



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## PIMA SOUTH REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL Draft Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order**

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Pima South Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held at Altar Valley Middle School, Professional Development Room, 16350 West Ajo Highway, Tucson, Arizona 85735.

Chair Espinoza called the meeting to order at approximately 9:33 a.m. and invited Dr. Dave Dumon, Superintendent, to share a few words about Altar Valley School District. Dr. Dumon and Shandra Young, Principal of Robles Elementary School, welcomed everyone and spoke briefly of the population of their students. Chair Espinoza also invited Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona to speak, who presented Member Harrington with a one year certificate and pin and thanked her for her service.

**Members Present:**

- Connie Espinoza, Chair
- Fran Driver, Vice Chair
- Nyki Harrington
- Tony Bruno
- Susan Pace
- Debbie Palmer
- Sagrario Ramirez
- Cyndi Barningham
- Linda Kubiak

**Members Absent:**

- Paul Ohm
- Virginia Juettner

**Consent Agenda**

Member Palmer moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015 Pima South Regional Council Meeting, seconded by Member Barningham. Motion carried.

Member Bruno moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015 Pima South Regional Council Special Meeting, seconded by Member Pace. Motion carried.

**Call to the Public**

*Julie Friberg, Make Way For Books* – Ms. Friberg announced that after May 1, 2015 Make Way for Books would be moving to a new larger location, thanks to the Angel Children’s Charity, who awarded Make Way for Books almost half a million dollars to go towards the mortgage for a new space. She also spoke about the Early Literacy Campaign currently running on radio, TV and on Sun Tran buses throughout the city.

*Sarah Kerr, Casa de Los Niños, Nurse Family Partnership Program* – Ms. Kerr spoke about how the Nurse Family Partnership Program helps the most vulnerable families. She stated examples of how the program helps mothers provide babies first education. She also spoke about the partnering with the Pima County Nurse Family Partnership Program in an ad campaign on the radio.

*Shanna Kukla, Pima Community College* – Ms. Kukla provided an update on current T.E.A.C.H. scholars. She stated that the scholars and staff are very pleased that the RFGA that went out incorporated continuation over the summer for scholars currently in the T.E.A.C.H. model. She highlighted some other pieces of the new model she viewed as favorable.

**Update: State Fiscal Year 2016 Pima South Funding Plan Presentation**

Chair Espinoza and Vice Chair Driver provided a brief overview of what they presented to the State Board in January, including: reasons for adding the Parent Outreach and Awareness strategy, continuing to fund evidence based Home

Visitation due to the visible impact being made, and the extensive cross-regional work that occurs in the Southeast Regional Area. They added that the Board had no questions for them, only congratulatory remarks for the work being done by Pima South and the Southeast Regional Area. Members thanked leadership for presenting on their behalf.

#### **Update: Community Outreach Update and Discussion**

Lisette DeMars, Community Outreach Coordinator, drew attention to the story by Lourdes Medrano on the back of the Community Outreach report (Attachment #3). She invited members and the public to stop by the Festival of Books and visit the First Things First Table, booth #347. She also provided an overview of the Parent Kit, showing the contents and informing the members of the new pilot ordering process in Pima County. Ms. DeMars then passed out index cards and asked the members to list potential contacts for target audiences included in the Unfunded Approaches from the Funding Plan. Members provided feedback and ideas. She thanked the members.

#### **Discussion and Possible Approval: Pima South Regional Governance Policy**

Chair Espinoza stated that at this time, no members had put forward any suggested changes to the Governance Policies. She asked members if they had any changes or edits. No members had any changes.

Member Pace moved to accept the Pima South Regional Governance Policies as presented, seconded by Member Bruno. Motion carried.

#### **Presentation: Request for Grant Application Process**

Eleanor Droegemeier, Regional Director, provided a power point presentation to the members with a detailed overview of the grant application process, touching upon the timeline, the confidentiality of the process, and the Open Meeting Law requirements for members with conflict of interests. Members had a point or two of clarification, and thanked her for the presentation.

