



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

April 29, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the First Things First – Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council was held on April 29, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Family Activity Center at 1321 S. Mohave Avenue in Parker, Arizona, 85344.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Homer at 10:32 a.m.

Members Present

Veronica Homer, Jackie Flores, Patricia Fritz, Monica Rosnagle, Amelia Flores, Gloria Flores-Lopez, Brad Sale

Members Absent

Dru Waggoner, Arlinda Setoyant

Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2014

A motion was made by Member A. Flores to approve the February 25, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Member J. Flores. The motion passed unanimously by Members present.

FY 2014 Implementation Update (Attachments 02a- 02b)

Regional Director, Ashley Pascual, provided the Regional Council with an updated financial report. Regional Director Pascual informed the Regional Council that the CRIT Department of Health and Social Services has received another \$15,000.00 deliverable reimbursement bringing their expenditures to 50 percent of their awarded funds.

Regional Director Pascual provided the Regional Council with highlights from the 3rd quarter Grantee Narrative Reports. Chair Homer asked Director Pascual about the status of the hiring of a staff person for the Nutrition, Obesity, and Physical Activity grant. Director Pascual stated she had spoken with the Director and the intent was to hire a staff person at the end of April. Director Pascual will follow up on the item.

FY 2015 Grant Renewal Recommendations (Attachment 03)

Regional Director Pascual provided the Regional Council with the Renewal recommendations for FY 2015 which will begin on July 1, 2014. The Regional Council Recommendations will be presented to the State Board for their approval at the June board meeting. Recommendation is considered through the first and second quarter grantee data, the updated financial reports, additional information from narrative reporting, and the renewal package that all grantees responded to.

Member Flores-Lopez also asked for clarification on unspent Grantee funds being rolled over. Regional Director Pascual stated the funds are not rolled over for the Grantee but do stay within the Regional Council's budget.

A motion was made by Member A. Flores to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Renewal Recommendations for the Parent Outreach and Awareness grant with C.R.I.T. Department of Health and Social Services, Parent Outreach and Awareness grant with C.R.I.T. Library, and Nutrition, Obesity Prevention and Physical Activity grant with C.R.I.T. Department of Health and Social Services. The motion was seconded by Member Flores-Lopez. The motion passed unanimously by Members present.



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FY 2016-FY 2018 Strategic Planning Discussion Continued (Attachment 04)

Regional Director Pascual provided the Regional Council with the Finance Committee's Recommendation to the Board – Summary, Sustaining Arizona's Commitment to Young Kids, for the Regional Council to discuss and provide feedback on. Director Pascual added that the Finance Recommendation will be a discussion item on the agenda for the Chairs and Vice-Chairs Leadership Forum in Phoenix on May 1, 2014, and Chair Homer is attending. The feedback will be provided to the State Board at the June meeting.

Chair Homer raised her concern that the finance committee's recommendation is taking away from local decision making. The Regional Council agreed and Chair Homer declared to bring that concern forward during the Leadership Forum.

The Regional Council had some discussion and the following concerns were brought up during the presentation:

- Member Rosnagle and Member Fritz stated they feel transportation is a major issue as to why people are unable to attend the available workshops and would like to see more collaboration to remove the transportation barrier so that the funded programs would be more successful in reaching participants and utilizing the funds.
- Member Flores stated that the Regional Council needs to look carefully at utilizing the carry forward dollars in the regional budget.
- Chair Homer acknowledged Sylvia Homer, C.R.I.T. Tribal Council Vice-Chairwoman, and invited her comments on the discussion. CRIT Vice-Chairwoman Homer stated that programs working with CRIT Department of Health and Social Services and the Library need to increase advertising efforts and coordinate with other events taking place in the community.

Gila River Indian Community Court Team Coordination Presentation (Attachment 5)

Regional Director Ashley Pascual introduced Cathy Thornton-Brown, Regional Director for the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Regional Partnership Council. Regional Director Thornton-Brown presented to the Regional Council on the Gila River Indian Community Court Team Coordination – Children in Crisis effort of the GRIC Regional Partnership Council. Regional Director Thornton-Brown and the Regional Council will meet with the Tribal Council two times a year; during these meetings they will share findings from the Needs and Assets Assessment. The GRIC Court Team, tasked with making recommendations for improving the child welfare system, consists of the Juvenile Court Judge, Child Protective Services, Social Services, Women Infant & Children, Behavioral Health Services, Health Care providers, Head Start, Child Care providers, and an elder, and recently, the group created a child's passport as a way of providing consistent information to foster parents; and a checklist for the judge to make sure children are receiving all required screenings.

Parent Outreach and Community Awareness Update

Community Outreach Coordinator, Erin Taylor, provided a presentation to the Regional Council on the community outreach and media activities occurring in the region over the last two months.

Director's Report

Regional Director Pascual reviewed the information in the Regional Director's Report, including the recognition of significant anniversaries for Regional Council Members, and reminded the Regional Council of upcoming events.

