



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on May 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the JW Marriott-University, 880 E. 2nd Street, Tucson, Arizona.

Vice Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Steve Lynn, Rhian Evans Allvin, Dr. Pamela Powell, Dr. Eugene Thompson and Dr. Arturo Gonzalez

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Molly Bright, Mary Ellen Cunningham and Amy Corriveau

Absent:

Nadine Mathis Basha, Hon. Cecil Patterson, and Vivian Saunders

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to approve the April 28, 2009 and May 1, 2009 meeting minutes. Seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Board Member Report/Updates

Member Evans Allvin reported on the Smart Start Conference held in North Carolina. Member Evans Allvin stated that approximately 2000 were in attendance and Arizona accepted Smart Start's Most Promising State Award.

Member Gonzalez reported on his confirmation hearing with the Senate and expressed his appreciation to Sandy Carpenter for her guidance through the process.

Member Lynn expressed his appreciation to Ms. Naomi Karp and to the Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children for their gracious hospitality provided at today's meeting in acknowledgment of the Regional Partnership Councils' first anniversary.

Call to the Public

None

Legislative Update

Sandy Carpenter, Governmental Affairs Specialist, updated the Board on member confirmations at the legislature, bills passed and budget updates.

Communication Update

Ms. Nicole Magnusson, consultant with Expect More Arizona, presented to the Board an overview of Expect More Arizona's media campaign and talked about their partnership with First Things First. Ms. Magnusson stated that Expect More Arizona is a public-private partnership dedicated to creating a movement of Arizonans who value education as our state's top priority and are actively engaged in strengthening the entire continuum from birth through career.

Tribal Consultation Policy – 2nd Read

Ms. Sandy Foreman, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, presented to the Board a second reading of the Tribal Government Consultation Policy. The Tribal Government Consultation Policy was established to provide direction for the creation of a system

that offers opportunities and supports for families and communities in the development of all children so they can grow up to be healthy and ready to succeed when they enter school. Ms. Foreman reviewed draft changes and updates to the policy for the Board to consider.

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to approve the Tribal Consultation Policy as submitted by staff. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

Family and Community Survey

Dr. Amy Kemp, Assistant Director of Evaluation, presented to the Board the results of the Family and Community Survey. Dr. Kemp reviewed with the Board the survey results that included 3690 parents (or non-paid caregivers) of children 5 and under included in a telephone survey. The baseline on Arizona families showed most families are generally satisfied with services and are knowledgeable about the importance of early development. It was also concluded that families can benefit from information and support related to best practices. Smaller, distinct groups of families have more intense needs and can benefit from additional help with access to and information about available supports. The survey results helped in identifying needs and distinctive gaps for families living in rural areas, with fewer personal resources and with children with health challenges.

Dr. Ron Marx, Dean, College of Education, University of Arizona, updated the Board on the University Consortium's external evaluation status for First Things First. Dr. Marx stated the Consortium is currently working on a multi-stage sampling strategy to assure that children and families enrolled in the study are geographically dispersed across the state and reflect Arizona's diverse population. The Consortium plans to finalize the design and develop a training protocol for data collectors to be completed during the summer.

Statewide Initiatives Update

Ms. Sandy Foreman, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, reported to the Board on statewide initiatives and gave a grant update.

Ms. Foreman stated that the Quality First selection and notification of 295 out of 300 family child care homes has been completed. TEACH Arizona's administrative home, Association for Supportive Child Care, has created procedures to assist Quality First coaches as they conduct the initial orientations and explain the availability of scholarships to staff. The Child Care Health Consultation Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Pima County has been signed and the negotiations with Maricopa County Health Department and the government to government agreement is being finalized. Parent Kits continue to be delivered to birthing hospitals throughout the state according to schedule. A total of 5,424 kits were provided to hospitals statewide through the combined efforts of First Things First and Piper Trust. The Compensation and Retention RFGA was released on March 18, 2009, and the Pre-Application Conference was held on April 1, 2009. The Application Review was held on May 5, 2009, and initial clarifications will be requested of the applicants and presented to the Board for recommendation at the June Board meeting.

Regional Report

Ms. Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Director, gave an update to the Board on the request for grant application status. A total of 94 applications were submitted for 24 RFGS's that closed on April 16 and 17, 2009. Fifteen Regional Councils have completed the review process and will approve and forward recommendations to the Board for approval in June.

Regional Partnership Council Member Applicants

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to approve the staff recommendations for the Santa Cruz, Graham Greenlee, and Gila Regional Partnership Councils. Seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Early Childhood Advisory Council Report

Ms. Sandy Foreman updated the Board on the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education. Ms. Foreman stated that the 2007 reauthorization of the Head Start Act includes a provision for State Governors to designate or establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education to be known as the State Advisory Council. In November 2008, the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (First Things First) was designated by the Governor to serve as Arizona's State Advisory Council. The role of the State Advisory Council includes most, if not all, of the activities of the Early Childhood Development and Health Board. To support the work of the Council, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will award, on a competitive basis, a one-time grant of not less than \$500,000 for the purpose of facilitating the development or enhancement of high quality systems of early childhood education and care.

2010 Budget – Revision 1st Read

Director Hibbs presented to the Board, a first reading of the draft 2010 budget revisions. The 2010 budget revision will be brought back to the Board for approval in June.

Executive Director Report

Elliott Hibbs, Director of First Things First, presented to the Board the Executive Director Report for May.

Emergency Response Update

Director Hibbs reported that as approved by the Board at the Special Meeting on May 1, 2009, discretionary funds for the emergency child care scholarships previously allocated for the Cocopah, Hualapai, and Salt River Pima Maricopa tribes has been removed from the United Way contract. As outreach for the scholarships continue, First Things First and United Way determined it was more effective to remove limitations on the number of scholarships per provider in order to accommodate families that are newly unemployed or on the DES waiting list.

Director Hibbs stated that all grant agreements for the family support and food insecurity strategies have been finalized for these components of the emergency response plan. Because very few grantees actually implemented services during the month of April, First Things First staff revised the due date for the first financial and program reports from May 20-June 20, 2009.

Financial Update

Director Hibbs reported to the Board that the April tobacco revenues were \$12,334,969, more than 11% below revenues during April 2008. Year-to-date revenues total \$127,330,296, which is approximately 6.7% below last year. When adjusting the low revenues for February 2009, total revenues are still close to 4.8% below FY08 levels. Total investments and cash on hand total \$347,246,961 as of April 30, 2009. Director Hibbs stated that \$7 million was transferred to the state general Fund in May due to the Legislative sweep to balance the FY09 state budget deficit which will make the actual balance for April \$340 million.

Year to date, \$11,426,858 has been expended from the operations budget. This is \$2.6 million less than projected through April 2008.

Revision of Key Action Dates and FY2010 Meeting Dates

Director Hibbs presented to the Board the FY2010 Board meeting date schedule and revised key action dates plan for Board approval.

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to approve the revised key action dates as submitted by staff. Seconded by Member Gonzalez. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to approve the FY2010 Board meeting dates and tentatively approve the meeting locations but keep flexibility of the possibility of determining at a later date. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held June 9, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Adjourn

There being no other business, Vice Chair Lynn adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:15 p.m.