\*Member Tony Bruno left the meeting at 10:45\*

#### **Regional Director's Report**

Eleanor Droegemeier, Regional Director, went over the expenditure report, pointing out that the overall amount expended is 63%, very good for this point of the year. She went over the data report, highlighting a few areas and explaining a few "flagged" data points. She then provided some highlights from the narrative report, encouraging them to read the summary, as it gives such a great picture of the impact the work is having. She congratulated Jessica Brisson on her new role as Senior Regional Director for the region, and provided a brief explanation of the changes to the Needs and Assets report schedule. Ms. Droegemeier also informed them of the dates for this year's summit, asking them to mark their calendars.

A member had a question regarding First Things First's role in the support of K-12 education in regard to the State budget cuts to education. Chair Espinoza called on Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona, who provided a brief overview of First Things First's role. She talked of the delicate balance of providing support to the K-12 and Higher Education systems without putting a spotlight on the statue required fund balance.

#### **Recommended Future Agenda Items**

Chair Espinoza reminded council members of recent requests for presentations and informed them that they are scheduled at the next two upcoming meetings. She asked for any additional items. Member Pace asked for an opportunity for members to converse and determine if members want to form a committee to address the Unfunded Approaches mentioned during the community outreach update.

#### **Council Announcements**

Vice Chair Driver announced the two community events occurring this weekend in Ajo, and invited members to attend.

#### **Call to the Public**

There were no members of the public who requested to speak at this time.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 Ocotillo Early Learning Center, Library, 5702 S Campbell Ave, Tucson, 85706

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:36 a.m.



## WHAT IS QUALITY FIRST?

### WHAT IS QUALITY FIRST?



Arizona's quality improvement and rating system.

- Identify quality standards
- Assess early care and education programs
- Support programs in increasing quality standards
- Empower families

## QUALITY FIRST PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

- Applications submitted
- Programs selected based on regional openings every five weeks
- Programs are notified of selection
- Initial contact and welcome by Coach
- Initial assessment by Assessor
- Enrollment begins



## COMPONENTS OF QUALITY FIRST:

1. COACHING
2. ASSESSMENT
3. INCENTIVES
4. CONSULTING TEAM
5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## STAR RATING SCALE

				
STAR RATINGS				
<b>RISING STAR</b>  Committed to quality improvement	<b>PROGRESSING STAR</b>  Approaching quality standards	<b>QUALITY</b>  Meets quality standards	<b>QUALITY PLUS</b>  Exceeds quality standards	<b>HIGHEST QUALITY</b>  Far exceeds quality standards
ERS Average Program Score 1.0 – 1.99	ERS Average Program Score 2.0 – 2.99	ERS Average Program Score 3.0 – 3.99 <i>No classroom score below 2.5</i>	ERS Average Program Score 4.0 – 4.99 <i>No classroom score below 3.0</i>	ERS Average Program Score 5.0 and above <i>No classroom score below 3.0</i>
CLASS <sup>SM</sup> Average Program Score N/A	CLASS <sup>SM</sup> Average Program Score N/A	CLASS <sup>SM</sup> Average Program Score (ES 4.5) (CO 4.5) (IS 2.0)	CLASS <sup>SM</sup> Average Program Score (ES 5.0) (CO 5.0) (IS 2.5)	CLASS <sup>SM</sup> Average Program Score (ES 6.0) (CO 6.0) (IS 3.0)
Quality First Points Scale N/A	Quality First Points Scale N/A	Quality First Points Scale <i>6-point minimum</i> (SQ 2) (AP 2) (CA 2)	Quality First Points Scale <i>10-point minimum</i> (SQ 2) (AP 2) (CA 2)	Quality First Points Scale <i>12-point minimum</i> (SQ 4) (AP 4) (CA 4)
ERS = Environment Rating Scales EERS: Early Childhood Environment ITERS: Infant/Toddler Environment FCCERS: Family Child Care Environment		CLASS <sup>SM</sup> = Classroom Assessment Scoring System <sup>SM</sup> ES: Emotional Support Domain CO: Classroom Organization Domain IS: Instructional Support Domain		Quality First Points Scale SQ: Staff Qualifications AP: Administrative Practices CA: Curriculum and Assessment