Call to the Public

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements

Member J. Flores announced the C.R.I.T. Head Start Promotion Ceremony will be held at Blue Water Resort and Casino Amphitheater on May 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.



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Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Member Rosnagle made a motion to adjourn at 12:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Member A. Flores. The motion passed unanimously by members present.

Veronica Homer, Chair
Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council

Bylli Esquerro, Administrative Assistant II

DRAFT



FY 2014 Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council Expenditures Report

Financial

Attachment #2

	Grantee Name	Contract Period	Total Allotment	Awarded	YTD Expense	Expense Variance	% of Award Expended	Reimbursement Activity	
								Pending	Paid (Last 30 Days)
Evaluation	Statewide Evaluation Strategy	Strategy Subtotal:	\$13,648	\$13,648	\$13,648	-	100.0%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$13,648	\$13,648	-	100.0%		
		Goal Area Subtotal:	\$13,648	\$13,648	\$13,648	-	100.0%		
Family Support	Parent Outreach and Awareness	Strategy Subtotal:	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$52,500	\$52,500	50.0%		\$15,000
	Colorado River Indian Tribes - DHSS	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$60,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	50.0%		\$15,000
	Colorado River Indian Tribes - Library	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$45,000	\$22,500	\$22,500	50.0%		
		Goal Area Subtotal:	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$52,500	\$52,500	50.0%		\$15,000
Health	Child Care Health Consultation	Strategy Subtotal:	\$7,418	\$7,418	\$5,512	\$1,905	74.3%		\$516
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$455	\$455	-	100.0%		
	Maricopa County Department of Public	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$156	\$28	\$128	18.2%		
	Pima County Health Department	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$284	\$225	\$59	79.2%		\$25
	Yuma County Public Health Services District	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$6,522	\$4,804	\$1,718	73.7%		\$491
	Nutrition/ Obesity/ Physical Activity	Strategy Subtotal:	\$27,102	\$27,102	\$13,551	\$13,551	50.0%		
	Colorado River Indian Tribes- DHSS	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$27,102	\$13,551	\$13,551	50.0%		
		Goal Area Subtotal:	\$34,520	\$34,520	\$19,063	\$15,456	55.2%		\$516
Professional Development	Scholarships non-TEACH Strategy	Strategy Subtotal:	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$77	\$1,423	5.1%		\$77
	Central Arizona College - PCPP	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$1,500	\$77	\$1,423	5.1%		\$77
		Goal Area Subtotal:	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$77	\$1,423	5.1%		\$77
Quality and Access	Quality First Strategy	Strategy Subtotal:	\$46,625	\$46,148	\$34,316	\$11,832	68.1%		\$417
				-	-	-	0.0%		
	Quality First Scholarships Strategy	Strategy Subtotal:	\$102,580	\$102,580	\$102,580	-	100.0%	-	\$25,442

Valley of the Sun United Way	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$102,580	\$102,580	-	100.0%	-	\$25,442
	Goal Area Subtotal:	\$149,205	\$148,728	\$136,896	\$11,832	92.0%	-	\$25,859
	Overall Total:	\$303,873	\$303,395	\$222,183	\$81,212	73.2%	-	\$41,451

Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council

Goal Area	Strategy	Strategy Description	Total Funds Available	Service Provider (FTF Contractor)	Awarded Amount
Quality and Access			\$217,322		
	Quality First Scholarships	Provides scholarships to children to attend quality early care and education programs. Helps low-income families afford a better educational beginning for their children.		Valley of the Sun United Way	\$169,781
	Quality First Coaching & Incentives			Valley of the Sun United Way	\$40,966
	Quality First Child Care Health Consultation Warmline			University of Arizona Cooperative Extension	\$67
	Quality First Academy			Southwest Human Development	\$1,880
Health			\$53,994		
	Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	Provides health education focused on obesity prevention to children, families and early care and education professionals. Improves the health and safety of young children by providing community-based health education on a variety of topics including: healthy food choices and appropriate physical activity.		Colorado River Indian Tribes	\$49,054
	Child Care Health Consultation	Provides qualified health professionals who assist child care providers in achieving high standards related to health and safety for the children in their care. Improves the health and safety of children in a variety of child care settings.		Maricopa County Department of Public Health	\$106
				Pima County Health Department	\$192
			Yuma County Public Health Services District	\$4,334	
Family Support			\$106,500		
	Parent Outreach and Awareness	Provides families with education, materials and connections to resources and activities that promote healthy development and school readiness. Improves child development by educating parents and connecting them to resources and activities that promote healthy growth and school readiness.		Colorado River Indian Tribes	\$106,500



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In preparation for the Program Committee discussion on May 15th, and to inform the recommendations that the committee forwards to the Board, First Things First convened two significant groups of leaders and stakeholders to gather their feedback on FTF program considerations. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of FTF Regional Partnership Councils met on May 1, and a focus group of early childhood system partner organizations met on May 12. The comments from both meetings are summarized below, and the Policy and Program Committee member survey results are also attached.

