



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD YUMA REGIONAL PARTNESHIP COUNCIL March 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

### **Call to Order**

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Goodwill of Central Arizona Career Center, 3097 South 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at approximately 4:37 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Rev. Dr. Darren C. Hawkins, Chair  
Irene Garza, Vice Chair  
Kim Fanning  
Janell F. Johnson  
Ricardo Perez  
Rebecca Ramirez  
Mary Beth Turner

### **Members Absent:**

Gloria Coronado  
Pilar Moreno  
Dr. Mario Ybarra

### **Conflict of Interest**

Chair Hawkins asked the Regional Council members if there were conflicts of interest regarding items on this agenda. There were none at this time.

### **Consent Agenda**

Member Ramirez moved to approve the matters on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Member Perez. Motion carried

### **SFY2015 Financial Report and SFY Quarter 2 Data**

Rudy Ortiz, Regional Director, presented to the Regional Council a financial report and the quarter 2 data report update for the current fiscal year. The report included the year to date expenditures and percentage of expended allotment for each strategy.

### **Governance Policy – First Read**

The Regional Council will review the Governance Policy Manual. A second reading of the manual will take place at the April 16, 2015 meeting at which time the Regional Council will take action on the document.

### **Health Books and Outreach**

Mr. Ortiz, shared information on an opportunity to use “Storynamics” comic books as a resource to educate parents on the importance of healthy eating and healthy families. The information included insight and data on why/how education through visual stories can make a positive impact in our community.

### **Champion for Young Children Award**

The Regional Council will continue to host the Champion for Young Children Award celebration at the November 2015 regional council meeting. The recipient of the award will receive recognition at the 2015 First Things First Early Childhood Summit.

**Regional Director's Update**

Mr. Ortiz attended the Quality First Scholarship meeting earlier this month and shared some of the changes that will take effect for the next SFY2016. Mr. Ortiz added that Quality First scholarships will not be provided to two-star rated providers. Other areas included in the update were but not limited to: update on Preschool Development Grant, Yuma Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Yuma Sunrise and the upcoming First Things First Board Meeting.

**Community Outreach Update**

Nena Garcia, Parent Outreach & Community Outreach Coordinator, shared the SFY2016 Implementation Plan, SFY2016 Awareness Budget and Outreach Opportunities. The Regional Council directed Ms. Garcia to continue her work with the Business and Faith community adding that possibly reaching out to the public schools may be an outreach opportunity.

**Call to the Public**

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

**Announcements & Future Agenda Item Requests**

The annual Kith and Kin Conference will be on April 25, 2015 in Yuma, Arizona. There were no future agenda item requests at this time.

**Next Meeting**

April 16, 2015, 4:30 p.m. at the Yuma Community Food Bank, 2404 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona 85365.

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on this 16<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2015 By:

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Dr. Darren C. Hawkins, Chair

First Things First  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council

Governance Policy Manual

PREFACE

This document, initially adopted by the Yuma Regional Partnership Council on May 9, 2008 and updated periodically thereafter, constitutes the complete and official body of policies for the governance and operation of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council.

DISCLAIMER

All policies found in this Governance Policy Manual are subject to change from time to time as approved by the Regional Partnership Council. Copies of the Manual are available from the First Things First regional office and online at <http://www.azftf.gov>. Prior to acting in reliance upon a specific policy as it appears in any copy of the Manual, please check to make sure that the Council has not recently approved any additions or revisions to that specific policy.

Contact us:

First Things First

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

Rudy J. Ortiz, Regional Director

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## 1-101 Organization, Authority and Location

In November 2006, Arizona voters passed Proposition 203, a ballot initiative that established A.R.S. Title 8, Chapter 13 and created First Things First. Subsequently, the First Things First Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (“the Board”) designated the Yuma region and created the Yuma Regional Partnership Council (“the Council”) effective July 1, 2007 pursuant to A.R.S. Title 8, Chapter 13, Article 2. The Council’s purpose, authority, powers and duties are included in A.R.S. Title 8, Chapter 13 as well as in other statutes and laws of the State of Arizona. The Council members are appointed by the Board and assisted in the performance of their duties by First Things First staff. The Yuma Regional Office is located in Yuma, Arizona and is maintained by First Things First Regional Staff.

Adopted May 9, 2008

Revised April 16, 2015

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## 1-102 Council Officers and Their Duties

In the last quarter of each fiscal year, the Council shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among the appointed members to serve for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, who shall hold office for twelve months and until successors are duly elected.

The Council may nominate any appointed member for its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. A majority vote of the appointed members of the Council shall be required to elect.

It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to preside over the meetings of the Council, to call meetings as herein provided and to perform such other duties as are set forth in these policies or as shall be vested in the Chairperson. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Chairperson to assume the duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

The Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson may be removed from office by a majority vote of the appointed members of the Council upon motion by a Council member alleging the violation of a specific provision of this Governance Policy Manual or alleging specific actions which bring into public disrepute the Council, the Board or First Things First as an organization. If a Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson is removed, a replacement shall be elected as soon as is practicable.

Adopted May 9, 2008  
Revised April 16, 2015

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## 1-103 Meetings of the Council

The Council shall adopt a calendar of regular meetings of the Council prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The Chairperson or any four members of the Council may call a special meeting of the Council at any time.

Six members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Council meeting. It is the policy of First Things First to adjourn a meeting when quorum is lost. Council members may participate at any meeting in person, by teleconference and/or by videoconference provided that all members may hear one another and the public can attend and listen to all members.

Written notice of any regular meeting of the Council, plus the agenda and all material relating to agenda items, shall be transmitted to each Council member at least five calendar days prior to the date of such meeting. Amendments to the agenda and additional supporting materials, not previously available, shall be transmitted at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. All notices, agendas and other materials may be transmitted to Council members by email or by any other quick and reliable method to each member's last known place of residence or other designated address. A Council member may request in writing at least 10 days prior to a meeting to receive a copy of the documents by mail instead of email. Except with the approval of three-fourths of the Council members in attendance at a meeting, and if permitted by law, no action shall be taken by the Council on any matter where the supporting materials were not timely transmitted in accordance with this policy.

Special meetings may be held upon such notice to Council members and the public as is required by law. All material relating to special meeting agenda items shall be transmitted to each Council member as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

Adopted May 9, 2008  
Revised April 16, 2015

## 1-104 Meeting Procedures

Council meetings shall be conducted by the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson or designee acting as Chairperson of the Council. The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining order in each Council meeting and giving each Council member a fair opportunity to participate in the discussion and resolution of issues that come before the Council. The Chairperson is also responsible for determining the manner of any public participation and for maintaining order during public participation in any Council meetings. All motions shall be directed to the Chairperson.

All Council committee meetings shall be conducted by the chairperson of the committee or the committee chairperson's designee. The chairperson of each committee has the same responsibilities for each committee meeting that the Chairperson has for Council meetings.

In determining what procedures to use to conduct meetings and resolve issues, the Council Chairperson and committee chairpersons may refer to Robert's Rules of Order (available online at <http://www.rulesonline.com>) for guidance.

The agenda for any regular meeting of the Council shall provide at least for the following:

1. Call to order
2. Call to the public
3. Approval of minutes of prior regular or special meetings, if not included on the consent agenda
4. Adoption of all consent agenda items
5. Matters of Council business for discussion and approval
6. Reports, if any, from committees appointed by the Council
7. Matters presented by the First Things First Regional Director
8. Announcements and adjournment

Routine matters may be grouped together and decided by the Council without discussion or debate. Such matters shall be designated as "Consent Agenda Items." Any member of the Council may request discussion or debate on any individual item listed as a Consent Agenda Item, and the matter shall be considered and decided separately at such time in the meeting as may be directed by the Chairperson.

The Chairperson may delegate to the chair of each respective committee the responsibility for chairing discussion of items presented to the Council by that chairperson. Whenever a matter before the Council is deferred for further discussion, the Chairperson may assign the matter to an appropriate committee, schedule the matter for further consideration at a future meeting of the Council, direct regional staff with respect to the matter or take other appropriate action.

Adopted May 9, 2008

Revised July 7, 2008

Revised April 16, 2015

## 1-105 Call to the Public Procedures

During each regular Council meeting, the Council conducts a "Call to the Public" when members of the public may address the Council. The Council may conduct a "Call to the Public" at special meetings as well. Speakers who wish to address the Council:

- A. Should turn in a signed request (using the form provided at the Council meeting) to the Regional Director along with any written materials for the Council.
- B. May have five minutes to make their remarks.

The Chairperson may allow speakers who have not turned in a request form, and the Council may change, in accordance with Governance Policy 1-114, the amount of time allowed for speakers at a particular meeting.

The following priority may be given to speakers during the "Call to the Public" when the Council may not have enough time to hear from all who wish to speak:

- A. People who have submitted signed request to speak forms.
- B. Matters scheduled on the same meeting's agenda.
- C. Off-agenda matters: presenters who haven't addressed the Council in the previous two months.
- D. Off-agenda matters: presenters who have addressed the Council in the previous two months.

The Council retains its prerogative to:

- A. Refuse to hear comments on a specific issue if a public comment session has been held on the issue.
- B. Limit the time or the number of speakers on the same issue.
- C. Refuse to have letters read *on behalf of other individuals*.

If speakers have comments that are too long for the time allowed or if members of the public would like materials distributed to the Council, written materials may be provided to the Regional Director or Administrative Assistant. Regional staff shall distribute those written materials to the Council members.

Council members may not discuss or take action on matters raised during the Call to the Public that are not on the agenda. For such non-agenda matters, the Council may respond to criticism, ask staff to review the matter or ask for the matter to be placed on a future agenda. Staff shall later inform the Council of staff efforts to respond to a speaker's concerns.

Adopted May 9, 2008  
Revised April 16, 2015

## 1-106 Meeting Minutes

Minutes of all Council meetings shall be created and maintained in accordance with the requirements of law. The Council may incorporate by reference into its minutes lists of staff changes, reports, lists of budget information, formal written resolutions and other material of similar import, and such material shall be maintained in a permanent file to be designated as the "Yuma Regional Partnership Council's Documents File," which shall be kept in the custody of First Things First staff and available for ready reference.

Each Council member shall be furnished with copies of the minutes of the open session portion of each Council meeting. Council members without a conflict of interest shall be furnished with copies of the minutes of the executive session portion of any meeting of the Council for the purpose of approving those minutes, after which all copies shall be returned to the Regional Director.

All minutes of the open session portion of any Council meeting shall be open to public inspection at the First Things First Regional Office located in Yuma, AZ. Minutes of executive sessions shall be kept confidential except from members of the Council or as otherwise allowed by law. Copies of minutes or excerpts from any minutes of the open session portion of any Council meeting or from any executive session if the law permits such disclosure may be furnished by the Regional Director. If such minutes have not yet been approved by the Council, they shall be marked "Draft."

Adopted May 9, 2008  
Revised April 16, 2015

## 1-107 Committees and Subcommittees

The Council may establish and maintain committees composed of members of the Council and/or other individuals appointed by the Chairperson. The Chairperson may designate that the Chairperson of the Council shall serve as an ex officio member of a committee.

The Chairperson of the Council shall designate the matters to be considered by the committees. All committees shall act as advisory bodies to the Council and report their recommendations to the Council. Unless one is designated by the Chairperson of the Council, a committee chairperson shall be elected by the committee members.

Committees may establish and maintain their own subcommittees. The relationship between a committee and its subcommittee shall be the same as the relationship described in this policy between the Council and a committee.

Committees and subcommittees shall comply with the Open Meeting Law. See A.R.S. § 38-431(1),(6).

Adopted May 9, 2008

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## 1-108 Conflicts of Interest

Council members shall comply with the conflict of interest provisions of A.R.S. Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 8. These statutes set the minimum standards expected of public officers and employees who, in their official capacities, are faced with a decision or contract that might affect their direct or indirect pecuniary or proprietary interests or those of a relative. Section 38-503 provides in part:

Any public officer or employee of a public agency who has, or whose relative has, a substantial interest in any contract, sale, purchase or service to such public agency shall make known that interest in the official records of such public agency and shall refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any manner as an officer or employee in such contract, sale, purchase or service.

Any public officer or employee who has, or whose relative has, a substantial interest in any decision of a public agency shall make known such interest in the official records of such public agency and shall refrain from participating in any manner as an officer or employee in such decision.

Under this law, a Council member who has a conflict of interest must disclose the interest and refrain from participating in the matter. Council members may find guidance on this subject in the Arizona Agency Handbook, which is available on the Attorney General's website at <http://www.azag.gov/agency-handbook>. Council members should review conflicts of interest matters not specifically addressed in the Handbook with the Regional Director or legal counsel.

In addition to complying with the conflict of interest provisions of Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 8, no Council member shall vote on, or participate in the discussion of, any grant proposal in which any entity by which they are employed or on whose board they serve has a substantial interest, as defined by Section 38-502. See A.R.S. § 8-1173(C).

Council members shall complete a Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement and State Service Disclosure Statement at the beginning of their term and annually update the State Service Disclosure Statement. Additionally, Council members shall complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form whenever they declare a conflict at a Council meeting. All completed forms shall be given to First Things First staff for recordkeeping.

Adopted May 9, 2008  
Revised April 16, 2015

## 1-109 Communications from the Council

Communications from the Council concerning matters relating to the policies and actions of the Council to members of the Legislature, any other governing body, the press or the public should be made by the Chairperson, the Chairperson's designee or someone authorized by the Council.

Any member of the Council who expresses an opinion concerning matters upon which the Council has taken a position should support the position taken by the Council or make it clear that he or she is expressing a personal opinion that has not been approved by the Council.

