

The Maricopa Central Regional Council of **First Things First** – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board is pleased to report the appointment of ten council members from the communities of Chandler, Tempe, Ahwatukee and Guadalupe.

The goal of the state board of **First Things First** and the regional councils is to build a system of accessible and quality early childhood development and health services. Regional Partnership Councils are essential to **First Things First**. The Maricopa Central Regional Council represents a voluntary governance body responsible for planning and improving early childhood development and health outcomes for children pre-birth to age five in neighborhoods and tribal lands in every county across the state. The Maricopa Central Regional Partnership Council is comprised of eleven individuals who represent parents, early care and education, health, education, the faith-based community, business, philanthropy, and tribal nations. Council members are:

Jackie Garner, Hope Dillon, Glen Watterkotte, Bonni Pomush, Maureen Duane, Andrea Colby, Angela Capone, Karen Emery, Kathy Halter and Trinity Donovan

Regional Partnership Councils will promote a common vision, be the voice for children in their region, and commit to the development of an integrated system that connects services to children, and promotes coordination across services, always prioritizing the needs of young children and families. They are family centered, community-based partnerships linking state and local government, communities and families.

The goals of the state agency as well as the regional council are to:

- Improve the **QUALITY** of early childhood development and health programs.
- Increase the **ACCESS** to quality early childhood developmental and health programs.
- Increase access to **PREVENTATIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SCREENINGS** for children through age five.
- Offer **PARENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT** and education concerning early childhood development and literacy.
- Provide **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING** for early childhood development and health providers.
- Increasing **COORDINATION** of early childhood development and health programs and provide **PUBLIC INFORMATION** about the importance of early childhood developmental and health."

The council is anxious to have input and information regarding families and early childhood education to achieve the above goals.. If you and/or your town councils would like more information about the council or have information to share, please contact the Regional Coordinator: Joanne Floth, [joanne.floth@azecdh.gov](mailto:joanne.floth@azecdh.gov), 602.771.4984.