieved. The Councils would, however, be required to report back to the Board on any changes made in funding their strategies under this Board directive.

A motion was made by Member Thompson that in view of the fact that some regions may have larger fund balances than planned for this fiscal year; and in view of the fact that already approved regional or emergency response strategies that could significantly benefit children exist; and, in view of the ongoing economic crisis placing many young children at additional risk in regions all across Arizona; that the Board provide authority to Regional Partnership Councils to use unplanned, unexpended funding for FY2010 to expand existing approved strategies within their region, or to use funds for emergency strategies previously approved by the Board when those added funds would be used in the best interest of children, and while giving consideration to the impacts that added funding would have on FY2011 funding plans, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion approved.

Grant Process Review and Report

Linda Cannon, Consultant, submitted to the Board a Request for Grant Applicant Process - Review Findings and Recommendations Summary. The Report of Findings and Recommendations regarding the First Things First Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) process addresses the themes, issues and opportunities identified through a review of the current written documentation and input from multiple stakeholders. The purpose of the Request for Grant Application Review was to assess the current process and develop recommendations for methods to: 1) streamline the process and/or timeline; 2) increase the number of qualified bidders; 3) increase the solicitor and bidder satisfaction; 4) continue to ensure awards are made to qualified bidders; and 5) create potential for services to be delivered in underserved areas.

First Reading Governance Policy 1-119 E-Communications

Alex Turner, Legal Counsel, presented to the Board for first read, Governance Policy 1-119 E-Communications, for Board review.
**Executive Director Report**
Director Hibbs thanked the Board and staff and reflected on the past three years working with First Things First.

**General Discussion**
There was no general discussion.

**Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be held February 23, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Adjourn**
There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:17 p.m.