



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

MEETING MINUTES - January 8, 2013

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First (FTF) – North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council was held January 8, 2013, Washington Elementary School District, in the Governing Board Room, 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale Arizona 85304. Chair Cindy Hallman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:38 p.m.

Members Present

Cindy Hallman, Chair
Bill Thrall
Barb Nicol
Gwendolyn Parker
Cori More
Carol Proch
Willette Watts
Lyn Bailey

NOT Present

Connie Robinson, Vice Chair

FTF Staff Present

Rhian Evans Allvin, FTF CEO
Karen Yearwood, Regional Director
Marlene Hanan, Community Outreach Coordinator
Alexandra Galico, Fiscal Specialist
Jennifer Johnson, Senior Regional Director
Kelley Murphy, Senior Program Specialist
Rana Simms, South Phoenix Regional Director
Rosemary Galindo, Administrative Assistant

2. Consent Agenda

Chair Hallman moved to approve the minutes of November 13, 2012 Meeting. Member Thrall seconded. Motion passed.

3. Call to the Public

None

4. First Things First Chief Executive Officer Visit

Chair Hallman welcomed Rhian Evans Allvin, FTF CEO to North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council Meeting. CEO Evans provided an agency update. CEO Evans acknowledged Billy Thrall for his one year of service to the Council.

She provided brief updates on the following:

Research and Evaluation – She recalled that the FTF Board suspended the main research efforts that were undertaken last year by three state universities through a contract. In January 2012 a national research evaluation and advisory panel convened which was chaired by Dr. John Love to provide recommendations. The recommendation plan around an agenda on Research and Evaluation were presented to the Board in June 2012. Several webinars were also held. In October 2012, the implementation plan was presented to the Board. The recommendations and implementation plan are both posted to the FTF website. CEO Allvin encouraged all to read and digest. Panel stated a longitude study was not suitable for FTF. The panel recommended FTF invest in an Administrative Database which consists of a dashboard, mapping tools, and service outcome data. FTF will also be data-sharing with Department of Education, Department of Health Services and Department of Economic Security. FTF is waiting the final Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education and will be sharing data within a couple of weeks. Rhian further explained what data and how the data will be cross-referenced. The panel also suggested FTF should administer a series of studies. Types of studies recommended: Validation of the Quality Rating Scale, Home Visitation, Family, Friend and Neighbor Care. These studies are planned over the next 5 years. Rhian has asked the Regional Partnership Councils to provide feedback by February on what kind of valuable and interactive data they would like see collected and maintained in the Administrative Database. FTF will keep the national advisory panel in place to reflect and review the scopes of work annually.

Kindergarten Assessment Tool/Inventory - Rhian also stated FTF is moving forward on discussions with Department of Education on a statewide kindergarten developmental inventory. This will be an assessment in the first three months of kindergarten. The assessment will not be a “gatekeeping” assessment, but an informative assessment instructional tool for teachers to gauge progression. The State Board of Education would administer and maintain this data inventory since FTF does not have any jurisdiction over Kindergarten. FTF and Department of Education will jointly issue a “Request for Information” to the State Board of Education. An assessment tool is yet to be determined. The Piper Trust recommended that FTF submit a proposal and the State Board of Education approved it. The Piper Trust will fund a broader stakeholder group to meet and provide recommendations on core set of principles by June 2013.

Public/Private Partnership Taskforce – Rhian indicated the taskforce is chaired by Nadine Basha,. The taskforce’s intent is to explore going beyond the Tobacco Tax and how FTF can leverage national federal funding and foundation dollars and to also explore how Regional Councils may have an interest in partnering with local businesses, writing grants, local matching funds to augment their dollars. The Taskforce is tasked with recommending a Standards of Practice for Public Private Partnerships to the Board in June 2013.

Regional Boundaries Taskforce – Rhian provided a brief history on how and why this taskforce was convened. Per statute, the Board reviews regional boundaries every two years. Consultants are hired to do surveys and hold focus groups to provide a findings report to the Board. The Board has tasked this taskforce to submit recommendations. The taskforce will provide boundary recommendations to the Board involving La Paz, Mohave, Pima, Maricopa, Navajo-Apache, and Coconino counties, and Phoenix and Winslow. Rhian conveyed the taskforce is being extraordinary transparent, and the taskforce meetings are public. Recommendations will be presented to the Board in June 2013.

