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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community  
Regional Partnership Council



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community  
Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes February 18, 2014 Regional Council Meeting

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### **Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was held on February 18, 2014. The meeting was held at the Two Waters Building A, Lightning Room, 10061 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85256.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Loring at approximately 11:45 a.m.

### **Members Present**

Chair Virginia Loring, Vice Chair Chris McIntier, Joyce Helmuth, Michelle Jameson, Bella Miller, Chris Sekaquaptewa, and Lance Silverhorn.

### **Members Absent**

Toni Harvier and Deana Washington

### **Invocation**

Invocation was conducted by Member Silverhorn.

### **Call to the Public**

There was no Call to the Public.

### **Consent Agenda**

Council Member Helmuth moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 15, 2013. Council Member Jameson seconded the motion and it was approved 6-0 with Council Member McIntier abstaining due to absence.

### **2015 Funding Plan Review**

Director Vinarskai provided an overview of the Funding Plan approval process and read a letter sent to the Council from the Board expressing their appreciation of the important work occurring in the region. Director Vinarskai reviewed the 2015 Funding Plan with the Regional Council and reminded them that the only change was the TEACH strategy which was reduced by 50%.

### **Financial and Narrative Reports**

Director Vinarskai reviewed the Contract Detail Report and Parent Education Community-Based Training strategy Narrative Report with the Regional Council. She informed the Council that the First Things First Finance Department will be contacting the Food Security Program in regards to their low expenditure of 25%. Vice Chair McIntier informed the Council that the Parenting program will provide an opportunity for parents to obtain college credits for attending the parenting classes.

### **SFY2015 Funding Plan Parent Education Community-Based Training**

Director Vinarskai informed the Council that the Parent Education Community-Based Training program has requested an increase for State Fiscal Year 2015. The increase would be \$1,200 for four professional training Parent Educators. In addition, \$2,131, for a cost of living increase for one full time Parent Educator. These



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Increases the Parent Education Community-Based Training strategy by \$3,331, changing the overall budget from \$98,315 to \$101,646. Member Jameson made a motion to increase the Parent Education Community-Based Training Strategy budget from \$98,315 to \$101,646 for State Fiscal Year 2015 and Council Member Miller seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7-0.

### Regional Director's Updates

- Met with President Enos regarding the Needs and Assets process and presented information to Tribal Council on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Beverly Russell also presented information on developing a data sharing agreement with the Tribe at the Tribal Council meeting.
- The Education Fair will take place on Thursday March 6 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Need to know if any Regional Council Members can oversee the First Things First table.
- Regional Forum will take place on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am to 11:00 am in Two Waters Bldg. Akimel Conference room. Gila River Regional Partnership Council Members will also be attending, The forum provides an opportunity for FTF Board Members to be in the region and engage in discussion with Regional Council Members. Please send your ideas for meeting topics.
- We have 3 contracts that are up for renewal: 1) Food Program, 2) Parent Education Community-Based Training, 3) Summer Transition. These are 3 year contracts. Finance will send out the packets at the end of the month and we will be voting to renew them at our April meeting.
- There are five council seats that are ending; however, we hope that everyone reapplies. If you re-apply, you will go be asked to go through the interview process.
- The FTF Summit is taking place Aug 18-19 at the Phoenix Convention Center. The Administrative Assistant will send out an email about the Summit and will register you if you decide to attend. All costs are paid by First Things First.
- We will be rescheduling the Sub-Committee on behavioral support for the Summer Transition Program.
- Ron Ransom no longer works for the Community and submitted his resignation from the council.
- There will not be a meeting in March. The next meeting will take place in April where we will be voting on contract renewals.

### Regional Partnership Council Member Updates

- Member Miller shared the concerns at Boys & Girls Club noticing the children are not prepared for kindergarten and welcomes any ideas to further ready them.
- Vice Chair McIntier informed everyone about the Parent Conference being held on March 19 and the Summer Transition to Kindergarten program starting June 2. In addition, she informed the Council that Eddie Basha III will be reading to a Kindergarten class on Friday, February 28.
- Member Helmuth announced the Family Health Care Wellness Night will be on March 28 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm and stated that it would be a good venue to for the vendor to conduct interviews. She also stated that a First Things First table could be set up.

During the announcements a concern was brought up about the Needs and Assets vendor and their willingness to receive information about and attend Community events to conduct the Family and Community survey interviews. Director Vinarskai stated that she will ensure that concerns and questions about the Needs and Assets vendor will be directed to the Evaluation Department.