## CURRENT PARTICIPATION

### Statewide

945 programs with star ratings

1 Star – 16 (1%)

2 Star – 459 (49%)

3 Star – 307 (32%)

4 Star – 129 (14%)

5 Star – 34 (4%)

### Pima South

79 programs with star ratings

1 Star – 1 (1%)

2 Star – 38 (48%)

3 Star – 25 (32%)

4 Star – 11 (14%)

5 Star – 4 (5%)

## STAR LEVEL PROGRESSION

December 2014	March 2015	% Change
Participants: 967	Participants: 965	-0.2%
Children: 49,107	Children: 50,833	+3.5%
Waitlist: 326	Waitlist: 331	+1.5%
Ratings (932 Participants):	Ratings (945 Participants):	
1 Star: 15	1 Star: 16	+6.6%
2 Star: 501	2 Star: 460	-8.2%
3 Star: 276	3 Star: 308	+11.6%
4 Star: 109	4 Star: 127	+16.5%
5 Star: 31	5 Star: 34	+9.7%



## QUALITY FIRST ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE

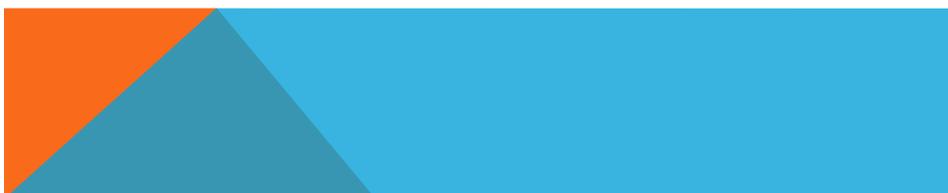
### *Purpose*

The Quality First Advisory Sub-Committee will provide input and recommendations to the First Things First Board's Policy and Program Committee regarding continuous improvement of the Quality First program.

### *Objectives*

The objectives of the Quality First Advisory Sub-Committee are to:

- Engage in a visioning process and agree on the strategic direction for and expected outcomes of the Quality First Initiative;
- Utilize data to develop recommendations on how to continuously improve Quality First components, standards and implementation;
- Examine overall costs of the Quality First model and program participation;
- Provide input on how to increase integration and coordination of the Quality First initiative in the comprehensive early childhood system.
- Make recommendations for strategy, model and/or policy changes to enhance participation in Quality First and contribute to the system goal of reaching statewide scale.



## QUALITY FIRST VALIDATION STUDY

The Phase One study goals are:

**Goal One:** To review the conceptual framework and program design of Quality First and recommend refinements in the program theory and logic model as needed. (The current Quality First logic model will be provided to the contractor.)

**Goal Two:** To review the Quality First data system and related databases to determine if the existing data elements and infrastructure supports effective program management, program evaluation, and quality improvement of the QRIS.

**Goal Three:** To validate the Quality First Rating Scale (1 to 5 stars) and assess whether the five tiers of the scale represent differential levels of quality.



## THANK YOU!



Leslie Totten  
Quality First Program Director

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[aztf.gov](http://aztf.gov)



[Take action](#) in support of Arizona's young children.





Opening Keynote



- Dr. Dipesh Navsaria
- Topic: Early Brain, Child Development, Toxic Stress & Childhood Adversity

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Featured Speaker

- Dr. Nonie LeSaux
- High Stakes Decision Making & Pitfalls Around Early Literacy



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Featured Speaker

- Dr. Clancy Blair
- Increasing Adult Self Regulation



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Closing Keynote



- Enrique Feldman
- Topic: Inspiring Others to Inspire Themselves

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TRIBAL GATHERING



- Monday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 1:00 – 3:00 pm

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

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<https://summit.azftf.gov>

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# How To Register

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## DO NOT Register Online



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## REGIONAL COUNCILS

Register with your Administrative Assistant



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# Travel Guidelines

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## HOTEL STAYS

- Summit begins on Monday, 8/24 @ 8:30
- Hotel stay may begin on Sunday, 8/23
- Check out on Tuesday, 8/25