Adopted May 9, 2008

Revised April 16, 2015

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## 1-110 Lobbying & Campaigning

Lobbying occurs under Arizona law when a person attempts to influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by directly communicating with any State Legislator. By contrast, campaigning refers to attempts to influence an election. In other words, lobbying relates to matters a Legislator will vote on, while campaigning relates to matters the general public will vote on.

### Lobbying

The Council recognizes and appreciates the privilege each individual in this State and Nation has to express his or her opinion and to seek to make that opinion known to members of the State Legislature and Congress. The Council also recognizes the responsibilities with which it has been entrusted in connection with the Board and the advancement of early childhood development and health programs in the State of Arizona and recognizes that on occasion the interests of the Board and Council will not coincide with the interests of individual Council members.

Only the Chairperson of the Council or his or her designee shall speak for the Council to members of the State Legislature or Congress in matters relating to policy. When speaking for the Council to Legislators or their staff, the Chairperson or designee shall make every effort to accurately communicate official Council positions, while refraining from speaking on behalf of the Board or First Things First unless specifically authorized to do so by the Board or Board Chairperson or First Things First's Chief Executive Officer respectively. A Chairperson or member designee lobbying in his or her official capacity on matters pertaining to the Council is exempt from the lobbying laws requiring registration and expenditure reporting.

Any Council member may speak to members of the State Legislature or Congress in an individual capacity. For matters in which the Council has not taken an official position, any Council member communicating with a member of the State Legislature or Congress shall make every effort to indicate clearly that the position that he or she is taking is an individual position or is the position of a group other than the Council. In instances in which First Things First, the Board or the Council has taken an official position, a Council member endorsing a differing position shall make it clear that First Things First, the Board and/or the Council has endorsed a different or contrary position. Council members who, on their own behalf, appear before a legislative committee or communicate with a State Legislator in person, by phone or by letter to lobby in support of or in opposition to legislation are also exempt from the lobbying laws requiring registration and expenditure reporting.

This policy is not intended to nor shall it be enforced so as to restrict rights guaranteed to individual Council members, but is an attempt only to separate the views of individual members from positions which First Things First, the Board and/or the Council may take in attempting to discharge their responsibilities under the statutes of the State of Arizona.

\* Council members who only engage in exempt lobbying are not considered lobbyists. See A.R.S. §§ 41-1231 & 41-1232.04. Additionally, Council members should be aware that the

Council cannot make any expenditure for entertainment for a state officer or employee (including Legislators) and Council members cannot accept an expenditure for entertainment from a lobbyist or someone acting on behalf of a lobbyist. Entertainment refers to admission to or participation in a sporting event or a cultural event or activity. See A.R.S. §§ 41-1231(5)-(6) & 41-1232.08.

### Campaigning

The Council shall not spend or use public resources to influence an election. See A.R.S. § 16-192. This prohibition includes the use or expenditure of monies, materials, equipment, buildings, postage, telecommunications, computers, web pages and any other thing of value of First Things First to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure.

Individual Council members may express their personal views and even advocate for or against a candidate, initiative or other ballot measure, as long as they do not use public resources to do so. In these activities, Council members may identify themselves as Council members, but should not state or imply that they speak for the Council.

Adopted May 9, 2008  
Revised April 16, 2015

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## 1-111 Attendance

The Council's governing statutes recognize the importance of consistent attendance by Regional Council members with the following statement:

*Members of the Regional Partnership Council who miss more than three meetings without excuse or resign their membership shall be replaced by the Board after a public application process and with the input of the Regional Partnership Council.*

See A.R.S. § 8-1162(D).

Attendance Expectations. Council members are expected to attend all Council meetings. It is understood that there will be times when Council members will need to miss a meeting. The Regional Director shall maintain an attendance roster that documents each member's attendance at scheduled meetings.

Excused Absence. An excused absence occurs when a Council member is unable to attend a meeting due to an emergency, illness, injury or previously scheduled travel, work, tribal ceremony or family obligation that prevents participation at a meeting either in person or by phone.

Notification of a previously planned obligation should be provided to the Regional Director at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled meeting. A Council member who misses a meeting other than for a previously planned obligation shall contact the Regional Director as soon as possible to provide an explanation for missing a meeting. An emergency is a situation that cannot reasonably be planned for in advance, such as car trouble, weather conditions, family illness and obligation to tribal ceremonies.

Unexcused Absence. An unexcused absence occurs when a Council member is absent from a scheduled meeting without providing sufficient notice or an explanation of the reasons for the member's absence consistent with the excused absence definition above.

Determination of Excused Absence. Regional staff shall assist the Chairperson in keeping track of excused absences. If there is a question about whether an absence meets the definition of an excused absence, the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson may consult with the Regional Director for a determination. If necessary, the matter can be presented to the Council.

Attendance Problems. An attendance problem means:

- A. Two consecutive unexcused absences.
- B. Three consecutive absences, excused or unexcused.
- C. Three unexcused absences in a 12-month period.
- D. More than five excused and unexcused absences in a 12 month period.

Addressing an Attendance Problem. Upon identification of an attendance problem, the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson shall call the Council member to discuss the member's

attendance record and remind the member of the attendance expectations. If the Council member's difficulties are resolvable, then the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson shall attempt to help resolve them with assistance of staff.

If a member reaches a level of non-attendance under "d" above, of which no more than three are unexcused, the Chairperson may ask the member to resign his or her position in order to ensure the Council has sufficient participation to timely and appropriately complete its work. If the member wishes to continue on the Council, the matter shall be put to the Council at its next meeting. The Council member shall be entitled to speak to this item. The Regional Council shall then decide whether to refer the matter to the Board for possible removal of the member from the Council.

If a member misses more than three meetings in a 12 month period without excuse, the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson shall ask that the member resign his or her position on the Council. If, upon request, the member does not resign, the matter shall be forwarded to the Board for appropriate action.

Adopted September 17, 2009  
Revised April 16, 2015

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## 1-112 Code of Conduct

Council members shall abide by the following code of conduct:

- A. Listen carefully to fellow Council members.
- B. Respect the opinions of fellow Council members.
- C. Respect and support the majority decisions of the Council.
- D. Recognize that all authority is vested in the full Council only when it meets in a legal public session.
- E. Keep well informed about the issues which could come before the Council.
- F. Participate actively in Council meetings and actions.
- G. Bring to the attention of the Council any issues that could have an adverse effect on the Council, the Board or First Things First.
- H. Refer complaints concerning Council related matters and members to the proper level, specifically the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.
- I. Represent all the people the Council serves and not primarily a particular issue, personal agenda or interest group.
- J. Abide by the Conflicts of Interest policy and laws.

If there is a violation of this code of conduct, the member(s) suspected of the violation shall meet with the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson to discuss the matter. The Chairperson or Vice Chairperson shall attempt to resolve the matter and if necessary refer it to the Council for action.

The Council by a majority vote of the appointed members of the Council may recommend to the Board that a member be removed as a Council member upon motion by a Council member alleging the violation of a specific provision of this Manual or alleging specific actions which bring into public disrepute this Council, the Board or First Things First as an organization.

Adopted April 16, 2015

## 1-113 Departure from Council Policy

The Council may approve a temporary departure from a policy in this Governance Manual provided the departure would not violate the law. No departure from Council policy shall be permitted without the approval of the Council.

Adopted May 9, 2008

Revised April 16, 2015

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## 1-114 Amendments

These policies shall not be added to, amended or repealed except at a Council meeting and by majority vote of all appointed Council members. Any proposed addition, deletion or amendment shall be filed with the Regional Director, in writing, at least 10 days before such meeting, and it shall be the duty of the Regional Director to promptly distribute a copy of the proposal to each Council member.

Amendments to Council policy require a two-step process to adopt: (i) the draft policy change shall receive a *first reading* at a public meeting, during which Council members may discuss the draft amendment and request that staff make changes as deemed appropriate (a vote to adopt is not taken at this stage) and (ii) the draft policy change shall receive a *second reading* at a subsequent public meeting during which the Council may direct staff to make further changes or may vote its adoption.

Adopted May 9, 2008

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# 2015 Regional Needs and Assets Update (RNA)

- Feedback from the Regional Partnership Councils around the timing of the RNAs was that it would be most helpful to have the RNAs completed for strategic planning, and not during the middle of a 3-year plan.
- We have revised timelines to align with our strategic planning timeframe. However, we still have to meet our statutory requirements of producing a regional needs and assets assessment every two years.
- With the available data, we are not going to see a lot of change from our 2014 RNA, so we are updating the data.
- Then the focus is on a more robust RNA for our next three year strategic planning process.



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

## SFY15 Updates

### Staff Update:

- Community Outreach

### Early Learning

- Quality First
- Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals
- Expansion: Increase slots and /or capitol expense (DES Home Recruitment)
- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs
- Family, Friends and Neighbors (The Arizona Kith and Kin Project)
- Scholarships/Preschools

### Family Support

- Home Visitation
  - Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents
  - Healthy Families
  - Family Support-Children with Special Needs (YPAT-Special Needs)
  - Yuma Parents as Teachers Program (YPAT2)
- Food Security
- Parents Education Community Based Training (Yuma Early Literacy Program)
- Reach Out and Read

### Health

- Child Care Health Consultant
- Oral Health ( First Smile)
- Mental Health Consultation (Smart Support)





# FIRST THINGS FIRST

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

**2015 First Things First Staff Update  
Community Outreach  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Submitted by: Nena Garcia, Community Outreach Coordinator**

**1) 1). Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

- Between July 2014 – March 2015 a total of 1181 community members have been provided with EC awareness, equaling to an average of 147 per month. The awareness was provided through community presentations (205) and events (976)
- Early Childhood Everyday trainings have been provided to supporters to continue spreading the word and the consistent messaging of the importance of early childhood, a total of 5, (3 English) (2 Spanish) trainings with 74 participants. The expectations are that once trained, these supporters have other opportunities to engage in efforts such as: helping to host an FTF information table at a community event, organize or host an EC- awareness building activity (ECDH guest speaker, EC event). A total 15 champions did help hosting a table at a community event or presentation.
- Key community leaders have attended 3 Site Tours and witnessed key components of FTF programs that are designed to provide tools to parents and caregivers to provide a learning environment for their young children. These outcomes of the Kith & Kin Project and Healthy Families. One site tour was attended by a local Faith leader, helping us reach to our target population, in addition it was covered by the Yuma Sun Newspaper and AWC Radio station. Due the earned media FTF was able to successfully able to continue spreading the EC message and we also recruited supporters from those attending the event.

**2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration**

- Community Outreach Coordinator has worked closely with Regional Director during the Yuma Early Childhood Systems Collaboration Meetings, inviting key leaders of the community to join the group. This group of champions and supporters have provided

assist/support outreach efforts to engage more supporters and champions. In addition, there are other networking events that will support the EC message to be disseminated throughout Yuma County, such as these supporter listed below.

- Through the collaboration with Crane and Somerton School Districts, WACOG Head Start, Desert View Academy and City of Yuma a total of 2,244 Tips for Getting Your Children Ready for Kindergarten and the Family Guide in English and Spanish.
- Community Outreach Coordinator continues to be a board member of the Yuma AEYC Chapter and together the group is working on the Week of The Young Child event that is held annually in Yuma. Reaching over 300 young children and their families.
- Community Outreach Coordinator is a member of the Advisory Board for Easter Seals Blake Foundation and Cenpatico, to offer support and be a voice of the EC community. In addition Cenpatico has provided several opportunities to share the EC message through the community presentation in their Yuma and South County meetings.
- FTF sponsored and collaborated with the City of Yuma in the Back to School Rodeo to reach 3,000 young children and their families. Through this sponsorship, we are provided with earned media in local TV station, including materials in the backpacks provided at the event, plus the opportunity to share the EC message on their main stage.
- Collaboration with Yuma Chamber of Commerce has allowed to disseminate EC materials to their members. This created another opportunity to set up an informational table at Home Depot during their Kids Monthly Workshops, The Oral Health grantee was invited to join us and provide screenings to the young children.
- Additional collaboration efforts have provided opportunities for a total of 27 earned media with the Yuma Sun newspaper and Raising Yuma Magazine, KYMA TV station, plus the City of Yuma TV talk shows: Yuma Outlook and Yuma Le Informa.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

The following is not a barrier but an opportunity to connect well with all audiences in Yuma County, by breaking down language and culture barriers: The Promotoras have been trained in Early Childhood Everyday; they have been key to reaching the Hispanic population in South County and will continue my efforts to reach this population. At this time we are in the process of approval of a nutrition book that targets high risk, Spanish speaking population, once approved this will be another tool to reach Migrant families at Chicanos Por La Causa Head Start.

***The 2014-2017 Strategic Communications Plan is a comprehensive multi-year effort to build awareness and knowledge of early childhood, and then motivate people to act on behalf of our youngest children.***

**GOAL 1:  
Raise awareness of,  
and build public  
support for, the  
importance of early  
childhood.**

**GOAL 2:  
Position First Things  
First as a recognized  
and trusted voice in  
early childhood.**

**GOAL 3:  
Build awareness of  
early childhood  
programs and  
services, particularly  
First Things First**



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

## **SFY15 Updates**

### **Early Learning**

- Quality First
- Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals
- Expansion: Increase slots and /or capitol expense (DES Home Recruitment)
- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs
- Family, Friends and Neighbors (The Arizona Kith and Kin Project)
- Scholarships/Preschools



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Quality First**

**Submitted by: Erica Jimenez**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.

**As of April 8, 2015 enrolled participants are as follows:**

- 21 Family Childcare Homes
- 15 Center
- 5 School Districts
- 1 Tribe (currently not active)
- Total of 42 sites including not active site

**Successes from last reporting time 3/12/14 – 4/8/15 are the following:**

- Quality First in Yuma now has two 5 STAR sites!!! 😊
- Quality First sites that were at a 3 and 4 star rating past years were able to maintain, sustain, or increased their STAR rating from prior years.
- Collaboration is only getting stronger within community programs. ECEI+ Inclusion, Smart Support, QF coaches, CCHC added collaboration meetings, communications and are now creating joint QIP's with provider as a team.