**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Loring at 12:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patty Morris, Administrative Assistant II

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Virginia Loring, Chair

DRAFT

## Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Grantee Renewal

### Summer Transition to Kindergarten Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
											Renewal Considerations	

GRA-RC021-14-0606-01	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	12	\$18,000.00	\$9,000.00	50.0%	Yes	0.0%	\$18,000.00	Yes		
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**Quality and Access**

The four week Summer Transition to Kindergarten program will enroll children ages four and five with little or no preschool classroom experience. The Summer Pre-Kindergarten will prepare children for the transition to kindergarten in a safe, friendly environment in Kindergarten classrooms at Salt River Elementary School. The program enhances fine motor, cognitive and language skills while developing self-confidence and social skills. Preference will be given to children that are currently on the Early Childhood Education Center and Early Enrichment Program waiting lists and to students who are enrolling in Salt River Elementary School and that reside in the SRPMIC or are enrolled Community members.

The Summer Transition to Kindergarten program offers a six hour a day program, four days each week. This program normally takes place in the month of June. Two classrooms serving 15 children each are overseen by experienced, certified Kindergarten teachers. Each classroom has one teacher and two teacher assistants. The teacher and one assistant are funded by FTF and the third assistant in the classroom is provided, in kind, by ECEC. Bus service is provided to the students, funded by the SRPMIC. The AZ Early Learning standards are followed and progress is kept on each student for letter and number recognition, writing their name, knowing their shapes and colors. The children and teachers have fun!

Preparation and planning is taking place for implementation of the program as well as recruitment of students. Target start date is the month of June 2014. Program is on track to reach contract service units of 30 children.

In addition, mental health consultation services will be provided for this program during the summer.

No modifications have been proposed and total funding will remain at \$18,000 for SFY2015.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of children served	30	0	0			0	0.0%	No	-30.0%	30
Number of participating adults	30	0	0			0	0.0%	No	-30.0%	30

## Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Grantee Renewal

Food Security Strategy													
Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board	
											Renewal Considerations		
<b>Family Support</b>  The Salt River Food Distribution Program (SRFDP) will continue to use funds created by the First Things First grant for Childhood Nutrition Insecurity for the FY2014 grant year to purchase WIC approved food items, as well as diapers, size N to 6, and basic formula. We will continue to provide infant boxes, which include diapers and formula, and toddler boxes (ages 2-5), which include meat, cheese, eggs, peanut butter and milk, to needy families within the Salt River Community.	GRA-RC021-13-0514-01-Y2	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	12	\$10,000.00	\$2,500.00	25.0%	No	-5.0%	\$6,000.00	Yes		
											Based on data and narrative reports, there has been a decline in need for food boxes and an increase in the need for food boxes with diapers for families with young children. Therefore, the SFY2015 renewal reflects a decrease in food from \$9,000 to \$4,000 and an increase in program supplies for diapers from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This is an over all reduction in the budget for SFY15 from \$10,000 to \$6,000. This change is to better meet the need of the Region.  First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.		
Service Unit				2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of food boxes distributed				400	35	34			69	17.3%	No	-12.8%	200

## Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Grantee Renewal

Parent Education Community-Based Training Strategy													
Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board	
										Renewal Considerations			
GRA-RC021-14-0608-01	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	12	\$98,315.00	\$49,157.50	50.0%	Yes	0.0%	\$101,646.00	Yes			
<p><b>Family Support</b></p> <p>Teen Parenting Class: A 20 week curriculum CSEFL Positive Behavioral Supports, will be supplemented with life skills training and supplemental parent education materials. The name of the program is "SPA" for "Student Parent Academy". All teen parents will be eligible to participate as long as they are currently enrolled in high school, receiving social services or live in the SRPMIC. Any student who had participated as a teen parent and are beyond their teen years will be allowed to enroll as well. Estimated target is 20 teen parents for the year.</p> <p>WISH Community Parent Education Program: The WISH Community Parent Education Program will consist of two, ten session workshops for the FY2013-14. These workshops will be offered once a week. This program will use the CSEFL Positive Behavioral Supports curriculum supplemented with Life Skills as well as child development topics that the parents request. Any SRPMIC parent with children under the age of 5 may enroll. Estimated target is 20 parents for each ten week session, for a total of 40 for the year.</p> <p>Parent Education and Interactive Literacy Parenting Program: The Parent Educator at the Education South Campus will provide Parent Education and Interactive Literacy Activities (ILA) for parents attending GED or ALA at the Education South Campus. This program will be ongoing throughout they year. FTF will be funding a full time parent educator with the estimated target of 30 parents participating on a regular basis throughout the year.</p>										<p>Based on data and narrative reports the grantee is compliant with all grant obligations and requirements. There have been no issues regarding the grantees's ability to submit reports.</p> <p>An optional component to one of the parenting classes will consist of Early Childhood Education classes to receive college credit.</p> <p>The grantee did propose a modification increase in SFY15 in the amount of \$3,331.00 for professional development training and cost of living increase and fringe benefits. The new amount for SFY15 is \$101,646.00.</p> <p>First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.</p>			
				2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of participating adults				90	91	500			591	656.7%	No	596.7%	
Number of adults completing a series													30

## Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Grantee Renewal

Reach Out and Read Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
											Renewal Considerations	

FTF-MULTI-13-0401-01-Y2 American Academy of Pediatrics - AZ Chapter 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$1,348.00 \$1,347.97 100.0% No 40.0% \$1,500.00

Reach Out and Read is a pediatric literacy program endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Doctors, nurse practitioners, and other pediatric healthcare professionals, trained in Reach Out and Read's evidence-based model, incorporate the intervention into well child visits, by advising parents about the importance of reading aloud, educating parents about early literacy developmental milestones, and giving developmentally appropriate books to children to take home. The program begins at the 6-month checkup and continues to age 5, with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities. Research findings from 14 published, peer-reviewed studies clearly demonstrate that Reach Out and Read is effective. Parents who have received the Reach Out and Read intervention are significantly more likely to read to their children and have more children's books in the home compared to families who have not participated in the program. In addition, children served by the Reach Out and Read program score significantly higher on vocabulary tests.

Note: This is a multiregional contract.

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date, the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Reach out and Read Program) is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet the contracted service numbers.

There are no significant proposed changes for SFY 15 implementation. Total funding level for the SFY 15 will increase to \$416,529 (\$50,000 from Central Phoenix, \$72,698 from Navajo Nation, \$19,000 from North Phoenix, \$100,000 from Yuma, \$10,675 from Graham Greenlee, \$112,056 from White Mountain Apache Tribe, \$50,600 from Coconino, \$1500 from Salt River Maricopa Indian Community). First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Family Support

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of participating practices	1	0	0			0	0.0%	No	-30.0%	1
Number of books distributed	490	123	123			246	50.2%	Yes	0.0%	491

## Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Grantee Renewal

**\*\*Quarterly Data Submission Value (Double Asterisk)**

Null (empty box) = Grantee reported that this is not part of the grantee's contract and did not provide data. Any other numeric entry (zero or greater) indicates a number reported by grantee.



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## **Sustaining Arizona's Commitment to Young Kids**

### **Finance Committee Recommendation to the Board - Summary**

Tobacco taxes are a declining source of revenue; in fact, funding for First Things First has decreased from almost \$171 million in fiscal year 2008 to \$132 million in FY2013, a 23% drop in five years. By statute, the Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that FTF funds are used as Arizona voters intended. Therefore, one of the Board's primary responsibilities is to set a fiscal policy that allows FTF to: sustain program funding for the longest term possible; maximize current and future revenues; and, promote thoughtful and proactive planning for future funding reductions so as to minimize the impact to children and families statewide.

In setting a fiscal policy direction, the Board has focused specifically on trends in tobacco tax collections – which led to revenue projection models researched by Arizona State University – and analysis of expenditures. The initiative that created FTF was written so that an organizational fund balance would accrue for a period of time before expenditures began. This was an intentional, strategic move on the part of the initiative's authors to ensure that funds would be available to sustain FTF's efforts over a longer period of time.

What were not anticipated were sizeable regional carry-forward balances. The Board noted the reasons for and monitored the regional carry-forward balances in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. In 2012, when the total regional carry-forward balance exceeded \$90 million – the Board looked more closely at the regional carry-forward balance and set fiscal policy that focused on spending down that balance.

While fiscal year 2013 was the first year in which the regional fund balance did not grow, the reduction was minimal. As regions complete the last year in the current funding cycle (FY13-15) and begin planning for the next three years (FY16-18), it was a logical next step for the Board – through its Finance Committee and with support from FTF staff – to undertake a deeper review of revenue, organizational fund balance and regional carry forward and to establish the fiscal policy direction that regional councils can use as a basis for discussion of the next three-year strategic direction and budgeting.

#### **Recommendation of the Finance Committee**

To expand the discussion and ensure a diverse set of views on the matter, the Chair of the Finance Committee, member Nadine Mathis Basha, invited special guests to both meetings to participate in the conversations. The additional participants represented both Board and regional council members.

Over the course of two meetings the Finance Committee reviewed how allocations are set; discussed the variables involved in the allocation process; examined how future allocations would support current spending budgets; looked at how regional fund balance is related to and impacts spending; reviewed how the organizational fund balance can be used to support a targeted spending level; and, developed recommendations for the Board on future program spending budgets and how the regional fund balance should be used.