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## MEALS

- Per diem rate = \$54
- Per diem covers meals that are not provided
- Lunch on 8/25 is provided the Summit



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# Hotel & Parking

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## SUMMIT HOTEL



Hyatt Regency  
122 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

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# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## HYATT CHECK IN

- Show valid drivers license
- Major credit card
- Do not recommend debit cards



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# FIRST THINGS FIRST

HYATT CHECK IN



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

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PARKING



Parking will be paid for the Summit

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HYATT PARKING

- Park at the garage immediately South of the Hyatt (2<sup>nd</sup> Street & Adams)
- Leave car parked at Hyatt and walk to PCC
- Will reimburse for self parking
- Want to valet park? You pay the difference!

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PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER PARKING

- Parking vouchers distributed at registration
- Lost vouchers will cost you \$12 per day
- No in and out privileges



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## FY 2015 Pima South Contract Detail

	Grantee Name	Contract Period	Total Allotment	Awarded	YTD Expense	Expense Variance	% of Award Expended	Reimbursement Activity	
								Pending	Paid (Last 30 Days)
<b>Community Awareness</b>	<b>Community Awareness</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,021</b>	<b>(\$21)</b>	<b>100.2%</b>		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$10,000	\$10,021	(\$21)	100.2%		
	<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$57,960</b>	<b>\$57,960</b>	<b>\$36,166</b>	<b>\$21,794</b>	<b>62.4%</b>		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$57,960	\$36,166	\$21,794	62.4%		
	<b>Media</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$31,099</b>	<b>\$33,901</b>	<b>47.8%</b>		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$65,000	\$31,099	\$33,901	47.8%		
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$132,960</b>	<b>\$132,960</b>	<b>\$77,287</b>	<b>\$55,673</b>	<b>58.1%</b>			
<b>Coordination</b>	<b>Service Coordination</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$48,290</b>	<b>\$51,710</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>\$8,206</b>	<b>\$10,737</b>
	United Way of Tucson and Southern AZ	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$100,000	\$48,290	\$51,710	48.3%	\$8,206	\$10,737
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$48,290</b>	<b>\$51,710</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>\$8,206</b>	<b>\$10,737</b>	
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Statewide Evaluation</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$429,032</b>	<b>\$429,032</b>	<b>\$429,032</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$429,032	\$429,032	-	100.0%		
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$429,032</b>	<b>\$429,032</b>	<b>\$429,075</b>	<b>(\$43)</b>	<b>100.0%</b>			
<b>Family Support</b>	<b>Home Visitation</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$1,804,400</b>	<b>\$1,801,124</b>	<b>\$914,542</b>	<b>\$886,583</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>\$123,769</b>	<b>\$137,839</b>
	Desert Senita Community Health Center	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$117,131	\$62,584	\$54,547	53.4%	\$8,253	\$8,820
	Arizona Department of Economic Security	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$18,011	\$9,022	\$8,990	50.1%		
	Casa de los Ninos, Inc.	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$186,160	\$97,452	\$88,708	52.3%		\$16,400
	Sunnyside School District	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$753,290	\$396,745	\$356,545	52.7%	\$55,958	\$61,022
	United Way of Tucson and Southern AZ	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$726,532	\$348,739	\$377,793	48.0%	\$59,558	\$51,597
	<b>Community-Based Parent Education</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$463,360</b>	<b>\$489,408</b>	<b>\$201,047</b>	<b>\$288,361</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>\$58,932</b>	<b>\$4,799</b>
	Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$37,312	\$21,978	\$15,334	58.9%		\$3,094
	United Way of Tucson and Southern AZ	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$26,048	\$12,187	\$13,861	46.8%	\$2,082	\$1,705
	United Way of Tucson and Southern AZ	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$426,048	\$166,881	\$259,167	39.2%	\$56,850	
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$2,267,760</b>	<b>\$2,290,532</b>	<b>\$1,115,588</b>	<b>\$1,174,944</b>	<b>48.7%</b>	<b>\$182,701</b>	<b>\$142,638</b>	
<b>Health</b>	<b>Child Care Health Consultation</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$255,420</b>	<b>\$255,419</b>	<b>\$140,728</b>	<b>\$114,691</b>	<b>55.1%</b>		<b>\$14,579</b>
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$13,251	\$13,251	-	100.0%		
	Maricopa Co Department of Public Health	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$4,543	\$638	\$3,905	14.0%		
	Pima County Health Department	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$229,364	\$122,779	\$106,585	53.5%		\$14,271
	Pima County Health Department	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$8,261	\$4,060	\$4,201	49.1%		\$308
	<b>Mental Health Consultation Strategy</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$78,720</b>	<b>\$78,720</b>	<b>\$37,242</b>	<b>\$41,478</b>	<b>47.3%</b>		<b>\$8,648</b>
	Southwest Human Development	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$78,720	\$37,242	\$41,478	47.3%		\$8,648
	<b>Oral Health</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$247,500</b>	<b>\$247,500</b>	<b>\$98,349</b>	<b>\$149,151</b>	<b>39.7%</b>	<b>\$14,016</b>	<b>\$10,481</b>
	Pima County Health Department	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$247,500	\$98,349	\$149,151	39.7%	\$14,016	\$10,481
	<b>Recruitment – Stipends/Loan</b>	<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>(\$300)</b>	<b>0.0%</b>		
	Arizona Department of Health Services	To Be Determined		-	\$300	(\$300)	0.0%		
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$581,640</b>	<b>\$581,639</b>	<b>\$276,619</b>	<b>\$305,020</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>\$14,016</b>	<b>\$33,708</b>	