Summary of Discussion from the Regional Council Chair and Vice Chair Leadership Forum May 1, 2014

The First Things First Regional Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs convened on May 1, 2014. The fiscal policy recommendations and the discussion topics for the Program Committee were reviewed with the Regional council leadership and the following questions were presented for table based discussion at the forum:

- 1) Starting with the fiscal policy recommendations, are there any questions about the recommendations: What they mean/their intent, anything to clarify?
- 2) Your Regional Council was presented this information at its last meeting, what questions/comments came up and was there feedback on the recommendations?
- 3) What are your concerns and challenges related to the fiscal policy recommendations?
- 4) Should the Board provide up-front guidance on how Regional Councils construct funding plans to align funded programming to available revenues?
 - a) Should number of strategies be limited?
 - b) Are there specific School Readiness Indicators that should be prioritized across FTF?
 - c) Should X% of funding have to be committed to the Board's signature QF strategy?
 - d) Should only X% of funding be committed to strategies for which other state agencies have primary or statutory responsibility?
- 5) 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? Example: 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 mil could be yielded).
- 6) 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?

Clarification was provided on how the \$126.6 program budget amount was determined; whether discretionary funding would be distributed differently; what the FY16 budget will look like in comparison to FY15; how will allocations be determined after FY16 and carry-forward handled; and, whether there will be a need for a future reset to address future accumulation of carry-forward.

The following is a summary of the comments, concerns and challenges identified by participants.

Comments Related to Financial Recommendations

- Fiscal policy recommendations make sense. It is good that all the regions are going through this at the same time. Overall a reasonable approach to sustain programs.
- Recommendations make sense. It is good that all the regions are going through this at the same time. Overall a reasonable approach to sustain programs.
- Would like to see a gradual reduction in dollars versus a reset in FY16. While the carry forward amount is decreasing, the decline is slow and could justify a slower/gradual reduction in allocations.
- Need to think about what is best for children, not just the bottom line. How is the current work advancing the system, and aligning with needs, and how are priorities being addressed? Discuss prioritized needs before discussing funding. Programs need to be examined for effectiveness of creating system change. We need to move the dial for kids, and think of the big picture, by talking to folks locally and making sure they know what's happening.
- Regional councils were asked to do long-term planning – thus funding has been carried forward to sustain programming through the next three-year funding cycle. The perception is that this planning, and thus regional council efforts, is irrelevant.
- Small regions may not be able to sustain at minimum one program strategy. Will the Board consider any exceptions for small or tribal regions?
- Concern that strategies/programs will not have adequate time to “scale down” with the current timeline.
- How can we continue to address other priority areas such as professional development and family support? How will we support the full vision of FTF, i.e. health, when funds continue to decrease?
- The reduction in the tobacco fund, and thus monies to fund programs, should be communicated and explained. The general public does not understand how FTF funds the work in communities. Too much carry-forward can be attractive to those outside of FTF, who may want to sweep funds to other state causes.
- Concern with public perception of the elimination of funding/programs in the community. There should be communication to all grant partners regarding the fiscal policy and impact. What kind of impact will this have on those relationships? Public relations will need careful attention.
- Would a 5 year planning cycle be more beneficial and provide more stability to grants? Consider making changes to the FTF calendar and when RFGA's are released, and approved by the Board as June decision for awards can be difficult for some grant partners with a July 1st start date.
- The evaluation strategy and funding level needs to be reviewed.
- Will Regional Councils be required or encouraged to supplement their funds with grants or other funding, and what mechanisms are in place to assist with this? Can we look at other taxes to support FTF, such as alcohol, or beer/wine? Can match, other funds or partnerships be added as part of our process, or included in the RFGA, even though it may preclude some entities from applying?

Comments Regarding Board Providing Guidance

- Regional Councils do not want rigid guidance from the Board, as the regions know their communities and should be able to plan accordingly. There is a difference between guidance and mandates. Regional Councils do not want mandates, but want the flexibility to meet regional needs. There should be autonomy at the regional level to address their specific needs and assets.

- Statewide data and information would help regions in their decision making process. Guidance should be the materials, statistics, and resources needed to make the decisions at a local level, not a mandated course of action from the Board.
- There is much difficulty for tribal regions to match up with the state mandates, and would prefer the freedom to design what works best in their communities.
- Decision making power should remain at the local council level. There would be concerns if the Board direction was to limit the decision making power of the local councils.

Comments Specific to Quality First

- QF is significant portion of the regional budgets. The high cost of Quality First prohibits funding in other areas. It takes up a significant portion of a region's allocation.
- The amount of funds being used for scholarships is a concern, when this is the role of state General Fund.
- Pulling out and reducing the number of programs in Quality First does not make sense but the cost is a concern.
- Supportive of QF, but there is a lack of communication on quality assurance, and its impact; is it effective? More communication on grant performance, implementation and challenges is needed for regional councils.
- Need to look at the length of time centers are in Quality First; need to bring new centers in; look at funding current enrolled programs at lower levels and move out of full participation to rating only.
- Quality First needs to be approached as a business partnership, and not as FTF being just the "funder".

