



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Chair March 1, 2012
Dr. Ca

Vice C Steven W. Lynn, Chair
Kimberly First Things First Board

Memt 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Patricia Phoenix, AZ 85012

Mary
Kelli C Dear Chairman Lynn,

Colleen

DebraThe Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council is seeking approval to make a change to the Southwest
WendMaricopa Regional Partnership Council's SFY2013 Regional Funding Plan. The proposed change is the inclusion of
Susanthe strategy **Service Coordination** in the amount of \$25,000.

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David **Revised Strategy:**

At the February 21, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, the Regional Council approved \$25,000 to support the aforementioned strategy. The Regional Partnership Council has been diligently working with its colleagues from all of the Phoenix and Maricopa Regional Partnership Councils to fully develop a strategy in which the Regional Councils could effectively collaborate to enhance services to families. The end product of the Councils' hard work is the Service Coordination strategy "Family Resource Center / Family Support Coordination Project."

Family Resource Centers / Family Support Coordination programs are implemented by a diverse group of community organizations including faith based and nonprofit organizations, health clinics and partnerships with various cities and school districts in communities and neighborhoods throughout the County. Current First Things First investments in Family Resource Centers and/or Family Support Coordination programs in Maricopa County total just over five million dollars, equating to 22 contracts across all regions. With such a substantial organizational investment and commitment, a Family Resource Centers/Family Support Coordination Project rose to the top as an appropriate collaboration strategy for Phoenix and Maricopa Regional Partnership Councils to address through their cross regional collaboration efforts.

The Family Resource Center/Family Support Coordination Project has the potential of accomplishing multiple outcomes at the family, community and system levels. The primary goals of community collaboration and coordination around the Family Resource Centers and Family Support Coordination include:

- Increasing awareness and availability of services to families and children
- Improving service delivery and address the needs of families
- Building capacity throughout the regions to deliver highly effective and efficient family resource centers and a family support coordination model
- Sharing expertise and training resources, and fostering a learning community across the community organizations, health clinics and public entities.

Service agencies that work together are often easier to access and are implemented in a manner that is more responsive to the needs of the families.

At this time, the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council respectfully requests that the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board approve the Council's request to make the change outlined above. The Regional Partnership Council is confident that the proposed change is in the best interest of children and families in the Southwest Maricopa Region and support the Board approved priorities, aligning with the Early Childhood System that First Things First is working to build.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carlian Dawson".

Dr. Carlian Dawson, Chair
Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council