	Grantee Name	Contract Period	Total Allotment	Awarded	YTD Expense	Expense Variance	% of Award Expended	Reimbursement Activity	
								Pending	Paid (Last 30 Days)
Professional Development	Community Based Professional Development EC Professionals	Strategy Subtotal:	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$123,312	\$196,688	38.5%		\$23,017
	United Way of Tucson and Southern AZ	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$320,000	\$123,312	\$196,688	38.5%		\$23,017
	FTF Professional REWARD\$	Strategy Subtotal:	\$259,200	\$259,200	\$196,595	\$62,605	75.8%		
	Valley of the Sun United Way	To Be Determined		-	\$2,292	(\$2,292)	0.0%		
	Valley of the Sun United Way	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$259,200	\$194,303	\$64,897	75.0%		
	Scholarships non-TEACH	Strategy Subtotal:	\$17,200	\$17,200	-	\$17,200	0.0%		
	Central Arizona College	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$17,200	-	\$17,200	0.0%		
	Scholarships TEACH	Strategy Subtotal:	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$9,355	\$3,145	74.8%		\$3,019
	Association for Supportive Child Care	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$12,500	\$9,355	\$3,145	74.8%		\$3,019
		Goal Area Subtotal:	\$608,900	\$608,900	\$329,262	\$279,638	54.1%		\$26,037
Quality and Access	Center-based Literacy	Strategy Subtotal:	\$112,090	\$112,090	\$69,236	\$42,854	61.8%		\$10,634
	Make Way for Books	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$112,090	\$69,236	\$42,854	61.8%		\$10,634
	Family, Friends & Neighbors	Strategy Subtotal:	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$23,401	\$26,599	46.8%	\$3,253	\$3,343
	Association for Supportive Child Care	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$50,000	\$23,401	\$26,599	46.8%	\$3,253	\$3,343
	Kindergarten Transition	Strategy Subtotal:	\$30,888	\$30,888	\$30,888	-	100.0%		
	Arizona Department of Education	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$30,888	\$30,888	-	100.0%		
	Quality First Academy	Strategy Subtotal:	\$80,840	\$80,840	\$36,504	\$44,336	45.2%		\$2,845
	Southwest Human Development	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$80,840	\$36,504	\$44,336	45.2%		\$2,845
	QF CCHC Warmline	Strategy Subtotal:	\$4,042	\$2,891	\$1,088	\$1,803	37.6%		
	UA Cooperative Extension	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$2,891	\$1,088	\$1,803	37.6%		
	QF Coaching & Incentives	Strategy Subtotal:	\$982,247	\$928,784	\$696,643	\$232,141	75.0%		
	Valley of the Sun United Way	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$928,784	\$696,643	\$232,141	75.0%		
	QF Inclusion Warmline	Strategy Subtotal:	\$18,060	\$15,932	\$8,683	\$7,249	54.5%		\$1,019
	Southwest Human Development	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$15,932	\$8,683	\$7,249	54.5%		\$1,019
	QF Mental Health Consultation Warmline	Strategy Subtotal:	\$18,576	\$18,576	\$11,381	\$7,195	61.3%		\$1,233
	Southwest Human Development	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$18,576	\$11,381	\$7,195	61.3%		\$1,233
	QF Scholarships	Strategy Subtotal:	\$2,979,372	\$2,979,372	\$2,241,640	\$737,732	75.2%	-	
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$26,729	\$26,729	-	100.0%		
	Valley of the Sun United Way	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$2,952,643	\$2,214,911	\$737,732	75.0%	-	
	QF Warmline Triage	Strategy Subtotal:	\$6,536	\$6,536	\$4,249	\$2,287	65.0%		\$497
Southwest Human Development	07/01/2014-06/30/2015		\$6,536	\$4,249	\$2,287	65.0%		\$497	
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$4,282,651	\$4,225,909	\$3,123,712	\$1,102,197	73.9%	\$3,253	\$19,572	
	Overall Total:	\$8,402,943	\$8,368,972	\$5,399,833	\$2,969,139	64.5%	\$208,175	\$232,690	