Summary of Discussion from Early Childhood System Partner Focus Group on May 12, 2014

First Things First convened a group of representatives of early childhood system partner organizations on May 12, 2014. There were 18 participants in the meeting from 13 agencies and organizations, including community-based, advocacy, philanthropic, and higher education. Several of the participants represented organizations that receive FTF grant awards.

The group was briefed on the recommendations from the FTF Finance Committee to adjust the FTF program budget to \$126.6 million annually, a figure which is based on current revenues and will allow FTF to maintain program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9 – 15 years. The group then engaged in a discussion to consider the implications of these recommendations on FTF's programmatic direction and implementation. Specifically:

1. Should the FTF Board provide guidance to Regional Councils on how to align funded programming to available revenues (for example: identifying Board preferred priorities or requiring alignment to School Readiness Indicators)?
2. Because Quality First is the largest FTF financial investment, should FTF adjust the Quality First model, including Scholarships, to help reduce spending to align with available revenues?
3. What considerations should FTF have when communicating the Board's fiscal and programmatic direction to partners, grantees and the public?

Feedback from Group Conversation

Board Guidance for Regional Council Planning

- There were comments from the group that the FTF Board should provide parameters for Regional Council planning by identifying the most effective strategies and programs that contribute to school readiness, including those addressing health and development.
- The group expressed concern that FTF will not be able to show wide-scale impacts unless there is a focused investment on a narrower number of effective, priority programs that are brought to scale.
- There was strong support for the Board identifying a core group of priority strategies or programs that guide Regional Council planning. One comment suggested identifying a group of programs that Regional Councils are required to fund, and those that are optional to fund.
- Generally, the comments also emphasized the need for data showing which programs are most effective and don't duplicate services, and concern that without this data, Regional Councils may default to funding programs that provide more service for lower cost only because they have reduced funds.

"The investment of dollars is so diffuse. It is hard to describe the role of FTF and where we are moving the needle."

"The Board should provide guidance related to programs that lift school readiness."

"The health care system is rapidly changing and it is good to also prioritize moving the needle in health."

Quality First

- There was general agreement and recognition that reductions in both the number and dollar investment in Quality First Scholarships would adversely impact children's access to quality early learning settings.

"Reductions in scholarships may have a huge domino effect because fewer kids will be able to attend programs, and without the scholarship revenue base, more providers will close their program, resulting in even more kids without access to a program."

- Additionally, there was a general sentiment that a contraction in the total number of providers participating in quality improvement efforts could threaten progress on FTF's overall systems' building work.
- There was discussion around the idea that scholarships are not the whole story, and that the 10 SRIs provide a holistic picture of other important factors to consider in achieving school readiness.
- Comments also emphasized opportunities to be more targeted with scholarships, ensuring that scholarships are available in high-need areas first, then according to star level. The same comment was echoed related to Quality First enrollment, citing a need to prioritize enrolling providers in high-need areas.
- The group widely agreed that the Quality First model should be reviewed to identify cost efficiencies and how to enroll more providers to bring the initiative to scale while maintaining the high standards. They emphasized there needed to be adequate time for this process.

"We are not seeing enough low-income kids attending high quality programs."

"A review of FTF strategies needs to happen across the board, not just for Quality First."

Fiscal Policy Direction

- Generally, the feedback supported the fiscal direction recommended by the FTF Finance Committee, but there were a few comments about potentially reducing the length of time proposed for sustainability, suggesting that 5- 10 years (rather than 9-15 years) may be an adequate time horizon.
- Several participants suggested that reducing the sustainability timeline could result in less severe spending reductions over the next several years.

“A 5-10 year sustainability plan is more reasonable and still gives time to go after more resources in public-private partnerships.”

- There was additional discussion suggesting that 5 years as a “worst case scenario” was simply too short a time horizon for any meaningful sustainability plan.

“We all support a reliable, sustainable, and data-driven decision”

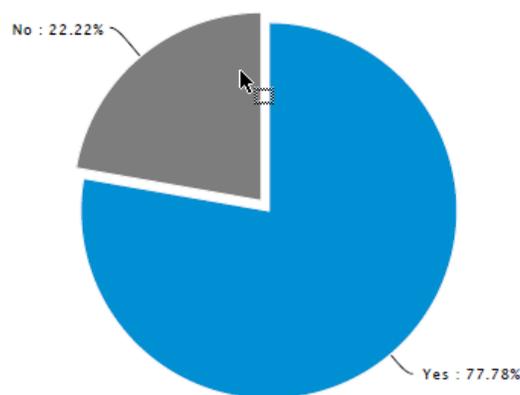
Communication to Stakeholders

- There was a general consensus that the best and clearest way to communicate with stakeholders on these issues is by explaining the overall tightening of financial resources – the steady reduction in tobacco revenue along with the spending down of “one-time” fund balance dollars.
- Additionally, the FTF Board’s long-term approach with predictable and sustainable budgeting was thought to be another point to highlight in communicating with stakeholders.
- Generally, participants expressed their appreciation for being invited to engage in this dialogue and encouraged follow up communication where appropriate.