Sites	STAR Rating
<b>2 Homes</b>	<b>5 STARS</b>
<b>5 Homes</b>	<b>4 STARS</b>
<b>3 Centers</b>	<b>4 STARS</b>
<b>3 Districts</b>	<b>4 STARS</b>
<b>9 Homes</b>	<b>3 STARS</b>
<b>6 Centers</b>	<b>3 STARS</b>
<b>2 Districts</b>	<b>3 STARS</b>
<b>2 homes</b>	<b>Potential 3,4,5</b>
<b>Total 30 - 3,4 and 5 STARS in Yuma</b> <b>The 2 potential homes meet the point scale requirement. Waiting for point scale assessment and results for final star rating.</b>	

Sites	STAR Rating
2 Homes	2 STARS
7 centers	2 STARS
1 center	Newly enrolled – not yet rated
<b>Total of 9 sites at a two Star. 1 site is pending Star Rating as it in a new site.</b>	

**\*32 out of 42 sites in Yuma are at a 3,4,5 STAR Rating. This is a huge success in Yuma. It reflects the hard work, commitment, dedication, passion for children our Homes, Centers and Districts staff are creating so children are ready for Kinder and the future. As well as the hard work, dedication, commitment the coaches also put into their jobs to go beyond the expectations of their jobs to meet provider’s needs.**

**\*QF coaches conduct Provider Network meeting/trainings once every month for professional development targeting the needs of our providers to support and enhance learning in their own environments.**

**\*QF team goes above and beyond on a daily basis. We wish we had more time in a day. Quality First coaches support in all areas of DAP/ERS tools/CLASS/ Point Scale/ Updates/ Professional Development/Collaboration/Specific Documentation, recording in a timely manner to meet expectations of our grant/Team Build/Read, Analyze and use data to guide our coaching including providers observations and input I in an effective way.**

Add narrative...

- 2) **Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

**Quality First continues to collaborate with ECEI+, CCHC, CPLC, TEACH, Smart Support, Az. Self Study as a group on a monthly basis, ADE.**

- **Share training calendars: purpose for sharing training calendars is to not duplicate any training provided to providers and to show our team support.**
- **Attend each other’s trainings to encourage our team efforts and support.**
- **Provide updates on each of our programs to be on the same page.**
- **Enhance communication with community partners.**

**Quality First/ECEI+ Inclusion/CCHC/Smart Support**

- **Meet more than on a quarterly basis as a team at agencies or at provider’s sites to jointly collaborate with QIP development with QF providers.**

**QF and CCHC the past year met quarterly to discuss shared sites and best support each other with our practice.**

**Coaches on a monthly basis collaborate with ECEI+ coaches, Smart Support, CCHC in regards to specific goals to best support shared providers.**

Add narrative...

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

Add narrative...

**QF in Yuma has very minimal sites that are finding it difficult to create positive change in which will enhance the quality of care and education they are providing to children. As coaches we do not give up! We believe in our QF participants! We (coaches) strive to provide outstanding, effective support to all of our participants in every which way possible. At the end of the day, the process is the sites. We as coaches meet them where they are, guide, support, motivate, train, model, educate, develop SMART goals, etc., the process is theirs. The expectation of progress will take action soon. Our participants are very aware of this information. Expectation of progress means that sites should reflect a certain amount of progress in star rating. If progress is not reflected within a certain amount of time their slot may be provided to sites that are interested in becoming QF participants. This number of participants in Yuma may be very minimal as we have such a huge group that is motivated and has the passion for children.**

**Yuma is very fortunate to have some AMAZING and DEDICATED ECE Professionals!!!!!!! YAY YUMA!**



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Community Based Professional Development**

**Submitted by: Mark Becker**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

This has been a very good year for reaching the Yuma Early Childhood community with the Community Based Professional Development program. We are averaging close to 90 participants at each monthly event and each event has had between 10 and 15 participants attending for the very first time. Our average attendance is up from 65 last year to close to 90 this year.

Participants are learning during two different breakout sessions each Saturday that they participate. There are a total of 5 different sessions to choose from with exceptional presenters. We also offer two sessions in Spanish only. Evaluations of the content and the presentations are never lower than a 4 on a 5 point scale.

Our focus for this year's professional development has been executive function, kindergarten readiness and intentional teaching.

Going beyond expectations, we have created an Intentional Teacher Cohort and a Director's Institute that meet on the same Saturday dates, but is exclusive to 20 participants in each cohort/institute. The Director's Institute has been a huge success with Joanne Floth facilitating, and the Intentional Teacher cohort will be holding a "graduation" ceremony in May for completers.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

We have continued our Early Childhood Professional Development Committee which pulls together Yuma County early childhood professionals. This committee helps to drive the direction of the Community Based Professional Development, as well as the Yuma County Early Childhood Conference. We have representation from: Arizona Western College, Chicanos Por La Causa, AzAEYC, WACOG, Quality First, DES, Yuma One, Arizona Department of Education and Easter Seals.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

There have been no barriers this first quarter. I see the community coming together to support the efforts of the Community Based Professional Development. The Yuma County Early Childhood community has embraced this program and gives their support. I am very impressed with how the early childhood community in Yuma County is able to work together.

**2015 First Things First Grantee Updates**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4-8-15 at 12:00 pm**

Program Name: DES Home Recruitment  
Submitted by: Mercy Montes

First Things First has allowed Providers to open their child care business by providing the financial support for their child care business insurance for one year. This help allows them to get started with their business, and also get training in CPR/FA, Developmental Appropriate Practices, Indoor and outdoor Health and safety, Business and Billing. The above trainings have helped the provider to provide quality care for children, 0-5 years of age. in their care. Providers are now small business owners that are providing quality care to young community members and providing activities that will help them enrich their social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Our efforts continue throughout the fiscal year in order to recruit for care givers who want to be trained to become a DES child care providers for those children who are eligible for child care benefits, and for children who don't receive DES child care assistance. Home Recruitment collaborates with schools and local agencies in Yuma County who also provide services for children such as Easter Seals Foundation, Head Start, Children Arts Festival, Week of The Young Child, YPIC and Goodwill and others agencies. During the events we offer free activities for children, we provide information to the public and potential providers.

Our barriers are the lack of DES funding for child care assistance and lack of money for providers to start their business. Without the help of First Things First, many providers will not be able to afford the insurance to start up their child care business.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council**

**Easter Seals Blake Foundation  
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION INCLUSION PLUS (ECEI+)**

*Submitted by: Raquel Munoz, ECEI+ Program Supervisor/Senior Coach*

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

ECEI+ has served a total of 25 child care/preschool providers (12 centers and 13 homes) thus far during this program year. Fifteen (15) providers are enrolled in the Intensive Individualized Program and have received training on inclusive practices and regularly scheduled on-site coaching (2x/month for homes, 4x/month for centers). Ten (10) providers have been served in the Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA) option. These TTA providers have received up to 6+ visits this program year consisting of coaching support for teachers with individual children with special needs/challenging behavior.

ECEI+ required service units for FY15 is 24 providers.

During this program year, ECEI+ has served 22 children with diagnosed disabilities, and has assisted child care/preschool providers and parents refer 16 children for special services. These referrals have been to the Arizona Early Intervention Program and the local school districts' exceptional student services department.

ECEI+ required service units for FY 15 is 30 children.

ECEI+ has provided training on 8 topics related to disabilities and inclusive practices. Topics included: Welcoming Children with Special Needs, Building Relationships with Families, Administering the ASQ-3, Sensory Integration, Challenging Behavior (1 & 2), Communication Skill Development, and Practicing Quality Inclusion. Child Care and Preschool Teachers/Directors are instructed through group activities and discussion, instructional DVDs, visual slides and handouts, and interactive classroom activities/materials/strategies.

ECEI+ has participated in their second Quality Assurance (QA) Assessment since the inception of the program in January 2011. 2015 QA assessment results show ECEI+ has met 54 out of the 57 program standards at 100%, and has met 3 standards at 50-99%. Inclusion Coaches were complimented on the positive relationships built with the child care/preschool providers enrolled in ECEI+.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

ECEI+ and a Preschool collaborated with AZ Counseling and Treatment Services (ACTS) to ensure child and parent were to receive much needed services. ECEI+ Individual Inclusion Plan developed by preschool teacher, preschool director, parent and coach, initiated and guided the process. Several child family team and staffing meetings have occurred and continue to occur. This collaboration has provided the parent and child support within the child's environments and with receiving therapeutic services through New Visions for Families.

New Visions collaborated with ECEI+ to be a guest speaker at one of the ECEI+ Challenging Behavior Training Workshops to discuss the importance of building relationships with children as a strategy for positive behavior support. ECEI+ has referred several parents/children to New Visions for more developmentally and age appropriate services for ECEI+ population.

ECEI+ collaborated with Quality First (QF), Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC), and Smart Support (SS) during the process of provider goal development. FTF Coaches met with child care/preschool providers to support providers in developing goals for their site/classrooms. FTF Coaches continue to work together to support each other's program goals to increase providers' progress and success in meeting goals.

ECEI+ has noticed on their site visits that providers need guidance and support with reporting of suspected child abuse/neglect. ECEI+ and QF collaborated with Amberly's Place to provide much needed Mandated Reporting training to child care family home care providers. QF will be hosting the training during April's regularly scheduled provider's network meeting.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

A challenge this program year is convincing parents the importance of continuing the referral-evaluation process for early intervention or special education services. Parents are procrastinating in getting their children evaluated to determine eligibility for special services. ECEI+ Coaches will not only continue to meet with parents, but will request to meet with them more often throughout the program year to update them on their child's progress or lack of progress because of needed services. ECEI+ will no longer wait for parents, but implement sooner in the program year ECEI+ Individual Inclusion Plans to document the seriousness of the concern and provide written strategies/steps for the parent to follow.

Another challenge for ECEI+ Coaches and FTF Coaches overall is scheduling visits as a team to meet with individual providers for the development of goals. Sporadic collaboration meetings regarding specific providers have occurred in the past with ECEI+ and QF Coaches or CCHC or SS, but never as a full team for each QF provider. Although difficult to schedule, these meetings have allowed for a truer collaboration in supporting child care/preschool providers' success and non-duplication of services.

**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Arizona Kith and Kin Project**

**Submitted by: Claudia Ortiz-Vazquez**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project is the only program providing services to family, friend and neighbor (FFN) child care providers in the Yuma Region. The program has successfully implemented groups in San Luis, Somerton and in Yuma this fiscal year. The program's target service units for fiscal year 2014-2015 is 90 FFN child care providers. The program has provided services to 74 FFN providers as of Fall 2014. With group sessions currently in place for Spring 2015 and 67 participants being served this session, the program expects to continue to exceed our target service units for the fiscal year.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project collaborates with various agencies, both FTF grantees and non-grantees to continue providing services to family, friend and neighbor care providers in the Yuma Region. The program has collaborated with the following agencies this year: City of Yuma Housing Department, Yuma United Way, Campesinos Sin Fronteras in the San Luis area, WACOG Head Start, Yuma County Health Department, Safe Kids Yuma, Cenpatico of Arizona, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Cross Roads Mission and Yuma Community Food Bank.

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project understands that it is important to have close working relationships with local organizations to help with the success of the program. These partnerships are essential to the success of the program by helping us identify program participants, barriers and challenges that the community faces, existing resources for these families as well as provide support with the use of a facility where weekly trainings are held.

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project has not experienced any barriers to successful implementation for this current 2015 session.

Interest in the Arizona Kith and Kin Project continues to grow in the Yuma Region. As mentioned in reports submitted to FTF, the program has been contacted by two (2) Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) locations in the east county requesting the program at their sites. Community members from the town of Wellton have also contacted our

Program Specialist in Yuma, expressing a need for services for FFN providers in that area. Recently, a request for a second training-support group was requested from our current partnering site, City of Yuma Housing Department, due to a waitlist that was created for 15 participants. However, the program is currently restricted from taking on additional training-support group locations based on available funding.

Although the Arizona Kith and Kin Project would like to refer FFN providers from the areas not currently being served to attend groups in San Luis, Somerton and Yuma, unfortunately, some of these groups are unable to take on more participants because they are full. The Arizona Kith and Kin Project's ideal group size is 15 participants, however, due to the high need in some communities the program allows for a maximum of 20 participants.

**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Great Beginnings Preschool**

**Submitted by: Marla Aguilera**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

Our biggest outcome has come from our Kindergarten teachers and principals from the elementary schools. They can see how well prepared the First Things First students are for Kindergarten. The social/emotional skills are at a higher level than the students coming from home or daycare settings.

We will follow our students this year and follow up with the kindergarten teachers at the middle of next school year so we will know what areas we need to focus on and improve on.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

Our biggest collaboration that we have taken on is the EQUIP meetings. We are partnering with both Crane and District One school districts. WACOG, Chicanos Por La Causa and ADE. This collaboration is growing larger each meeting with many new ideas coming our way. We are going to try to have events next year to bring all families in to help the children transition in to kindergarten in a non-threatening environment. Transition happens over time it is not a one-time event. We will also continue to provide PBS training to our parents. Along with the Yuma Region Community Based Professional Development workshops for our staff.