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

April 2015 Pima Regions



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Attachment #5

## February and March Outreach Activities

### **Presentation: Pueblo High School Early Childhood Education JTED classes\***

February 3: 85713

Presented information about the importance of Early Childhood, First Things First and our partners to over 100 students.

### **Event: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Train the Trainer\*\*\***

February 9: 85713

ACEs Train the Trainer Professional Development, 110 attendees. FTF co-sponsored with UW, ESBF, UofA, and SAzEYC.

### **Presentation: Mealtime Connections\*\*\***

February 10: 85716

### **Event: Literacy Night at Carrillo Elementary School\*\*\***

February 10: 85701

### **Presentation: ASU School of Social Work\*\*\***

February 11: 85705

Presented to class SWG 682: Community Participation Strategies

### **Event: Arizona Public Media Community Interactive: Education\*\***

February 12: 85711

Amanda Kucich (United Way, Collective Impact STRIVE ) sat on the panel. Many people asked questions about ECE via social media.

See <https://community.azpm.org/interactive/> for details.

### **One on One: Pima Partnership Academy, Lisa Long\***

February 18: 85705

### **Event: United Ways Business Breakfast\*\***

February 24: 85711

The event was attended by 400 people. PYT Champion and RPC Member Hector Youtsey was honored as this year's Media Champion for Children by Early Childhood Action Subcommittee, a part of First Focus on Kids.

### **Presentation: St. Andrews Presbyterian Preschool, Corey Planer\***

March 4: 85704

I met Corey Planer at the Sunshine School/ Oro Valley Chamber Open House Event. She is the Director of St. Andrews, a preschool in North Tucson.

### **One on One: Pima County Health Department, Meghan Shillington\***

March 10: 85714

### **Speakers Training: Early Childhood Everyday, Pima South Coordination of Services (funded and unfunded partners)\***

March 10: 85614

### **Networking Meeting: United Way, First Focus on Kids (FFK)\*\***

March 11: 85709

Six ECE Champions reported having met with Jonathon Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson, to propose a sales tax to fund Early Childhood in Pima County. The Mayor has agreed. The group is working on the next steps.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

4/17: Please join us for the Nurse Family Partnership Graduation at the Tucson Children's Museum  
200 S. 6th Avenue, 85701  
5:30-7:30pm

4/27: Please join us for the Nurse Family Partnership Graduation at Casa de los Niños  
1101 N. 4th Avenue, 85705  
5:00-7:00pm