Survey Results from Policy and Program Committee Members in May 2014

The survey was made available to all Policy and Program Committee members from May 1 to 12, 2014, and 16 members participated. The results for each question are graphed below, and any comments provided are listed. (We apologize for formatting errors that appear due to the transfer of online data into this document.)

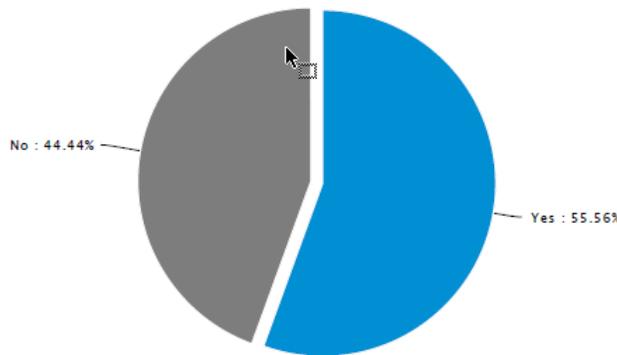
Q1-A: Should the Board provide parameters for how a Regional funding plan should be constructed?



- The Board should provide general guidelines.

- We need to organize the Council's ideas into a systems building effort. Letting all the flowers bloom is nice if you're doing a watercolor painting.
- I believe that parameters are likely warranted. It seems possible that regions may fund initiatives that lack sufficient evidence to be effective, or dilute their funding allocations among too many strategies to be effective at a state or regional level. However, I also believe that these parameters should be limited, and the regions should have some flexibility to address local needs and priorities.
- Parameter is defined as a limit that affects how something can be done.
- If the board sets the parameters then the need for regional input is limited. The idea is for regions to set their priorities.
- I think the Board needs to provide some parameters and ensure that funding is aligned to the goals and the strategies are evidence based

Q1-B: 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?

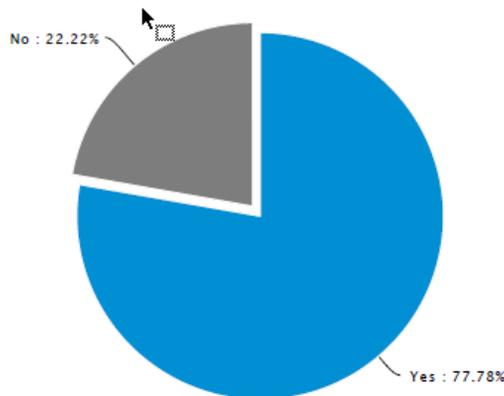


- Just that program funding should align with some pre-established parameters.
- I believe in building a system with certain common features, rules, etc.
- Again, I think that in order to effectively move the needle, some guidance from the Board on priorities or some directive on aligning funding to established school readiness indicators is necessary. I believe that the way that regional councils can maintain some flexibility to meet local needs is by giving them some discretion in identifying strategies to support to address those goals or indicators. For example, one region may want to address school readiness through early literacy efforts, while another region may address it through efforts through some other strategy.
- I believe Regions have different needs and it is the regional councils that understand what these needs are and the BEST way to address them. Should the board make suggestions, educate & inform the regional councils on the various ways they may want to address a certain issue...Absolutely. Guidance is fine...Requiring mandated funding for strategies that the Board

believes are important, with little regard for how the needs of the region are getting addressed, is concerning. I understand the need to prove to the state that our children are indeed advancing...but, a strategy that advances children in one region may force another region to use funds that are desperately needed for a different strategy. In the Board's efforts "to prove we are advancing children's education" to the state, we are losing the focus on the needs of the children in our region. What if one's region major problem is healthcare delivery and not Pre-K, what happens to their children's health, when they must fund Quality First with those funds. Perhaps the strategy should be that each region needs to prove to their own legislators that we are advancing children in our regions. The conversation regarding having us all on the same page is too soon. Let's put FTF. After all, if we lose this regional perspective, you do not need Regional Councils any longer.

- I believe it is fine for the board to share their priorities as long as the expectation isn't to have council fund their priorities if there isn't agreement. Guidance is often construed as direction. Again, if the board is going to dictate funding priorities and how regions spend money, eliminate the regional councils.
- No, I think this should be the responsibility of the council to make the case for the alignment.

