FIRST THINGS FIRST
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Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the First Things First Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on February 13, 2013 at the KinderCare Regional Office, 4001 East Mountain Sky Avenue, Suite 203, Phoenix, Arizona 85044.

Chair Duane welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Maureen Duane, Vice Chair Genoveva Acosta-Bueno, Mara de Luca Funke, Trinity Donovan, Karen Emery, Beth Haas, Kathy Halter, Frank Narducci, and Tina Wilson

Members Absent:

Lyra Contreras and Zita Johnson.

There were 14 members of the public present.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2013

A motion was made by Council Member Donovan to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting, seconded by Council Member Wilson. Motion carried unanimously 6-0, Council Members Acosta-Bueno, Donovan and Narducci having not yet arrived.

Call to the Public

- Lynnette Stonefeld with Tempe Community Council stated that they are working with the Town of Guadalupe to make family resource center materials and services available during spring break and the summer. They have also started working with the Youth Build program, which works with high school drop-outs who are working toward a GED and learning construction skills. Six of the 15 members of the Youth Build class are also parents, with one teen having four children. The parents are participating in many training programs, including New Directions Community based Parent Education.

Council Member Emery arrived at 3:39 p.m.

A Conversation with First Things First CEO

Rhian Evans Allvin, First Things First Chief Executive Officer, provided updates to Council members and the public about the kindergarten developmental inventory.

Council Member Trinity Donovan arrived at the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Council Member Acosta-Bueno arrived at the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Council Member Narducci arrived at the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

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Chief Executive Officer Allvin stated that the FTF Board has convened a public/private partnership taskforce that is being chaired by FTF Board member Nadine Basha to provide the Board with recommendations on how to leverage the tobacco revenue to get additional investors into the early childhood system.

Chief Executive Officer Allvin provided an update on the Regional Boundary Taskforce and stated that the next meeting will be held next Tuesday in Tucson. She strongly encouraged Council members to provide input to the taskforce with their personal thoughts as to the recommendations and ensured them that should a recommendation go forth which would affect a region, that the taskforce would be providing avenues for both public and Council member comments about any potential decision.

Chief Executive Officer Allvin stated that with a lot of the carry-forward dollars statewide being spent down in FY2014, the Board is now looking at the organizational fund balance to see how to keep the funding sustained.

Chief Executive Officer Allvin stated that the State legislature has budgeted $9,000,000 for the child care subsidy. Prior to the time the legislature eliminated the subsidy; it had been funded at $27,000,000.

Needs and Assets Vendor Selection

Regional Director Joanne Floth led a discussion about the proposed vendors for 2014 needs and assets report. Council members stated that they had been impressed with the University of Arizona's services, and that staff were very helpful. It was also noted that the cost per hour was less for the University of Arizona, and with much of the data already having been gathered last year, the Council would be able to request more analysis of the data and still stay within the base price.

Council Member Halter moved to approve the University of Arizona for the FY2014 Needs and Asset Report. Council Member Narducci seconded the motion, and it passed 9-0.

Regional Director Floth asked if any Council members would like to be part of the subcommittee for discussions with the vendor. Council Members Funke and Wilson both stated they would be interested in serving on the subcommittee.

Discussion of SFY 2014 Funding Plan Implementation

a. Grant Awards and Agreement Timeline Renewals

Regional Director Floth gave the Council members a briefing on the upcoming RFGA's and agreements and timeline and also reminded Council members to refer any grantees and applicants to contact the First Things First grants department with any questions they might have about the process.

a. Update and Discussion on 2014 Regional Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Strategies

Regional Director Floth and Quality First Program Coordinator Brooke Travis provided information and answered questions about the three open Quality First slots for the region and how they could be filled as well as information about Pre-K scholarship waivers. Discussion ensued regarding several options. Chief Executive Officer Allvin also provided an update about the discussions that have been held about processes to address those Quality First centers which are not making adequate progress and stated that a formal policy is forthcoming.

Council Member Funke moved that the Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council move three programs to full participation Quality First with priority selection being given to programs that provide care to children of teen parents enrolled in a high school teen parent program, infants and toddlers and children of low income parents. Council Member Acosta-Bueno seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, 9-0.

Council Member Donovan moved that the Central Maricopa Regional Partnership allow waivers as needed to current Pre-K providers in order to sustain current scholarship levels and directed the Regional Director to move funding as needed from the Pre-K Scholarship Strategy to the Quality First Scholarships Strategy to cover the cost

of the waivers. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, 7-0, with Council Members Haas and Narducci abstaining due to conflicts of interest.

Staff Updates

a. Community Outreach Update

Community Outreach Coordinator Conrad Lindo stated the Communications Department will not be using the term "site visits" so that the providers are not confused with the Quality Assurance monitoring site visits and will start using the term "site tours" instead. Mr. Lindo stated that there will be a site tour at Arizona Partnership for Children (AzPAC) on Saturday, February 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Arrowhead Park. In addition to Chair Duane, he asked if any Council members would be able to attend. Both Council Members Narducci and Wilson stated that they will attend as long as there isn't a present conflict on their calendars.

b. Director's Update

Regional Director Floth sent out a Save the Date for March 8, 2013 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the Mesa Fire Department Station 201, 360 East 1st Street, Mesa, where Chief Executive Officer Allvin and a few Board members will be in attendance to engage Council members in a discussion and dialogue. Regional Director Floth also stated that benchmark discussions will be starting and asked for volunteers from the Council members. Council Member Funke volunteered for the committee. The committee will most likely start meeting in August. Regional Director Floth stated that Central Maricopa was chosen for a Council member to attend the Smart Start conference from April 29 – May 2 in Greensboro. She asked for any Council member who is interested in attending to please email her, and the winner's name will be drawn out of a hat. Regional Director Floth informed the Council members that the Mesa office will be moving the week of February 25, 2013 to the building just north of the current office, 1839 South Alma School Road, Suite 100, Mesa, AZ 85210.

Council Member Donovan left the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Council Updates

Council Member Funke provided an update regarding the reported 29% vaccination rate in the needs and asset report and stated that the denominator rate used in the report is not consistently accurate and would include children who had already moved out of state, as well as the report used an age range that is not typically used. The Department of Health Services medical director as well as the Maricopa County Department of Public Health health officer volunteered to speak to the Council about the issue of more affluent parents choosing not to immunize their children.

Chair Duane stated that an ad hoc committee from the Chairs and Vice Chairs will be formed to present recommendations about discretionary funding to the First Things First Board. Chair Duane also stated they had received a presentation from the First Things First Communications division about results of a survey about the public's awareness of First Things First.

Council Member Narducci stated that the Chandler Education Coalition met this week and decided that their focus will be emerging literary for children birth to five. Next step will be to meet with several representatives from both public and private agencies.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on March 13, 2013 at the Chandler Christian Community Center, 345 South California Street, Chandler, Arizona 85225.

Adjournment

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Chair Duane asked for any additional questions, or comments from the Council and receiving none, adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III

Approved By_____
Maureen Duane, Chair

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