### **Engagement Support:\*\***

**A special thank you to our partners who are sharing Educational Reinforcement Items (ERI's) on our behalf:**

#### FEBRUARY

- Jessica Lubbering, Reachout Women's Center
- Jennifer Atteberry-Peirpont, CDO Preschool and CDO ECE Program
- Jess Salyers, TMC Pediatric Therapy
- Martha Portilla, AZ Kith and Kin Providers
- Desiree Cook, Iamyou360

#### FEBRUARY BENCHMARKS :

4 Events  
5 Networking or 1:1 Meetings  
3 Presentations  
1 Speakers Training  
7 Referrals  
18 Actions Taken by Supporters or Champions

Please note: Community Outreach Coordinators work to increase awareness of ECE and to move supporters of the ECE movement to Take Action on behalf of ECE.

\*Referral

\*\*Action Taken by a Supporter or Champion

[www.FirstThingsFirstAZ.gov](http://www.FirstThingsFirstAZ.gov)

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## Dad and Me

Story written by Lourdes Medrano

Samara Luque hesitated at first, but with her dad's encouragement, the toddler soon began clapping her hands and swaying to the music. She was among dozens of other youngsters whose own fathers cheered them onto the dance floor during a Dad & Me evening at Ocotillo Learning Center.

Dads and kids spent an hour playing, dancing and singing together. But what the little ones didn't know is that spending time with their fathers, as they did on this occasion, is considered a key factor in the social-emotional development of children.

The event was intended to help father and child strengthen bonds while having fun together, said Joan Katz, Parents as Teachers coordinator. The program, which is partly funded by First Things First, organized Dad & Me.

"When dads are involved with their children, kids have better peer relationships, and they stay in school and graduate," Katz said.

By the time the event ended, most of the boys and girls looked content and worn out. Samara, wearing a red bow in her long, dark hair, looked sleepy in the arms of her father, Jesus.

"She's been in the program since she was born," he said of his 2-year-old. "Tonight was a lot of fun."

Nearby, a bashful Hiram Urías hid behind his dad's legs. "He's a little shy when he's in a new environment," explained his dad, Marcos.

The father said he knows that being involved in Hiram's life will give his son an edge and he intends to continue doing so after his boy starts school, just as he has with his two older sons. "By being involved in their education and activities, I've learned a lot about my children," he said. "There's trust between us."

Dad & Me activities encourage interaction between parent and child while at the same time offering an opportunity to share educational information with parents.

"They're understanding that it's important to read to their children," Katz said of the fathers. "If they go out and throw the ball around, come in and afterwards read a book together."

Dad & Me, which is held several times during the school year, has grown steadily since it began in 2009. Just three fathers showed with their children back then, Katz recalled.

Now it's not unusual for the event to draw more than 60 people, she said. Some 30 fathers and their children were at Ocotillo, and they all left with a message that resonated throughout the hour.

"Dads are important from the start."



*Samara and her father Jesus sing along at the Dad & Me event put on by Sunnyside Parents as Teachers.*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

April 2015 Pima Regions



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

## February and March Outreach Activities

### **Event: Greater Tucson Leadership and Hispanic Leadership Institute: Education Day\*\***

March 13: Pima Community College, 85705

The ECE portion of the day was populated by 10 ECE champions working in: family support, preschools and programs in various districts, childcare, infant/ toddler mental health, professional development, parent education, early intervention (UA speech and hearing), early literacy, and home visitation. A huge thank you to ECE Champions **Fania Bevill, Kylee Blue, Anne Clifford, Rudy Caudillo, Heather Friedman, David Higuerra, Dan McDonald, Barbara Kiernan, Jenny Volpe and Ekna Zamora-Rehm** who shared their work and how it relates to the betterment of our community with the class of 85 up and coming community leaders.

### **Event: Tucson Festival of Books\*\***

March 14th and 15th: University of Arizona, 85719

Grantees from 5 different organizations volunteered to staff the FTF table and hand out books, early literacy guides, playbooks, helpline info, and their program information to attendees. The festival saw approx. 150,000 attendees over the two days. We passed out about 800 books. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this weekend possible!