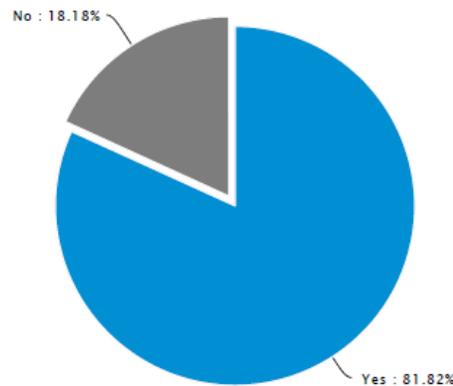
Q1-C: Should all regional councils be allowed to prioritize independent of each other, and/or Board priorities?



- Based on the unique needs of their region
- Again, need to prioritize for the region, but within established parameters.
- There should be specific things that each Council must address. Then x%(small amount) of a Council's budget may be used to address specific needs that may be prevalent and/or unique to a Region.
- I do believe that prioritization by local councils is important. Regions in this state are VASTLY different. A region that includes Scottsdale, for example, may find that quality early care and education is of paramount importance, while a region in a rural or low-income region may find childcare scholarships of utmost importance.

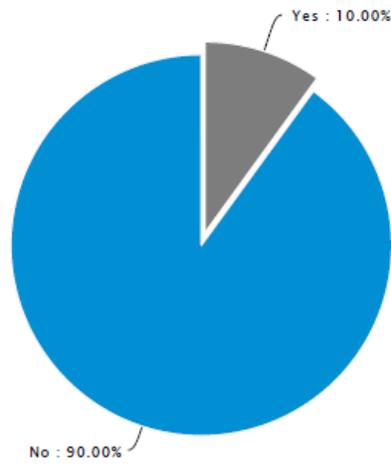
- The whole idea behind regional council was to allow each region to review their needs and assets and set priorities around those. Over time the State funded activities have taken a lion share of regional funding. If that continues than the need for local input is eliminated.
- Yes, but I think the board may need to reduce the priorities.

Q2-A: 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?



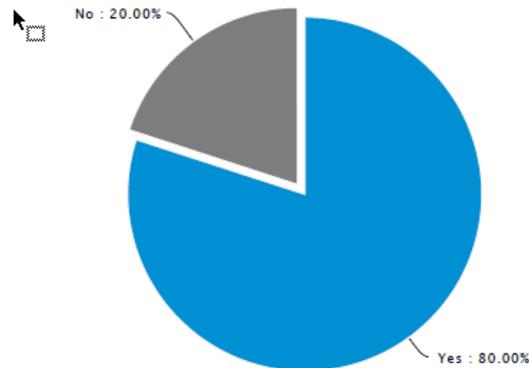
- There are ways other than reducing scholarships to reduce the cost of Quality First. Please talk to Regional Councils, FTF Partners, ACCA and others. Reducing scholarships before DES child care is better funded will destroy the system that FTF has built so carefully over time.
- QF is great for children, teachers, and AZ. However, it eats up a lot of a Council's dollars. Those Councils with low funding levels are limited in what they can fund after QF costs are subtracted from the budget.
- I am very concerned that we are building a "Cadillac model" for child care in a state where access to affordable child care is a major concern. Arizona is a low-income state. While we should never abandon the idea of making sure that all parents have access to quality child care, we also need to understand that affordability should not be overlooked.
- Sure, for the regions that request this. I am very concerned about the overall design for it impacts regions in different ways.
- The challenge with reducing scholarships is it harms families; not necessarily child care centers. Until the DES child care subsidy comes back into play it will be difficult for working families of lower incomes to provide their children with quality care without support. Instead of offering full scholarships to everyone, FTF could provide partial scholarships for families that or in the mid-low income and could afford to pay something each week for care; just not the full amount.
- I think that QF should look at the amount of supports given rather than the number of scholarships. I think the coaching model needs to be looked at and focus on building capacity.
- Yes, lower cost is a concern ...but NO funds should be spent on researching lower cost before funds are spent on researching the efficacy of the entire program. I believe, it is the overall design & policy that have negative issues. Cost, of course, is always an issue, but it is not the only issue with Quality First. I do not think the Quality First program is the answer to the state's "signature strategy."

Q2-B: Should X% of Regional funding have to be committed to the Board's signature Quality First strategy?



- By now Councils have data as to dollars allotted to QF/scholarships and what is actually used by the Region's centers/teachers. Unless there is a sliding scale according to each Council's overall budget allotment, a preset percentage across the board will not work well and result in some unhappy Councils.
- It is not clear to me that this should be a priority for every region. While I fully recognize that Quality First is a top priority for FTF and admire all of the work that has been done to implement this model in this state, I am concerned that Quality First does not necessarily reflect the priorities of families in some regions. For example, in some regions, friend and family care is the norm. I wonder if we aren't imposing a model of center-based care on families and regions that have other priorities.
- This is a yes and no answer. Today there really isn't enough evidence to demonstrate the strategy is having the impact FTF desires. Quality first has strong components to it and if every center could improve their overall quality of care our children will benefit. I am just not confident that FTF has the financial ability to sustain the programs long term.
- In some areas there may not be adequate number of programs to make this feasible.
- As a citizen and a FTF representative in my community, I have had numerous emails & one on one conversations with our local educators about "Quality First". I believe that the Councils should decide their region's pre-k strategy and what amount of regional programming is appropriate and affordable. There is a better way...