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

I was new to the program this year there were many new things to learn. Some of the barriers were at the beginning not knowing who to ask questions to. I quickly found out that anyone that I contacted in the First Things First had the answers or they would provide me with the name and contact information of whom I needed to talk with. Our action plan is to become a 5 Star site next year with the help and support from the First Things First and Quality First team.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Kelland's Kiddie College**

**Submitted by: Angie De Villers, kellandcollege@aol.com**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

Having the support that is provided by First Things First and Quality First we are seeing positive changes in our staff, our children and their parents. By using the resources provided to us by our Inclusion Coach and our Smart Support Coach our teachers and parents were given tools to reach the children to help move them forward.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

Continued support by First Things First and Quality First will ensure the success of our facility and the families that we service. We have recently added ACTS and New Visions for Families in collaboration with our Inclusion coach and teachers to help a few of the children in our facility. This collaboration has fostered a good working relationship giving our teachers and the parent's tools to provide the child with the best possible support.

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

Again the economy is making it difficult to obtain and maintain quality teachers, also the teachers we have their morale is low. As a smaller facility we are unable to keep our cost to parents low and pay our teachers what they are worth. Our ITTRS and ECCRS scores are far from where they should be due to the low morale. By using the support that is provided we should be able to raise our ITTRS and ECCRS score and provide the support the teachers need to keep their morale high.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Preschool Express**

**Submitted by: Kimberly Fanning**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

Due to the training that our staff has received through First Things First, children who are enrolled in our program are displaying critical thinking skills, as well as being exposed to developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Our program has achieved accreditation with the National Accreditation Commission, which displays our commitment to consistent quality. Our staff is very committed to continuing the high quality care that we strive to provide to all children enrolled in our program. Two of our teachers are continuing their education at the community college, to ensure that we are providing enrolled children with the most up-to-date, appropriate learning experiences possible. In addition, the Director is completing a Master's program in Early Childhood Education in order to provide high quality leadership to the staff. Our center has also participated in training student teachers from Northern Arizona University to provide the experience needed to achieve their Bachelor's degrees. Finally, we proudly report that we have several children in our preschool program who are reading because of the quality learning strategies that our staff are providing on a daily basis.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

Our program has been collaborating with First Smiles for several years. This collaboration has resulted in children who are enrolled in our program receiving free dental screenings, varnish, and dental education. For most children, this is the only dental training and care that they receive. In addition, we are enrolled in the Smart Support program, which has trained our staff to support children with various behavior issues and disorders. This partnership has enabled our center to continue providing care to children who would otherwise have been expelled. We have also worked with Easter Seals Blake Foundation and utilized their technical support program on several occasions to ensure that the children enrolled in our program are receiving the support that is necessary for them to succeed. Finally, two of our teachers are receiving scholarships through the TEACH program, which funds Associate Degree programs through our local community college. This collaboration will result in highly qualified teachers who are implementing developmentally appropriate practices in the classroom consistently.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

We have struggled to coordinate hearing and vision screenings this fiscal year. In past years, we have collaborated with Yuma School District One to have our screenings completed at their site. We were unable to provide this service due to our inability to meet with the Early Childhood Coordinator at Yuma One. We are currently discussing the possibility of providing screenings for our site with the Yuma School for the Deaf and Blind. The plan includes our Director becoming trained in the use of the equipment to provide these screenings and the willingness of the Yuma School for the Deaf and Blind to loan out necessary equipment. We are working with Dr. Wemme Walls to coordinate the training and to implement hearing and vision screenings in the near future.

**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: San Luis Preschool**

**Submitted by: Lizette Esparza**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

Providing differentiated instruction is one of our goals. The first things first grant allows us to pay the Gold subscriptions and therefore we are able to provide every child with a portfolio. The Data that we are able to pull for the assessment tool allows us to differentiate instruction for our students. Teachers are able to pull reports that informs them what students need and what they have mastered.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

Besides being active participants in the Yuma County Collaboration meetings, we also have Equip meetings. Equip meetings are held quarterly and Early Learning centers are invited. We have a memorandum of understanding with Chicanos por La Causa and with WACOG. We have children who attend our center and also attend other early learning centers. We collaborate with the teachers in order to best meet the needs of those students who receive services from San Luis Preschool and another early learning center.

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

Every year we have teachers that decided to continue their professional career in an elementary school due to salaries. I plan on providing teachers with opportunities to earn stipends. Stipends that will support our families as well as our children.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Somerton First Things First Preschool**

**Submitted by: Mia Armenta, Program Coordinator**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

Based on Teaching Strategies Gold Growth data, 100% of children in Somerton's FTF preschool are currently meeting or exceeding the widely held expectations at each of the development areas according to data comparing their initial performance data at the beginning of the school year with data from the second checkpoint. Significant growth has been observed in the areas of social-emotional, language, literacy, and mathematics, with growth of 10.2%, 8.9%, 17.5%, and 9.9% respectively. Curriculum wise, the program has achieved full implementation of the Creative Curriculum, and overall, the quality of higher order thinking skills reflected both in teachers and children is readily evident. Last year, our FTF PK classroom obtained the highest CLASS score in the area of Instructional Support in all Yuma County. Parental participation and feedback has also indicated the level of progress families are observing in their children's development, not only at school, but at home and in their social interactions.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

Our program has undertaken collaborative efforts with other FTF grantees to provide holistic services to our children. Such collaborations include oral health support through First Smiles, and the Yuma Community Food Bank provides food packs for the weekend on a regular basis. In addition to direct services to children, Somerton Preschool program regularly holds ECQUIP meetings that bring other stakeholders to discuss early childhood education issues such as parents, kindergarten teachers, representatives from the two Head Start programs – WACOG and Chicanos por la Causa -. Recently, Somerton School District was awarded a Preschool Development Grant that will enable our district to extend preschool services to more preschool-age children in our community.

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

Limited funding has forced our district to establish monthly tuition fees to parents in order to make up for the reduction in funds. This reduction has resulted in fewer fieldtrips, reduction in the amount of professional development hours and activities that the staff has been provided, and also reduction in the number of hours for the instructional assistants. We hope that the additional incentive money that we will receive for FY16 will allow us to provide FTF Preschool to qualifying families without any additional costs.

**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Valley of the Sun YMCA**

**Submitted by: Karen Preston**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

This fiscal year staff continue to utilize trainings provided by First Things First to acquire to learn and maintain skills in Early Childhood Development and Professional Growth. The trainings also keep staff current with Arizona State Licensing. Trainings were then followed through by our Quality First Coach who was able to expand trainings by supporting the staff in classroom with room arrangement and lesson planning. A new lesson format was agreed upon and is being utilized to help staff implement the Preschool Standards. Training was provided to the staff and the childcare coordinator in the ERS. The Quality First Coach has observed preschool staff during the AM and PM to give the preschool staff feedback on their practices and how it relates to the child's development and upcoming ERS review. Children are in routine of correct hand washing procedures upon entering the classroom, using restroom, before and after meals and after outdoor play. You can hear singing of the ABC's from the children that encourage proper hand washing practices. New paper towel dispenser has been installed so there is no cross contamination after hands are washed. Proper table sanitizing is in place and observed by coach. Staff has watched training video through ERC to reinforce procedures.

Outdoor equipment was purchased to enhance and give children a larger selection of gross motor play materials. Equipment will help ensure the play for our children is meaningful and is conducive to the children's physical growth and gross motor skills while supporting a

variety of stimulating activities. Examples of equipment that have been purchased are climbing stones, balls, hula hoops, and scooters. These have proved most beneficial as the playground equipment at the elementary site is not conducive for preschool children.

Materials have been purchased for the classroom environment to enhance centers throughout the classroom. This is important to have a variety of materials for fine motor, language and social development. Staff is able to rotate manipulatives to ensure that children are engaged and continue to build skills.

- 2) **Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

As a non profit, funds are limited and it is through the First Things First Program the staff has been supported. First, it has given the staff qualified coaches that show respect and give encouragement to help them become qualified caregivers. Second, the funds made available to purchase quality supplies that encourage and help the preschoolers become ready for Kindergarten is a true blessing.

- 3) **Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

Our center is located on the HL Suverkrup Elementary School in the Crane School District and has been there for about 10 years. The school site has provided vision and hearing screenings for the preschool children with results given to parents. Yuma Dentistry for Kids has come to provide children with instruction on how to take care of their teeth in a developmentally appropriate way. Children do brush their teeth after meals.

I am new to this position, three months in, as is our coach. Our Quality First Coach is an amazing mentor to me and the preschool staff. We have already built a trusting relationship. She is consistent, punctual

and meets with the staff when it's convenient for them. If the staff needs any support or resources she follows up and provides that help.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Preston  
YMCA Childcare Coordinator





**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

## **SFY15 Updates**

### **Family Support**

- Home Visitation
  - Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents
  - Healthy Families
  - Family Support-Children with Special Needs (YPAT-Special Needs)
  - Yuma Parents as Teachers Program (YPAT2)
- Food Security
- Parents Education Community Based Training (Yuma Early Literacy Program)
- Reach Out and Read



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents**

**Submitted by: Anita Mealey-Haddock, Program Supervisor/Parent Educator and Holly King, Senior Program Director**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

At this time, 44 families have been served since July 2014 (88% of target). Nineteen teens are currently receiving services. Of the participating youth this year, 73% have graduated, earned their GED or been maintained in a school setting. Ninety-eight percent of the youth have had no repeat unplanned pregnancies. Also, 100% of children of the teen parents are developmentally on track, and we continue to monitor children every 6 months in case there are concerns to refer to AzEIP. Of all juvenile court referred youth, 100% have successfully gone off probation. During this past fiscal year, 48% of youth have been enrolled in the program for 1 year or longer and 58% of all closed clients completed the program as designed or had an appropriate transition to another program. So far this fiscal year, 84 ASQs/ASQ-SEs, 21 hearing screenings, and 11 vision screenings have been conducted. Through March 31st, there have been 92 referrals to families for community services such as: early child care and education, car seat safety classes, community support groups, early literacy/library sessions (Read On Arizona), early intervention/therapy (AzEIP), adult education classes, family planning, hospital, housing support, job placement and development, legal, dental services, resume writing, food box, WIC, and transportation.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

Other than attending many collaboration meetings throughout the community, we were able to present our program to new youth coming into the YPIC Youth Services Program and we attended health fairs and career fairs. We presented to both youth and staff at the Regional Center for Border Health Youth Program and PPEP Tec High School in Somerton, we set up a table at DES to reach clients looking for services, EOC Charter High School in Yuma, presented to a case manager at Yuma Regional Medical Center, we presented to a Chicanos Por La Causa HUB Services Coordinator, to the Counselor at AZ-Tec High School and Kofa High School, to the PPEP TEC Report Card night parents meeting in Somerton, to the Counselors at Cibola High School as well as to the school nurse at Vista Alternative High School. Through our presentation and outreach efforts, PPEP TEC High School in Somerton has revamped their Service Learning/Community Service elective and has included us in their Service Learning-Community

Service Elective course curriculum choices. For every 30 hours of home visits the teen receives, at the end of the semester, they earn .25 credit hours towards graduating. We strengthened our relationship with the Department of Child Safety (DCS), EOC Charter High School, PPEP TEC High School Staff as well as the AZ-Tec High School Counselor. We have recently received a referral from DCS for a teen in foster care. Associates for Women's Health continues to include our rack card with their informational folders and we have continued collaboration and referral-out with the Yuma County Health Department Family Planning Clinic as well as continued collaboration and referral-out with the San Luis Walk-In Clinic and the Sunset Community Health Center in Somerton. The Yuma Community Food Bank continues to include our rack card within their food box distribution each month. We have also met with YPIC Youth Services to share thoughts and ideas on recruitment. We expect that through continued partnership with all of these community organizations we will continue to see program referrals.

Moreover, Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents is involved in a dual collaborative effort with Healthy Families and has developed an Advisory Council. This is a collaborative effort between our two programs and other community members in order to strengthen and improve program services. The meetings are held on a quarterly basis and some members include: Sandy Garrison/DES, CCA; Emilia Cortez/University of Arizona First Smiles; Pat Ray/YPIC; Bobbi Firebush/WACOG; and other CFR programs (AzEIP, CCR&R, CACFP, DES Child Care Home Recruitment and Quality First).

In addition, we have multiple partnerships in place to provide needed services to teens through community referrals. We partner with Saguro Transportation Services, Child Care Resource and Referral, YPIC Charter High School and Youth Services, AzEIP, WACOG Head Start, the Family Planning Clinic at the Health Department, Crossroads Mission, FTF First Smile Program and United Way. All of the partnerships support the needs of teen parents in accessing resources such as transportation, job training, adult education, basic needs for the family, early childhood education and child care, tax advice and preparation, free oral care and children's books. BBF staff distributes books to parents promoting early literacy and have presented to the teens on early literacy during the monthly Group Connections as well as enrolling all newly enrolled families in the United Way's Dolly Parton Imagination Library so they can receive a new book every month which promotes early literacy.