Two formal recommendations have been made to the Board. These will be discussed at the April 2014 Board meeting and voted on at the June 2014 Board meeting. They include:

- 1) Beginning in FY16, the start of the new three-year Funding Plan Cycle, allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending (statewide and regional combined), and keep this amount constant for successive years.
- 2) In FY16, the total means of financing available to support regional allotments should equal the targeted \$126.6 million level, and so regional allocations should be adjusted such that each region's projected fund balance (regional carry forward) is part of the allocation level rather than being in addition to.

These recommendations are based on reasonable (neither overly optimistic nor pessimistic) revenue projections and will allow FTF to maintain its program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9-15 years.

The alternatives reviewed included the following:

1. Allow regional councils to spend down their carry forward, hitting fiscal cliffs at varying points between fiscal years 2015 to 2018. Under this proposal, regional councils would need to initiate a round of cuts because – even with their carry forward balance spread out over the next several years – their total revenue would be less than their projected FY15 allotments. Then, regional councils would need to initiate another round of cuts when their carry forward is fully exhausted and only the base-level allocation (based on the \$126.6 million recommended amount) is available.
2. Using large-scale draw-downs of organizational fund balance to maintain spending levels that have been set using regional carry-forward balances. The organizational fund balance would be exhausted within three years and, therefore, resulting in radical reductions in services at that point.

The Finance Committee acknowledged that moving to the recommended allocation methodology will raise questions from regional councils as it will mean an almost 30% reduction in total regional funds available for spending in FY16 (impact to individual regions will vary around this average amount). While this will be a challenge for regional councils to absorb initially, the following points were discussed by the Committee and include:

1. All regions are looking at significant funding reductions in the near future (as a result of spending down carry-forward), and in most cases, would need to make those cuts in FY16 or shortly thereafter.
2. Updating the fiscal policy at the beginning of a three-year planning cycle gives regional councils time to thoughtfully and proactively plan spending that reflects available revenues at the onset of a strategic planning process.
3. The funding available for each region will be very stable over time (with population and/or regional boundary changes being the only real drivers for change).
4. The recommendation sets a targeted spending level and, in FY16, uses regional carry forward in combination with new Board-allocated revenues to achieve that targeted spending level. Therefore, regions will be spending their regional carry-forward balances. In futures years, the targeted spending level will be fully achieved with new Board-allocated revenues.
5. Regions may still experience carry-forward balances, but these will be significantly lower and much more easily managed.

In addition, the Finance Committee discussed whether guidance should come from the Board on how regional councils plan to align programming to available revenues – for example, Board strategy or indicator priorities.

In the first of two meetings, the Board's Policy and Program Committee reviewed this issue at its April 3 meeting. Outlined below are questions the Committee was asked to consider and provide feedback on by the next meeting on May 15. In addition, feedback will be solicited from the regional Chairs and Vice Chairs at their May 1 meeting. All of the feedback obtained will be summarized and presented to the Board for consideration at its June 2014 meeting, so that complete guidance can be provided to the regional councils as they begin their three-year planning cycle.

Items the Program Committee members have been asked to provide feedback on include:

- Should guidance come from the Board on how regional councils plan to align funded programming to available revenues – for example, Board preferred strategy(ies) or School Readiness Indicator priorities?
- Currently, regional funding plans are developed by regional councils and are submitted for Board approval. If and when the Board has concerns with a funding plan presented for approval, they address these concerns on an individual basis and final approval is held until both Board and regional council concerns are resolved. As such,
  - Should this practice continue?
  - Should all regional councils be allowed to prioritize independent of each other, and/or Board priorities?
- Should the Board provide parameters for how a funding plan should be constructed? For example:
  - Should the number of strategies be limited?
  - Are there School Readiness Indicators which should be prioritized?
    - Should X% of funding have to be committed to the Board's signature Quality First strategy?
    - Should only Y% of funding be committed to strategies for which other state agencies have primary or statutory responsibility?
- The Quality First program and Quality First Scholarships collectively comprise the largest funding investment of FTF. Should FTF research whether the QF model can be adjusted in ways that lower the cost but still preserve the overall design and policy intent?
  - One such example would be reducing the number of scholarships made available to providers receiving them by some amount. If that amount were 1/3, a potential savings of \$15.7 million could be yielded.
  - Another example is considering a decision made by regional councils to fund additional scholarships, which is a significant investment of resources beyond that "required" under the Quality First model. As regional councils make choices to fund additional scholarships, it increases the total investment and in many cases, these additional scholarships are under-utilized.
- Are there other FTF program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered while still preserving the design and policy intent?