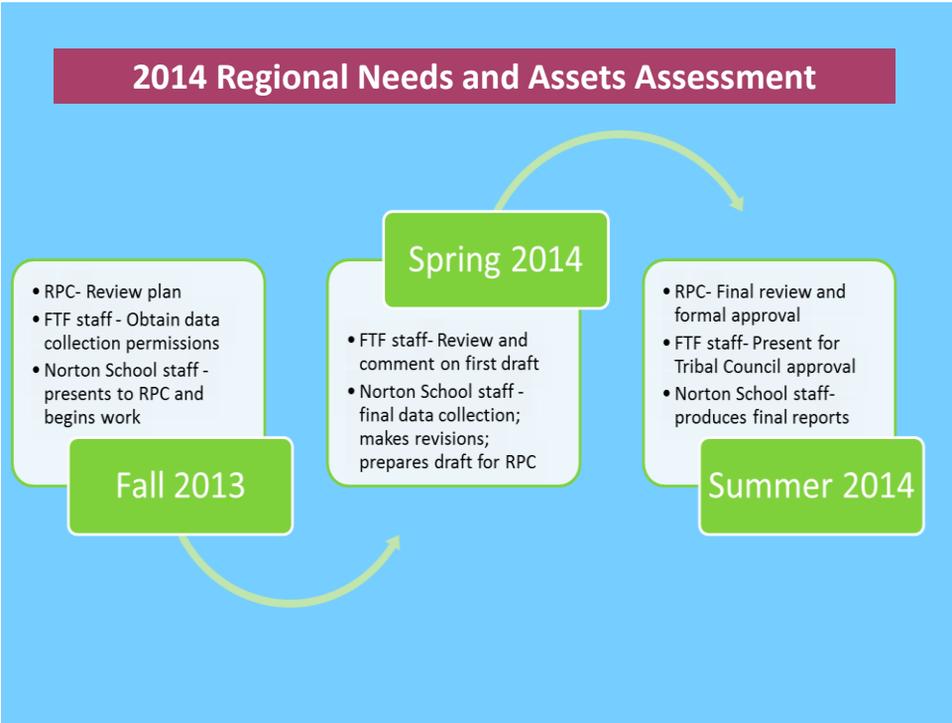
Q3: Are there other FTF program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered while still preserving the design and policy intent?



- Determine if another group is already funding the effort in an area.
- Child Care Health Consultation effectiveness in outlying and tribal areas, effectiveness of delivery.
- I would focus on QF and think about a step down model or a "Rating Emeritus" status. Talk to your partners they will have good ideas.
- Long-term, ongoing incentives to 4-5 star centers
- Medical Home projects duplicate funding that health plans receive from AHCCCS to coordinate complex cases. A better approach would be to work with AHCCCS to address issues that prevent providers from providing this service
- I believe it may be possible to cut back on some of the administrative expenses. I think that more consolidation of regions may make some sense. I also think it may be possible to streamline some of the processes. For example, while statute requires regional needs assessments to be done on a regular basis, it may be possible to do full reports every four or five years, with limited updates (to satisfy the law) in the interim. My impression is that FTF is a bit process heavy, and that there are opportunities to streamline in various areas, such as program compliance, the development of regional funding plans, strategic planning, etc.
- Always, FTF board should continue to review how funding is being spent and how it fits into the overall goals of FTF.
- TEACH AZ Look at connecting programs to reduce the number of grantees and cut administrative costs? Look at the community PD offered. Determine the level of quality and maybe focus that.
- Not that I know of...but I am speaking for one region only.