Many of the clients we serve would not be able to access these services otherwise or they would be cost-prohibitive. This also includes getting the teens into childbirth classes for free at Yuma Regional Medical Center when they typically are fee based. One of the Parent Educators has a long time collaborative relationship with the Childbirth Education class nurse who offers the classes and stork packages at no cost to our teens. Accordingly, there have been collaboration efforts between BBF and Regional Center for Border Health Walk-In Clinic who presented on family planning and career choices and the WIC Program who presented on nutrition for you and your child at our monthly Group Connections.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

The greatest barriers we are facing right now are in finding the most appropriate places to recruit new teen parents to join the program and in retaining our teen clients who struggle with home life instability. Having created an outreach log to document outreach activities, we continue to list all of our current outreach and recruitment avenues with whom we maintain relationships. We have also identified several new avenues for outreach including Sunset Community Health Center, YPIC's MLK Center, AZ-Tec High School as well as potential outreach partners in the medical community and in San Luis and surrounding South County areas. We have met with the Healthy Families staff and Easter Seals Blake Foundation staff to discuss referrals of teen parents to our program when they receive those referrals first, as well as how we can continue to refer to those programs when they are the best fit for families. We have brainstormed outreach ideas with Healthy Families staff to see what else we can be doing and have partnered with them on existing outreach strategies they are using. We have implemented a larger wall flyer in addition to our rack cards to advertise the program, which has been distributed throughout the county in places where teens are likely to see it.

To retain clients, we know that families stay when they receive consistent visits on a weekly basis early on in the program and see the value of the program. We also know that families who attend the Group Connections are more likely to stay in the program. We focus on delivering high-quality services that meet the individual needs of the teen parents on these initial visits, and in overcoming barriers such as transportation for them to attend the Group Connections. For those teens that have unstable living situations and tend to move a lot or become unable to locate, our staff make every effort to find them and re-engage them in services. They will call all phone numbers of the client and other family members that are on file, visit the last known address and visit the school or other places where the teen also receives services or attends classes to track them down. We also work with these teens during home visits to help them achieve more stability in their living situation through family goal setting and community resource sharing.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Healthy Families Yuma County, Child and Family Resources, Inc.**

**Submitted by: Danielle Gagnier and Patricia Garcia**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

From July 1, 2014 to March 30, 2015, the program has served 116 families (129% of the service population of 90 families). The program had an averaged home visit rate of 97% in 2014.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

- HF renewed its annual contract to collaborate with the Southern Arizona Diaper Bank. The program continues to act as a diaper distributor, providing diapers to families in need on a monthly basis.
- HF continues to collaborate with the Yuma Food Bank with about 20 families receiving a food box every other month.
- The collaboration with the Yuma Regional Medical Center has improved resulting in more families being told about the program at the time of their child's birth and subsequently leading to their enrollment in the program.
- HF continues to collaborate with First Smiles Yuma dental screening program (also funded by FTF) in order to provide dental kits to families. Their staff has also attended 2 HF parent events providing free dental screening for children less than 5 years of age.

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

There have been no barriers regarding program implementation.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Yuma Parents as Teachers – Special Needs**

**Submitted by: Nohemi Ortega**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

YPAT-SP has served 95 families to date, this number represents 20 additional families than the contracted service number. 972 home visits completed. A total of 47 ASQ screenings, 15 vision screenings, and 9 hearing screenings have been conducted.

75 Referrals were made to the following: AZEIP, Special Education- Yuma District 1, Crane District, Somerton and Gadsden Districts, Department of Developmental Disabilities, Health Insurance, Mental Health Counseling, Housing Support, Financial Family Emergency Assistance, Dental Provider and Legal assistance.

A total of 27 Group Connections have been conducted this fiscal year in Yuma, San Luis, Somerton, and Wellton areas. Presentations have included: Opening Doors Curriculum, San Luis & Wellton Fire Department, PBS 8 Literacy Program, Brain Box Program, Arizona Children's Association, ACTS Mental Health, Sunset Clinic on New Health Care Law, Raising Special Kids, and First Smiles Dental Hygiene program.

Currently the program is meeting PAT required standards in the following areas:

- 60% of newly enrolled families had an initial family-centered assessment within 90 days of enrollment (required standard is 60%)
- 68% of families have at least one documented goal (required standard 60%)
- 95% of families are receiving the required amount of visits (required standard 60%)
- 64% of families received a referral to at least one community resource (required standard 60%)

This January 2015, The Parents as Teachers Parenting Reflection Survey was sent to parents enrolled in YPAT-SP and YPAT-2. The purpose of the Parenting Reflection is to understand program outcomes. The survey is made up of nine items intended to measure parents' beliefs about how their parenting knowledge and skills have changed as a result of their participation in the program. Parents are asked to think now about their family life and current experiences and to reflect back on their family life and experiences before participating in the YPAT-SP or YPAT-2. Sample Survey Questions include: I know how to meet my child's social and emotional needs, I

understand my child's development and how it influences my parenting, I use positive discipline with my child, I feel supported as a parent. A total of 79 surveys were returned with the following results:

- Average participation in the program is 18 months
- 10% of parents had a 3 or higher percent improvement in their scores which is highly significant (this represents a 3-4 score increase meaning they scored highly confident in the now section and low in the then section).
- 21% of parents had a 1-2% improvement, which is also significant (this represents a 1-2 point improvement)

These are some quotes included in the Parenting Reflection Survey:

- *I have learned so much, to relax as I am raising my children. I feel totally supported by the program, I am able to better understand my children, that each one is different. I have learned that learning can be fun and not rigid all the time. I have learned that I can reach goals with my family and also for myself, so that I can also reach my dreams this way my daughters will be healthier and happier. I feel that my educator is a strong pillar who brings me so much information. I have learned invaluable information about discipline. Before enrolling in the program I felt very lost, my good intentions were not enough, I needed guidance, information and preparation. Thank you so much, I could write more but there is no space.*
- *I have learned to read daily to my children according to their age, and also to apply positive discipline.*
- *I have learned to be more patient with my family and children, also in my personal life. I have learned to set goals even if they are small, they mean a lot to my child's development.*
- *I now do a lot more activities with my kids and I let them explore.*
- *I have made many positive changes, I now help in my child's education and I am an integral part in their development, my mind has changed completely.*

- 2) **Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

The following are the collaboration efforts undertaken and continued this fiscal year

**Opening Doors/Abriendo Puertas:** In collaboration with Chicanos Por la Causa, YPAT program supervisor attended the train-the-trainer model training in Yuma county and has implemented the Abriendo Puertas curriculum with Hispanic families enrolled in the YPAT program. Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors is the nation's first evidence-based comprehensive training program developed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5. Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors curriculum uses the "popular education" approach to engage parents in lessons that reflect the

culture of the target audience. The ten interactive sessions draw from real-life experiences, incorporate data about local schools and communities, and focus on helping Latino parents understand their important role in the development of and long-term impact on their children's educational outcomes. A total of 18 families graduated in Abriendo Puertas this February 2015 in San Luis. Currently 10 families are participating in Somerton, and a new group will begin in Wellton this May 2015.

**Association of the Education of Young Children-Yuma Chapter - YPAT program supervisor** serves as the board secretary for the Association of the Education of Young Children-Yuma Chapter (YC-AEYC). The mission of the YC-AEYC is to advocate for and promote the well-being of young children and their families by improving the quality of early care and education for every child and providing and supporting high quality professional development opportunities and resources for early care professional. ESBF's collaboration with the YC-AEYC has included participation in the Week of the Young Child during the past three years where YPAT program has served approximate 400 families of young children each year with activities that promote parent child interaction and early literacy.

**Sunset Community Health Clinic -** For the past two years, ESBF YPAT program has conducted monthly outreach booths at each of the Sunset clinics in Yuma County. During outreach, educators provide information about YPAT program and child development, recruit families and complete ASQ-3 screenings. A system has been established with the clinic to share information with health providers regarding the child's development and any concerns as necessary. Sunset Clinic health providers/pediatricians also refer patients to the YPAT program as they identify necessary.

**United Way of Yuma – Read on Yuma program (ROY) - ESBF – YPAT program** continues to collaborate with the Read on Yuma Program at United Way of Yuma in the promotion of literacy for young children. This collaboration allows YPAT programs to include participating families in ROY literacy programs and opportunities ensuring families have access to books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, as well as providing information on tips to engaging children in reading.

**Raising Special Kids –** Collaboration with Raising Special Kids of Yuma allows continuous exchange of referrals for families needing services, counseling, advocacy training. Raising Special Kids also provides presentation during YPAT-SP Group Connections.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

No barriers to successful implementation are encountered at this time.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Yuma Parents as Teachers – 2**

**Submitted by: Nohemi Ortega**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

YPAT-2 has served 178 families to date. 1724 home visits completed. A total of 130 ASQ screenings, 45 vision screenings, and 54 hearing screenings have been conducted.

54 Referrals were made to the following: Health Insurance, Mental Health Counseling, Housing Support, Financial Family Emergency Assistance, Dental Provider and Legal assistance.

A total of 45 Group Connections have been conducted this fiscal year in Yuma, San Luis, Somerton, and Wellton areas. Presentations have included: Opening Doors Curriculum, San Luis & Wellton Fire Department, PBS 8 Literacy Program, Brain Box Program, Arizona Children's Association, ACTS Mental Health, Sunset Clinic on New Health Care Law, and First Smiles Dental Hygiene program.

Currently the program is meeting PAT required standards in the following areas:

- 69% of families have at least one documented goal (required standard 60%)
- 78% of families are receiving the required amount of visits (required standard 60%)
- 68% of children have received a complete screen (required standard 60%)

This January 2015, The Parents as Teachers Parenting Reflection Survey was sent to parents enrolled in YPAT-SP and YPAT-2. The purpose of the Parenting Reflection is to understand program outcomes. The survey is made up of nine items intended to measure parents' beliefs about how their parenting knowledge and skills have changed as a result of their participation in the program. Parents are asked to think now about their family life and current experiences and to reflect back on their family life and experiences before participating in the YPAT-SP or YPAT-2. Sample Survey Questions include: I know how to meet my child's social and emotional needs, I understand my child's development and how it influences my parenting, I use positive discipline with my child, I feel supported as a parent. A total of 79 surveys were returned with the following results:

- Average participation in the program is 18 months

- 10% of parents had a 3 or higher percent improvement in their scores which is highly significant (this represents a 3-4 score increase meaning they scored highly confident in the now section and low in the then section).
- 21% of parents had a 1-2% improvement, which is also significant (this represents a 1-2 point improvement)

These are some quotes included in the Parenting Reflection Survey:

- *I have learned so much, to relax as I am raising my children. I feel totally supported by the program, I am able to better understand my children, that each one is different. I have learned that learning can be fun and not rigid all the time. I have learned that I can reach goals with my family and also for myself, so that I can also reach my dreams this way my daughters will be healthier and happier. I feel that my educator is a strong pillar who brings me so much information. I have learned invaluable information about discipline. Before enrolling in the program I felt very lost, my good intentions were not enough, I needed guidance, information and preparation. Thank you so much, I could write more but there is no space.*
- *I have learned to read daily to my children according to their age, and also to apply positive discipline.*
- *I have learned to be more patient with my family and children, also in my personal life. I have learned to set goals even if they are small, they mean a lot to my child's development.*
- *I now do a lot more activities with my kids and I let them explore.*
- *I have made many positive changes, I now help in my child's education and I am an integral part in their development, my mind has changed completely.*

- 2) **Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

The following are the collaboration efforts undertaken and continued this fiscal year

**Opening Doors/Abriendo Puertas:** In collaboration with Chicanos Por la Causa, YPAT program supervisor attended the train-the-trainer model training in Yuma county and has implemented the Abriendo Puertas curriculum with Hispanic families enrolled in the YPAT program. Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors is the nation's first evidence-based comprehensive training program developed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5. Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors curriculum uses the "popular education" approach to engage parents in lessons that reflect the culture of the target audience. The ten interactive sessions draw from real-life experiences, incorporate data about local schools and communities, and focus on helping Latino parents understand their important role in the development of and long-term impact on their children's educational outcomes. A total of 18 families graduated in Abriendo Puertas this February 2015 in San Luis. Currently 10 families are participating in Somerton, and a new group will begin in Wellton this May 2015.

**Association of the Education of Young Children-Yuma Chapter - YPAT** program supervisor serves as the board secretary for the Association of the Education of Young Children-Yuma Chapter (YC-AEYC). The mission of the YC-AEYC is to advocate for and promote the well-being of young children and their families by improving the quality of early care and education for every child and providing and supporting high quality professional development opportunities and resources for early care professional. ESBF's collaboration with the YC-AEYC has included participation in the Week of the Young Child during the past three years where YPAT program has served approximate 400 families of young children each year with activities that promote parent child interaction and early literacy.

**Sunset Community Health Clinic -** For the past two years, ESBF YPAT program has conducted monthly outreach booths at each of the Sunset clinics in Yuma County. During outreach, educators provide information about YPAT program and child development, recruit families and complete ASQ-3 screenings. A system has been established with the clinic to share information with health providers regarding the child's development and any concerns as necessary. Sunset Clinic health providers/pediatricians also refer patients to the YPAT program as they identify necessary.

**United Way of Yuma – Read on Yuma program (ROY) - ESBF – YPAT** program continues to collaborate with the Read on Yuma Program at United Way of Yuma in the promotion of literacy for young children. This collaboration allows YPAT programs to include participating families in ROY literacy programs and opportunities ensuring families have access to books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, as well as providing information on tips to engaging children in reading.

**Raising Special Kids –** Collaboration with Raising Special Kids of Yuma allows continuous exchange of referrals for families needing services, counseling, advocacy training. Raising Special Kids also provides presentation during YPAT-SP Group Connections.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

PAT retention standard is 75% of families to be retained for at least two years. The majority of families enrolled in the YPAT-2 program have both parents working outside the home, and also some of these parents are seasonal/migrant farm workers. This represents a challenge in the two years retention requirement of families. Currently 43% of families enrolled meet this requirement. Efforts continue to ensure families stay in the program, these efforts include: explaining to families the importance of staying in the program for at least two years for greater impact, Parent Educators provide flexible schedules for visits for all parents, incentives are offered to parents participating in Group Connections for the first time, when necessary, if the

parent is unable to meet the visit frequency for that month; visits are conducted with the caregiver with parental permission.