Budget and Carry Forward – Board requested FTF to perform a budget analysis on FTF’s Carry Forward balance of approximate \$434 million. It was presented to the Board in October. The report is available for public viewing and she encourages all to read. Overall, Rhian stated the amount of carry forward is leveling off and regions are now expending the funds. The Tobacco Tax is also stabilizing as opposed to declining as originally projected.

State Legislative Budget – Rhian stated this is the third year she has signed a “Memo of Understanding” with Arizona Department of Economic Security for Child Care Subsidies funding. FTF has contributed approximately \$90 million to match the federal funding for the State over the past three years for Quality First. She continues to have discussions with the Governor’s office to sustain a funding partnership around excellence in childhood care and education tied with K-12. Rhian encourages anyone who has the opportunity to talk to policymakers regarding this initiative to do so.

Quality First – Rhian shared FTF has attained a positive progressive milestone. Quality First rating assessments will launch publicly August 2013, at the beginning of the new school year. Per data, Rhian stated 3, 4, and 5 star ratings are increasing and 1 and 2 star rating are decreasing. The first threshold was met by 100 providers an Arizona achieving the 3, 4, and 5 star rating. She looks forward to these numbers increasing over the next few months as providers complete their assessments.

5. SFY 2013 Program Implementation

Karen Yearwood briefly reviewed the 2013 1st quarter reports (July, August, and September '2012) and also informed the Council the full detailed reports are available upon request.

- A. Q1 Service Unit Report (Attachment #2) – Karen reviewed the report and provided a brief explanation on strategy activities in relation to their data and narrative reports.
- B. Q1 Contract Detail Report (Attachment #3) – Karen briefly reviewed the report and indicated the report is up to date as of December 21st.

6. SFY 2014 North Phoenix Funding Plan

Karen reported the SFY2014 North Phoenix “Draft” Funding Plan will be presented to the Board January 22nd for their approval. The Regional Director will be presenting the funding plan to the Board this year and will highlight any changes to the funding plan for SFY2014. Karen also welcomed the Council members should they wish to attend.

7. SFY 2014 Implementation

- A. Overview of FTF Grant Process (Attachment #5) – Karen provided a brief overview of the FTF grant process.
- B. SFY 2014 Request for Grant Application (RFGA) and Intergovernmental Service Agreement (ISA) Releases (Attachment #6) – Karen shared a list of strategies that will require an RFGA or ISA. For each RFGA, the Council will determine the target population, the dollar amount, and the number of families to be served. Karen stated a Council member will be asked to participate in the RFGA and ISA process. She also shared the Council member’s responsibilities as participants.
- C. SFY 2014 Renewal Process and Timeline (Attachment #7) – Karen provided an overview of the process and the timeline for renewals.

8. Director’s Report

- A. Regional Benchmarks (Attachment #8) – Karen provided reported that representatives from each Regional Council will be asked to serve on a committee to make recommendations for the common benchmark indicators #2, 8, 9, and 10 for consideration by the Regional Partnership Councils. She provided a draft of the process and timeline for the establishment of the common benchmarks for Maricopa County. Members Lynn and More indicated interest in participating.
- B. FTF Board/Regional Partnership Council Meeting – Karen reported the FTF Board members have expressed a desire to visit regions in order to familiarize themselves with the council work, programs, and processes. The meeting is intended to be a dialogue between Board members and Council members. The meeting will be held March 1st, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 p.m.

9. Chair’s Report

Chair Hallman stated she attended the Regional Boundary Taskforce meeting and will continue to provide updates as they become available.

10. Council Member Updates

No updates.

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 4:30 p.m.
Washington Elementary School District, Governing Board Room
4650 West Sweetwater
Glendale, AZ 85304

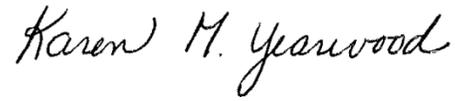
11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED on this 12th day of March, 2013



Rosemary Galindo, Administrative Assistant



Karen Yearwood, Regional Director

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

SOUTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

APPROVED:

Cindy Hallman, Chair