### **Presentation: Alpha Kappa Gamma, Nancy Magelli\*\*\***

March 19: 85704

### **Event: Be Safe Saturday\*\***

March 19: Tucson Medical Center, 85712

Champion Jessica Mitchell handed out FTF Helpline Cards, Parent Kit cards, and Playbooks at an event attended by about 1200 families.

Thank you Jessica!

### **Speakers Training: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Program\***

March 23: 85719

### **Presentation: Pima County Interfaith Council\***

March 26: 85719

### **Engagement Support: Children's Action Alliance: Southern Arizona Advisory Committee Meeting\*\***

March 27: 85716

Champion David Higuera invited Rep. David Bradley to speak about the budget and to receive community feedback. Champions from 6 partner agencies were in attendance.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Please share the Success Stories from February and March. If you'd like to see a program in action yourself let us know, we will arrange a visit!

April is the Month of the Young Child, share a message about the importance of the early years: ***About 90% of a child's critical brain development happens before age 5. The job of helping kids succeed starts the day they are born.***

**Engagement Support:\*\***  
**A special thank you to our partners who are sharing Educational Reinforcement Items (ERI's) on our behalf:**

### MARCH

- Jessica Borbon, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Home Visitation
- Adriana Huerta, Sunnyside Parents as Teachers
- Darlene Whitmore, Pima Partnership Academy

### MARCH BENCHMARKS :

5 Events  
4 Networking or 1:1 Meetings  
4 Presentations  
3 Speakers Trainings  
9 Referrals  
11 Actions Taken by Supporters or Champions

Please note: Community Outreach Coordinators work to increase awareness of ECE and to move supporters of the ECE movement to **Take Action** on behalf of ECE.

\*Referral

\*\*Action Taken by a Supporter or Champion

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## Parenting education helps teens stay in school and their kids safe

Story written by Lourdes Medrano

Viviana Pardini was a freshman in high school when she found herself pregnant and with little knowledge about how to raise a child. Now a senior with a 2-year-old daughter, she has picked up a plethora of parenting skills through a program that aims to keep young parents in school.

"I've learned a lot," the 18-year-old said.



*Viviana Pardini and Myrna Chavez talk about creating safe environments for infants and young children to live and learn in.*

Alissa Gopp, director of the Teenage Parent Program at Marana High School, said that in addition to learning about child development, health, and discipline, young mothers and mothers-to-be also get valuable education from Parents as Teachers facilitators such as Myrna Chavez.

Chavez joins the eight teens enrolled in the program's required parenting class twice a month, reinforcing the messages they hear in the class while their children are cared for on campus.

"It makes it that much more powerful that they're hearing it from someone that they see as a professional in the community," Gopp said of Chavez, a parent educator based in the Marana Unified School District. "It makes what we're saying and teaching them that much stronger."

During one of her visits, Chavez talked to the teens about keeping kids safe by evaluating their environment for potential hazards and developing strategies in case of an emergency. She also distributed handouts with tips on how to safety-proof the home to prevent accidents, including storing cleaning products in a locked cabinet and keeping electrical outlets covered with plastic caps.

"One of the things that I talk a lot about with parents is chok-

ing hazards," Chavez said. "Where would we find choking hazards?"

"The floor!" several moms responded in unison.

Indeed, Chavez told the moms. "Remember that your kids learn through their mouth, the tiny ones, that's how they're learning. They're going to pick up those things and put them in their mouth. So we always want to be conscious about those things on the floor."

The students also learned about car safety and took home a list of available community resources. For Pardini, the lessons Chavez brings to parenting class have been invaluable.

For example, she had never considered the dangers that an open toilet or a stove oven could pose to a curious child. She now knows that both can be secured with safety locks to keep kids out of harm's way.

"It makes you aware; it makes you think about things you never think about," she said.

And keeping her daughter, Yazlin Perez, safe is a top priority for Pardini as she focuses on finishing high school and forging a better future for both.

**Lisette DeMars**

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