**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Yuma Community Food Bank**

**Submitted by: Samantha Alspach**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

Yuma Community Food Bank is implementing our grant agreements while striving to improve the quality of services we provide to participants. We are issuing food boxes to eligible families. Each family was allowed to pick up six boxes during the course of this fiscal year. In previous years, each family was only allowed one box. This change has allowed our participants to put more food on the table for their families.

We are also distributing backpacks to 358 preschool students twice a month. These students attend preschools in South Yuma County as well as throughout the City of Yuma. Our staff has dedicated ourselves to ensuring these backpacks are distributed according to schedule. Preschool officials have expressed how much the families look forward to receiving a backpack.

- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

We are currently collaborating with Cocopah Tribe, Yuma County Health Services District, Healthy Families, and Child & Family Resources. We have worked closely with the Cocopah Tribe in helping to educate their participants. We conducted a training on how to read food labels. Frances Herrera from the Yuma County Public Health Services District conducted a nutritional demonstration in early March. The demonstration was interactive and well received by those who attended. In this fiscal year we have also worked closely with Healthy Families to identify eligible participants. Child & Family Resources provided us with a brochure for their Building Bright Futures program. It is also funded by First Things First and provides support to teen parents. These brochures are being distributed to participants who meet that criteria.

- 3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

The biggest challenge our program has faced is getting our First Thing's First participants to pick up their boxes in a timely manner. Our action plan includes a dedicated system of reminder phone calls to program participants. They receive a reminder phone call if they have not picked up their boxes by the middle of the month. Participants from the wait list are called around the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month if distribution numbers are still low. Most people provide their mobile number upon applying for the program. These numbers can change so quickly and not everyone updates their contact information. A notation is made when they cannot be contacted.

**2015 First Things First Grantee Update**  
**Yuma Regional Partnership Council**  
**Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name:** Eight, Arizona PBS – Yuma Early Literacy Project

**Submitted by:** Kimberly Flack

- 1. Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

The Yuma Early Literacy Project has provided 17 series of 6 workshops that are 2 hours in length each throughout Yuma County. The evidence-informed curriculum has helped to make sustainable changes in a family and integrate all of the following core components in the First things First Early Language and Literacy Programs in Home and Community Settings, Standards of Practice:

- ✓ Provide interactive literacy activities between parents and their children, and
- ✓ Offer training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children, and
- ✓ Incorporate parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency, and
- ✓ Include an age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences – specifically targeting literacy acquisition making effort to narrow the word-gap with all participating families.

Included in these series have been 2 Train the Trainer opportunities with special literacy packages for organizations and school districts to provide and sustain the Yuma Early Literacy series of workshops with their own families. San Luis Preschool in Gadsden Elementary School District and WACOG (Western Arizona Council of Governments)/ San Luis Head Start at Rancho Viejo Elementary School (in Crane Elementary School District) and San Luis Head Start have 10 early childhood educators now offering YELP workshop series to families with children waiting to enroll and in the community. Crane Elementary Schools continued to offer workshops for their incoming kindergarten families, having participated in the Train the Trainer opportunity last year with 17 early childhood educators representing every primary school. To date 33 adults have completed the full series of 6 workshops, 32 additional adults will complete the series this month and 20 additional adults will complete prior to fiscal year end (projection: 85 for the full series, FY15).

- 2. Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

The Yuma Public Libraries are a longstanding partner in providing space for the Yuma Early Literacy Project workshop series and offer publicity for these workshops through the main Yuma Public Library calendar. The YMCA of Yuma became a new community partner this year and provides incentives for workshop family participants by offering a 1 week pass for the entire family. This is distributed after workshop 4, "Unlock the PBS Literacy Treasure Chest – Activities to Promote Healthy Habits, Language Development & Parent Advocacy." Yuma First Things First is invited to attend and present at each of the series, at any workshop date fitting their schedule. First Smiles is also included as their schedule allows. Easter Seals Blake Foundation Yuma Parents as Teachers currently runs a workshop series offering 1 session per month for their participants. Eight reached out to Wellton Elementary School District and Head Start about package opportunities. Both will work closely to schedule a Train the Trainer package in the upcoming fiscal year.

Eight, Arizona PBS has been active in Read On Yuma and worked closely with the United Way of Yuma during this fiscal year. The Eight Education team is currently designing a collaboratively branded book bag for distribution and children's book rotation throughout each of the series using books provided by United Way of Yuma. Upon completion of the workshop series, families will receive a bag with books to keep. These will be launched at the Crane and San Luis workshops in this fiscal year. Other participating families are provided PBS/Lakeshore School Readiness or Ready for Preschool backpacks for completing the full series of 6 workshops.

There are several key community events Eight, Arizona PBS actively participates in annually in Yuma County to promote literacy with participants – conducting hands on activities for children while speaking with adults about simply techniques to improve their child's school readiness and extend an opportunity to participate in workshop series. These events include: the Yuma Back to School Rodeo, Angeles del Barrio Chicanos Por La Causa event in San Luis, Trunk or Treat Red Ribbon event at Yuma Catholic High School, the Children's Festival of the Arts in Yuma, Week of the Young Child event at Goodwill of Yuma, and El Dia de Los Ninos in Somerton.

**3. Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

Eight has found the greatest barrier to be encouraging families to complete the entire series of 6 workshops. To overcome this, incentives to attend are offered midway through the series from the YMCA of Yuma and Border Fitness in San Luis (family passes) and PBS /Lakeshore School Readiness or Ready for Preschool backpacks upon completion. Make-up workshop sessions have been held to accommodate families with schedule challenges and other obstacles that kept them from completing their original series.

Eight has also found working closely with the K-8 school district leadership beneficial in weaving services into their recruitment efforts for kindergarten registration and supplemental services for families with younger children. The train the trainer packages offered allowed districts and organizations the flexibility to implement the workshop series connected to their own initiatives.

## 2015 First Things First Grantee Update Yuma Regional Partnership Council

**Program Name:** Yuma Reach Out and Read/Reach Out and Read Arizona

**Submitted by:** Sharon J. Brady, Ph.D., Program Manager, Reach Out and Read Arizona

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- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.

At the beginning of the current FY (7/1/14), there were 15 existing Reach Out and Read clinics/sites in the region and Irene Garza, the Yuma ROR Regional Coordinator, was to recruit 1-2 additional sites for program participation. To date, we have seventeen (17) Reach Out and Read clinics/sites in the Yuma First Things First region. These 17 clinics and their pediatric healthcare providers conduct about **11,671 well child visits** in the Yuma, Somerton, Wellton, and San Luis communities. Please see **Table 1** for a complete listing of the "active" Yuma Reach Out and Read sites (as of 4/8/15). The total of number of well child visits has increased by approximately 4,351 well child visits between the 7/1/14 Progress Reports and 1/1/15 Progress Reports. The Yuma ROR locations report seeing more children between 6-15 months of age and children in this age range often have 3-4 well child visits annually.

**Table 1.**

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### Reach Out and Read Programs: Yuma Region

San Luis Walk-In Clinic (San Luis location)
San Luis Walk-In Clinic (Somerton location))
Karen A. Watts, NP, PLC
Yuma Kids Clinic
Yuma Children's Clinic
Sunset Community Health Center ( San Luis)
Sunset Community Health Center ( Somerton)
Sunset Community Health Center ( Wellton)
Yuma Valley Family Medicine Center
Tuscany Children Clinic
Camillus Health Care Center
Advance Pediatrics
5-Minute Clinic
Yuma Regional Medical Center Family Health Center
Sunset Community Health Center (Yuma)
Community Health Associates

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In addition, there is one clinic in the application and approval process, the office of Dr. Habib Rathle. Their program information has been submitted and we are awaiting their letter of support so the National Reach Out and Read Center can approve the clinic. Dr. Rathle reports conducting approximately 976 well child visits annually.

**Beyond collaboration meetings please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

The *primary* regional collaborative partners involve the following organizations:

**AZ PBS Kids:** The Yuma Reach Out and Read Program often works in collaboration with AZ PBS Kids in community/parent outreach events (e.g. Yuma Childrens Festival of the Arts, Early Childhood Conference etc.) sharing vendor tables, co-conducting hands-on parent/child literacy activities, distributing parent educational materials, and/or distributing over 450 new children's books. In addition, we are currently working with AZ PBS Kids in the development of "prescription pads" for Yuma ROR pediatric providers to "prescribe attendance at the regional AZ PBS Kids early literacy workshops."

**City of Yuma:** Reach Out and Read Yuma County took part in the Annual Back to School Rodeo held at the Yuma Civic Center. There were over 3,000 people in attendance at this event. One of our Reach Out and Read Sites Yuma Valley Family Medicine Center staffed the vendor table and distributed literacy information as well as new children's books to Yuma County Families. Also the Reach Out and Read Coordinator took part alongside Nena Garcia in City Outlook a local television show part of the Government Access Channel highlighting Early Literacy Month.

**Read on Yuma:** As an active member of the Read on Yuma stakeholder's group, the Yuma ROR Regional Coordinator participates in the annual National Family Reading Day and the Read Across American Day, conducting "read alouds" at designated locations and distributing new books to children.

**Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church:** In March of 2015 we signed a Community Partnership Agreement with Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church. As part of that partnership the Boy and Girl Scout Troops along with the congregation have put on a Book Drive for Reach Out and Read Yuma County. Last year almost 400 used and new books were collected and this year's book drive is expected to surpass that number.

**2) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

Presently, there are no *major* barriers to the successful implementation to the Yuma Reach Out and Read program.



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

## **SFY15 Updates**

### **Health**

- Child Care Health Consultant
- Oral Health ( First Smile)
- Mental Health Consultation (Smart Support)



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: Yuma County Public Health CCHC Program**

**Submitted by: Mayra Montaña**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**
  - Yuma County CCHC program has 16 active providers in caseload whose progress is guided and monitored by our part-time CCHC.
  - Yuma County CCHC Program has conducted over 65 visits to child care programs in the area.
  - Yuma County CCHC has provided 14 trainings on health and safety practices (workshops were conducted in English and Spanish to better serve the needs of the providers)
  - Yuma County CCHC program has assisted 17 child care programs reach ratings of 3 and higher stars rating.
  - Yuma County CCHC Program worked with 4 child care providers that received 3 and 4 start ratings on their first initial assessment at a state level.
  
- 2) Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

The CCHC continues meet with the QF coaches on a regular basis to discuss coordination of services and staff provider's cases to assess progress and identify areas of need. This year CCHC conducted joint visits with QF coaches and the other specialized TA providers to work with providers on goal development. These visits served as an opportunity to support providers in the process of setting individualized goals that would encompass all areas of the Quality First. CCHC also continues to participate in quarterly collaboration meetings and the Quality First Academy along with QF coaches, inclusion, mental health, AZ self study Project Program, TEACH and other community agencies. Such collaboration efforts have been recognized and highly praised by the Quality First Academy facilitators.

**Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

A barrier with this year for the program has been program capacity. Program funding was reduced therefore program is staff with a part-time CCHC and in-kind support staff. This creates an automatic waiting list for the program. The action plan to overcome this challenge was to provide additional support staff to assist with other program duties such as reporting, entering of data as well as administrative duties. Our action plan also consists of regularly reassessing caseload to identify those providers that may be able to move between tiers. This has allowed for CCHC to concentrate solely on providing direct services and spending the vast majority of time with providers.

Another barrier encounter this fiscal year has been the transition to a new reporting system EXTRANET. There has been minimum feedback on how program is inputting information to the system in addition to system clichés that have been corrected by the FTF state office. Our staff has worked through this challenge by sharing our concerns with FTF officials during quarterly collaboration meetings.

A final barrier experienced this year has been the lack of guidance received by FTF to Quality First programs on developing goals for centers. Although goal development has been discussed during the Quality First Academy proper training is needed. How our program has been able to overcome this challenge is through collaboration and joint visits with the other TA providers to work on goals with providers as a collective effort.

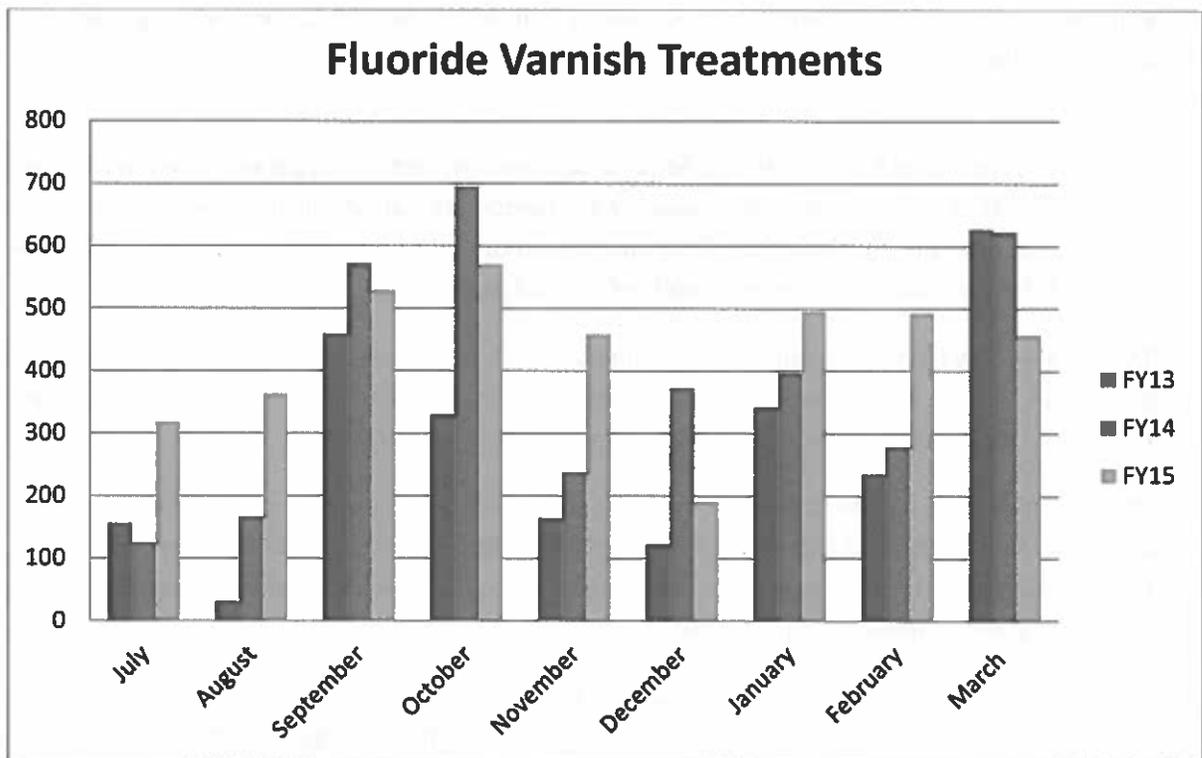
**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name: First Smiles Yuma**

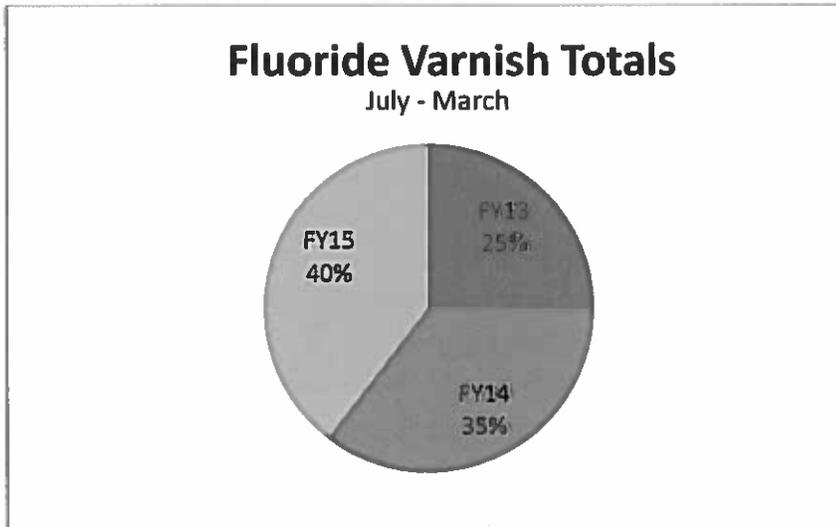
**Submitted by: Megan Pliska**

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.

Our number of fluoride varnish treatments has maintained a steady pace this fiscal year. The only month that was not consistent with previous years was December, when our office actually took time off for the holidays.



Overall, the number of fluoride varnishes provided during the first nine months has also increased this fiscal year. The number of varnishes provided through March was 2,469 for FY13, 3,470 for FY 14, and 3,879 for FY15. This gradual increase over the past few years shows that our program is still growing and on track to reach our goal of 5,000 varnishes this year.



One way that we are going beyond expectations of the grant is through our education. During almost every classroom visit we provide education to the children prior to the dental screenings and fluoride varnish application. Not only do the children learn about their teeth and proper oral hygiene, but we have seen an increase in cooperation levels when it comes time for the screening. We hope that positive experiences with us also mean happy and healthy visits at the dentist. So far, this fiscal year we have provided education to 3,024 children and 608 adults.

- 2) **Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

This fiscal year we have been able to maintain our collaboration with several home providers and preschools. We are able to provide various educational lessons on oral health for the children as well as training for classroom brushing for providers and schools that are interested.

WACOG Head Start and preschools through the school district receive the same screenings and education for the children and also collaborate with us for one of their monthly parent meetings. At these meetings we are able to present information relevant to parents and family members on the importance of oral health and their child.

Regional Center for Border Health and the Yuma County Health Department provide us with opportunities to set up a table to provide information and services to families already going to doctor's appointments or their WIC appointment. It has been a great way to combine our services with appointments families are already attending.

Collaboration with fellow grantees is also important. We continue to collaborate with PBS, Easter Seals, CFR Healthy Families, and Kith and Kin to name a few. In the near future we are planning to partner with

the PBS Family Literacy program to include oral health information with materials families receive through the program.

Our anticipated results with these collaborations are to decrease dental decay, increase early detection of cavities, and increase dental knowledge resulting in proper oral hygiene and routine dental visits.

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

An ongoing barrier over the years is lack of parental consent, therefore, not being able to provide the fluoride varnish and exam for every child at the sites we visit. This may seem like a small problem to have, but that is not always the case when you have to explain to a 4 year old why they don't get a turn. We have come up with many ways to decrease this issue, although it has not completely gone away. Over the years, participating schools, staff, and teachers know what to expect and see first-hand how important it is to collect as many consent forms as possible. Not only for the benefits of fluoride, early detection and a dental kit to take home; but to avoid dealing with a child who didn't get the same experience as the other kids.

Our action plan can vary and is specific for the school we are seeing. Many schools participate at 100% and no special assistance is needed.

- Provide a list of children with consent and those missing a consent form prior to the visit
- Make teachers aware we can provide screening with no fluoride if parent does not want child to have fluoride. This way we still have permission to provide a screening and a similar experience compared to classmates.
- Giving an oral health book or puzzle for the classroom for 100% participation.



**2015 First Things First Grantee Update  
Yuma Regional Partnership Council  
Due: 4/8/15 at 12:00pm**

**Program Name:** Smart Support

**Submitted by:** Albie Abrahams, LMSW

- 1) Please share any specific outcomes that have been achieved during this fiscal year. Feel free to add data, how you're meeting the expectations of your grant agreement or how you're going beyond those expectations.**

The positive impact of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) on children, families, teachers and child care programs has been well established in large-scale evaluations in many states. Findings from rigorous studies (i.e., random- controlled experiments, quasi-experimental and mixed methods studies) underscore that access to ECMHC reduces serious problems that undermine school readiness in American children. Children's social and emotional capacity is strongly linked to school readiness. There are 3 forms of mental health consultation provided by Smart Support: Child-Focused; Classroom-Focused; and Program-Focused. These 3 forms of consultation are often delivered concurrently. Smart Support provides intensive weekly services by highly qualified, masters-level consultants.

During our program evaluation we had 411 sites (94% center-based providers and 6% family child care providers) that participated. This included 799 teachers and 1,028 children. The data was collected at baseline, 6 months and 12 months of Smart Support services. Some of our outcomes include: Improved classroom emotional climate; increases in teacher knowledge of social and emotional development; an increase in the closeness of teacher-child relationship and a decreased in conflict; an increase in teacher confidence in the ability to deal effectively with challenging behaviors; and an increase in children's self-regulation.

There were also specific successes along the way. For the Yuma Region, during this past year (to-date), Our Mental Health Consultant served: 7 Center Directors, 13 target teachers/home providers and 144 children were positively impacted by the improved mental health climate of the classrooms served. Here are a couple of recent success stories that demonstrate some of the work that has been done in the region:

**Success Story #1:**

During this past quarter one of the teachers at a center being served by our Smart Support Mental Health Consultant, expressed being concerned about the reaction the children in her care had had during/after a fire alarm had gone off during a routine test. With the help of the MHC, the teacher began to explore emotions with the children via the use of mirrors and books. The teacher also focused on her connection with the children to help them feel safe. She also

made sure to communicate with the parents more. Through her work with the children she was able to help them identify what they were feeling as a result of having heard the alarm (i.e., fear) and what was causing them to feel this way? For one of the children, this resulted in regressive behaviors (i.e., enuresis). However, by the fourth week, the child was no longer engaging in this behavior.

#### Success Story #2:

During a scheduled visit with a home provider that had been enrolled in the Smart Support program for about a year and half, the provider shared with the Mental Health Consultant that one of the children in her care (who also happens to be the provider's adoptive son) had been designated "Student of the Month" at his preschool (which he attends offsite). The home provider expressed feeling very happy about this since she explained that she would not have believed this being true a year or so ago since the child was very aggressive and very hard to calm down when agitated. The provider stated that through her work with the MHC she was able to recognize how her anxiety was being transferred to the child and this was contributing greatly to his difficulties. Some of the areas focused on included reflection around the provider's fears that the child was predisposed to mental illness due to his biological parents' history. Another intervention utilized during their work together was that of an "emotions diary". Through this diary, the provider was able to see how the challenging behaviors and/or meltdowns that the child had were often times influenced by how she was feeling that day. Now, instead of living in constant fear for the child's possible mental health challenges in the future, the provider reports focusing more on his abilities and having a more positive outlook for the future. Although the provider expressed feeling sad that the program will be ending soon, she is grateful for the support she has received until now.

- 2) **Beyond Yuma County Early Childhood Collaborative meetings, please describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during this fiscal year. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.**

During this past year, collaboration has continued to be in the form of face-to-face meetings, phone calls, emails, FTF Extranet entries and participation in the Quality First Academy. Formal meetings are held at least quarterly, although more frequent communication is much more common. During this fiscal year, site specific collaboration meetings and the use of the Joint Goal Form began taking place as a way to better support providers.

Our Mental Health Consultant has also participated in larger collaborations: The Early Childhood Provider Collaboration Meeting, The FTF Grantee Collaboration Meeting, and The Provider Network Meeting. Some of our collaboration partners include: Quality First Supervisor/Coaches, Inclusion Supervisor/Coach, and Chicanos Por La Causa (amongst others).

**3) Describe any barriers to successful implementation or other challenges. Please include your action plan that will support your program to overcome those challenges.**

During this past fiscal year, there have been challenges with staff meeting consistently for consultation appointments at times. Some of the reason for this included: staff turnover, staff absences and the center's vacation/holiday schedules. Although there is not much that we can do about holidays/ vacations, we can continue to support Director's in meeting the needs of the staff they supervise in order to decrease the turnover in staff and absences due to stress/burnout.



# FIRST THINGS FIRST



Regional Director Update  
April 2015

**READY FOR SCHOOL. SET FOR LIFE.**

- **April: National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

[Phttps://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/)

- Update on FTF State Board-Yuma AZ
- Update On Preschool Development Grant
- Outreach Opportunities
- Update on Health Books
- FTF Early Childhood Summit-Phoenix, AZ
- Next Yuma FTF Council Meeting:
  - **May 11, 2015 (Monday) @ 4:30pm**

- Update On Preschool Development Grant



Yuma South County Preschool Development Grantee's

**Somerton Preschool Education**, Ms. Mia Armenta

**The Kings Treasures**, Ms. Rosa E Garcia

**San Luis Preschool**, Ms. Lizette Esparza

**Estrellita Day Care Group Home**, Ms. Paula Celaya

**Hi Kids Child Care Pre-School**, Ms. Rosalina Garibay

**Rainbow Preschool**, Ms. Angela Moreno

**Arcoiris Child Care**, Ms. Maria Valenzuela

**Bienestar Child Development Center**, Marlene Valenzuela

**Harvest Preparatory Academy San Luis**, Dr. Mario Ybarra

- Outreach Opportunities
- Update on Health Books
- FTF Early Childhood Summit-Phoenix, AZ
- Next Yuma FTF Council Meeting:
  - **May 11, 2015 (Monday) @ 4:30pm**

# FIRST THINGS FIRST



EARLY CHILDHOOD  
SUMMIT 2015

LEARN. SHARE. GROW.

August 24 – 25, 2015

Phoenix Convention Center

READY FOR SCHOOL. SET FOR LIFE.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## MONDAY 8/24

- Registration 7:00 am
- Begins at 8:30 am
- Ends at 5:00 pm

## TUESDAY 8/25

- Registration 7:00 am
- Begins at 8:30
- Ends at 1:30
- Additional Read On  
Event 2:00 – 5:00

# AGENDA

- 2015 Summit: Great Speakers & Events
- How To Register
- Travel Guidelines
- Hotel & Parking
- Tips



2015 Summit  
Will Be  
Awesome

# Opening Keynote



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

# Featured Speaker

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



# Featured Speaker

- Dr. Clancy Blair
- Increasing Adult Self Regulation



# Closing Keynote



- Enrique Feldman
- Topic: Inspiring Others to Inspire Themselves

# TRIBAL GATHERING



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

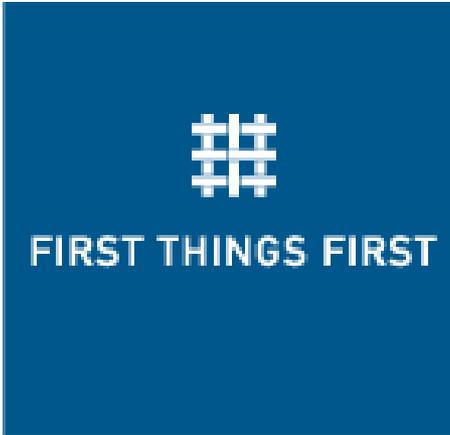
# READ ON EVENT

- Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 2:00 – 5:00 pm



When Arizona Reads, Arizona Thrives



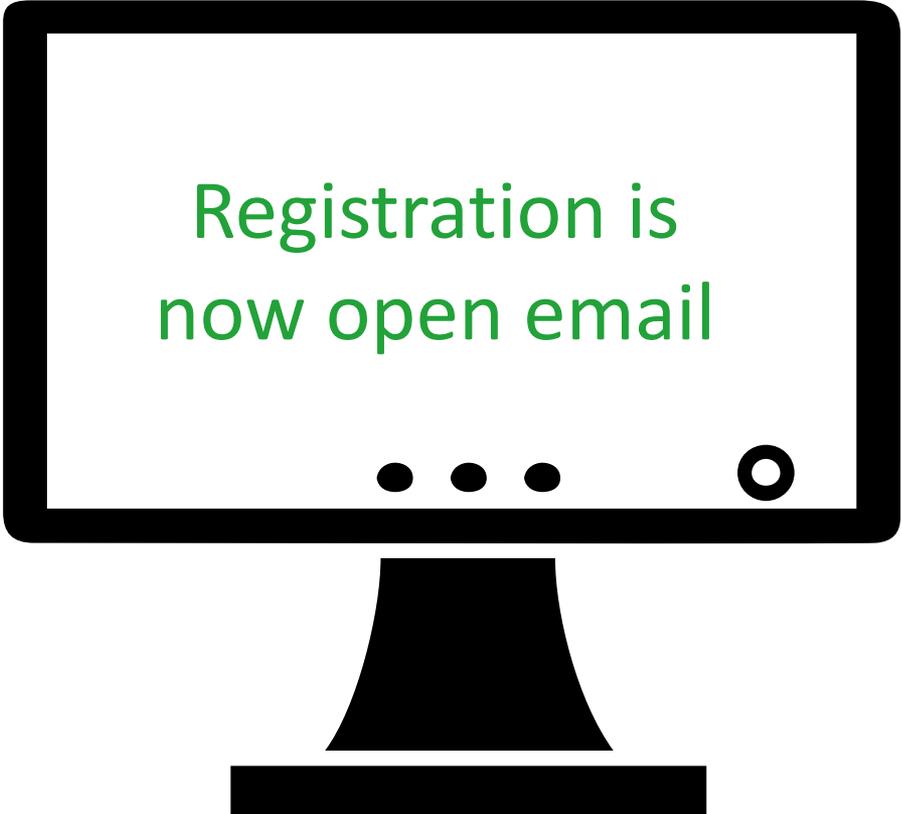


**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
**SUMMIT 2015**  
LEARN. SHARE. GROW.

**<https://summit.azftf.gov>**

# How To Register

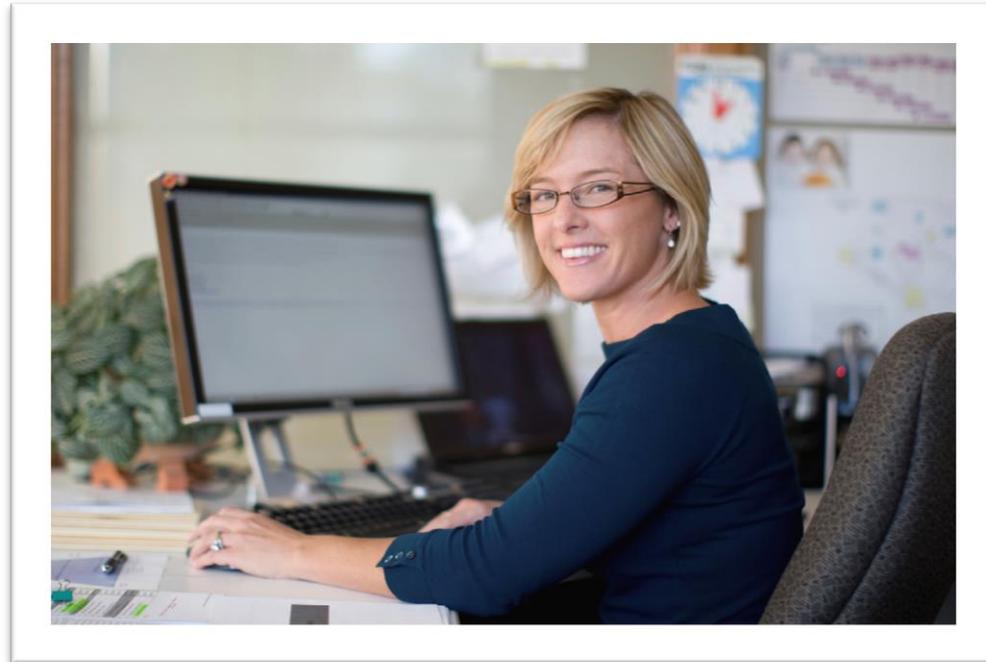
# DO NOT Register Online



Registration is  
now open email

# REGIONAL COUNCILS

Register with your Administrative Assistant



# REGISTRATION

- Starts: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Closes: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Please return to [jberz@azftf.gov](mailto:jberz@azftf.gov) on or before July 15, 2015. Thank you.

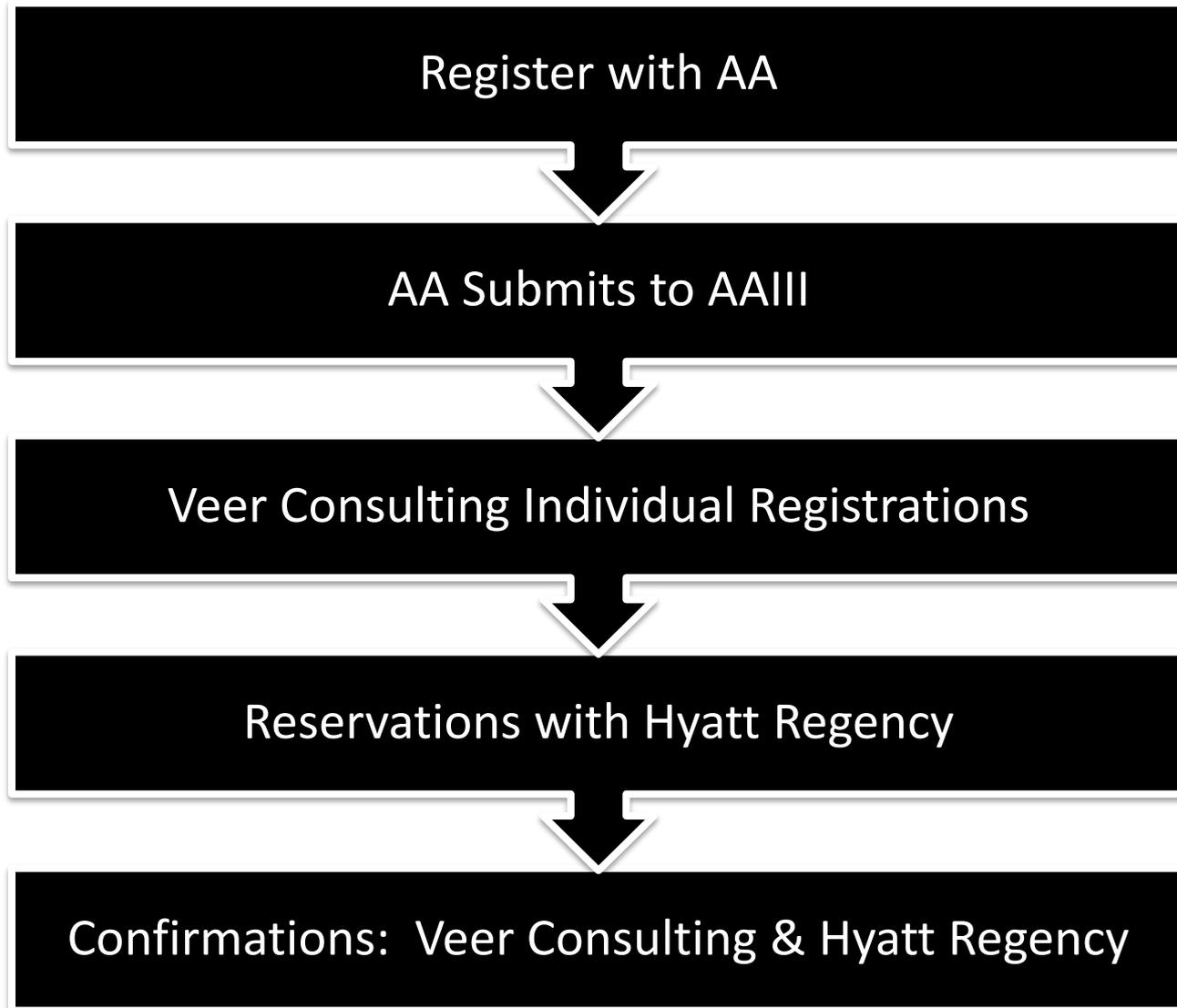
First Things First Early Childhood Summit 2015  
Regional Partnership Council / Division Registrations

Questions? 602-568-6277  
Dave Ryder - Veer Consulting

Staff or Council Member	Region or Division	First Name	Last Name	Name on Name Badge	Email	Phone	Attending Tribal Gathering Mon 8/24? (Yes or No)	Attending Celebratory Luncheon Tues 8/25? (Yes or No)	Attending Read On Event Tues 8/25? (Yes or No)	Vegetarian? (Yes or No)	Lodging Requested? (Yes or No)
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Summit Dates: August 24-25, 2015 / Phoenix Convention Center. Those requesting accommodations will stay at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 North Second Street, Phoenix, 85004.  
<http://phoenix.hyatt.com/en/hotel/four-hotel.html>. Summit Website: <https://summit.azftf.gov>


# REGISTRATION & CONFIRMATIONS



# CANCELLATIONS

- Cancel early
- Minimum of 72 hours
- Emergency last minute cancellations
  - Call Dave Ryder
  - 602.568.6722



# Travel Guidelines

# HOTEL STAYS



Must reside 50+ miles from the  
Phoenix Convention Center

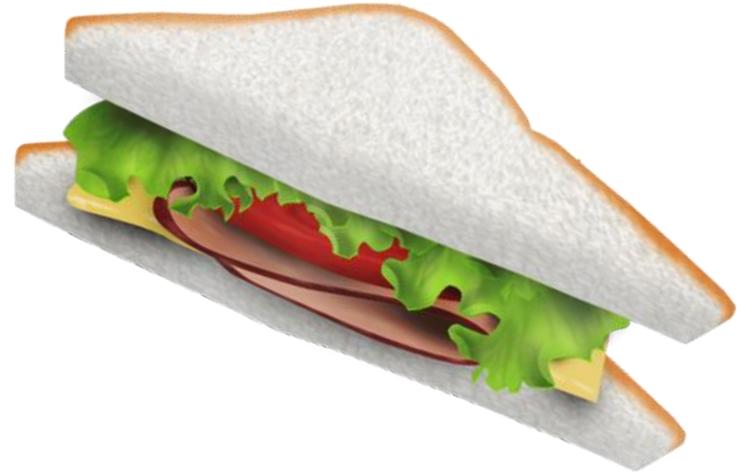
# HOTEL STAYS

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



# MEALS

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



# MEALS

- Dietary restrictions should be communicated to your Regional AA



GLUTEN-FREE



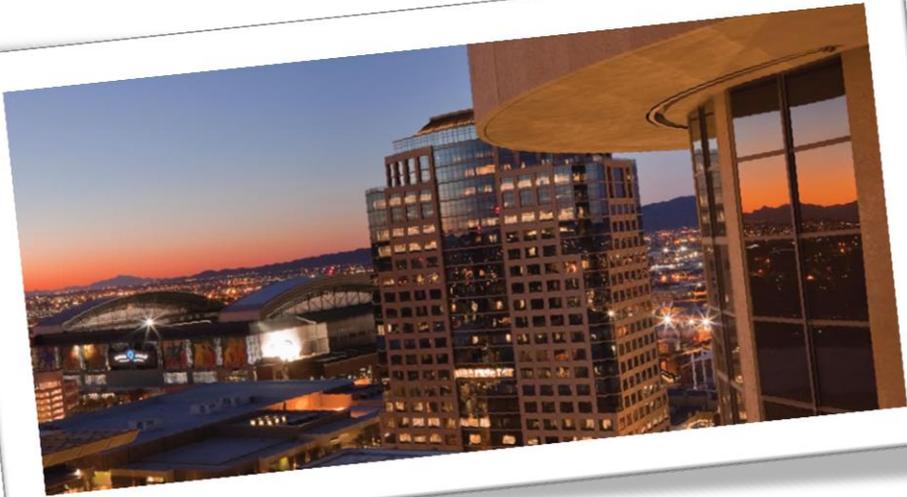
DAIRY FREE



VEGAN

# Hotel & Parking

# SUMMIT HOTEL



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

# VEER CONSULTING



- Will register
  - FTF Board
  - Regional Councils
  - FTF Staff

# HYATT CHECK IN

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



# HYATT CHECK IN



# PARKING



Parking will be paid  
for the Summit

# 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!

# PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER PARKING

4 garages noted in registration confirmation email



1. West
2. North
3. East
4. Heritage Square Garage

# PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER PARKING

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



Tips

# TRAFFIC DOWNTOWN

- Arrive early
- Carpool
- Use mass transit
  - Bus
  - Light Rail



# PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER

- There are over 1,000 people to register
- Bring a sweater



# MONDAY LUNCH OPTIONS

- PCC's Metro Carche – food court
- Arizona Center
- The Network @ Hyatt Regency
- The District @ Sheraton
- Starbucks



 FIRST THINGS FIRST

THANK YOU!

## Reminder!

Next Yuma FTF Council Meeting  
May 11 (Monday), 2015  
4:30pm