Strategic Planning
State Fiscal Years 2016 - 2018





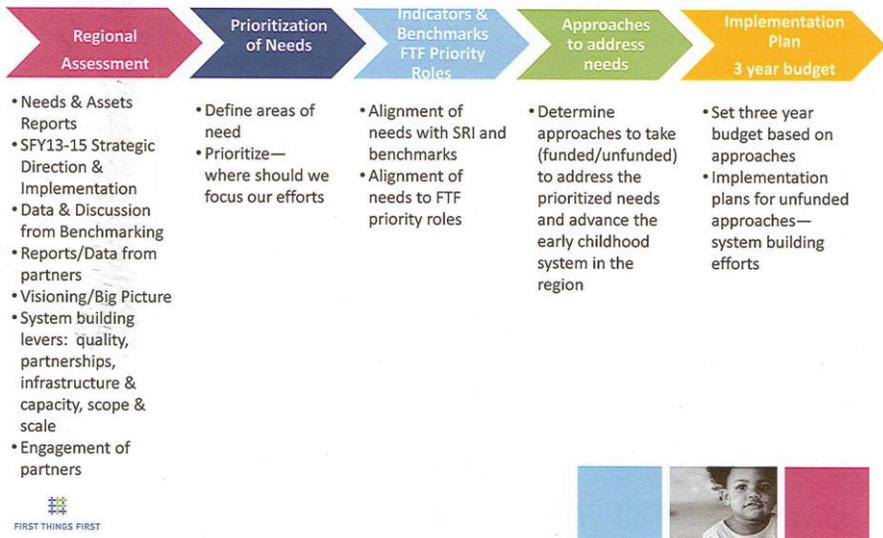
Strategic Planning

Fiscal Years 2016 – 2018 Timeline

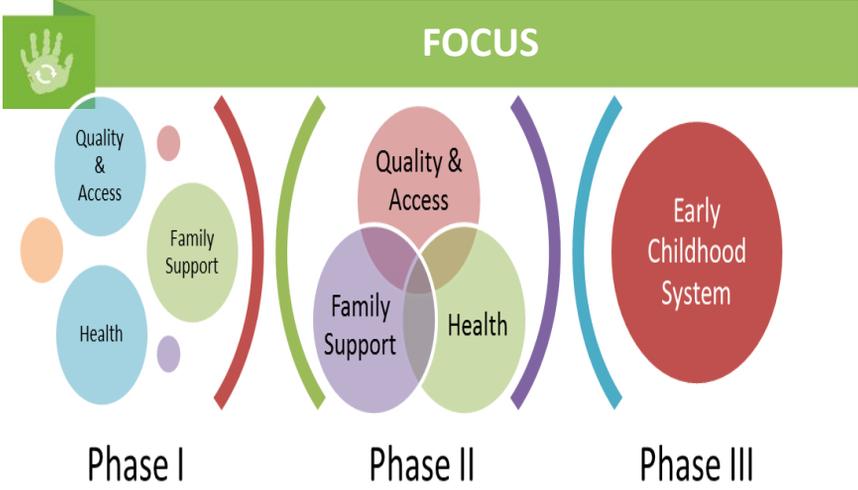
- Spring 2014- Develop Planning Outline for SFY2016-SFY2018
- Summer 2014- Begin SFY2015; Approve 2014 Needs and Assets
- Fall 2014- Strategic Planning
- Winter 2014- Plan Approvals
- Spring 2015- Award Grants
- Summer 2015- Begin Implementation of 3-year Strategic Direction



Strategic Planning Framework



 Priorities		
Regional Priority	School Readiness Indicators	SFY15 Strategies
-Limited access to high quality and affordable early childhood education -Limited knowledge and awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health -Limited access to parent education and information -Need for a more skilled and educated early childhood workforce	1. #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in all the development domains 7. #/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (BMI) 10. % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being	Quality First (including CCHC, QF Scholarships, TEACH) Additional QF Scholarships Nutrition/ Obesity/ Physical Activity Parent Outreach and Awareness Statewide Evaluation





La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

SFY 2015 Regional Funding Plan Overview

June 24, 2014



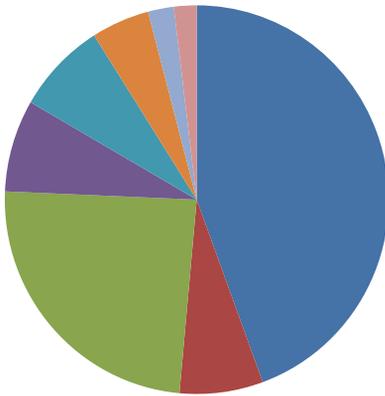
SFY 2015 Funded Strategies

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Strategy	Investment	Percent
Quality First Scholarships	\$2,315,821	44%
Quality First Package	\$366,524	7%
Home Visitation	\$1,264,006	24%
Court Teams	\$400,000	8%
Professional Development ECE	\$400,000	8%
Evaluation	\$255,216	5%
Community Outreach	\$113,000	2%
Kith and Kin	\$100,000	2%
TOTAL:	\$5,214,567	100%

SFY 2015 Funded Strategies

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council



- Quality First Scholarships
- Quality First Package
- Home Visitation
- Court Teams
- Professional Development ECE
- Evaluation
- Community Outreach
- Kith and Kin



Strategies Serving Tribal Communities

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

- **Community Outreach & Awareness**
- **Home Visitation**
- **Court Teams**
- **Professional Development**
- **Family, Friend and Neighbor (Kith and Kin)**



Questions?



THANK YOU!



FIRST THINGS FIRST

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Yuma Regional Director Update



May 2014

FIRST THINGS FIRST

System Building and Updates

System Building

- The process has STARTED: 2016-2018 funding plan
 - All Assets
 - 1:1 meetings**
 - Quarterly Reports
 - Needs and Assets
 - Resource Guide
 - Community Leadership and Focus
 - Town Hall Arizona
 - FTF (Local)
 - Work Group



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Strategic Planning for SFY16-18

Regional Priorities, Selected FTF Indicators and Priority Roles, and Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

Regional Priority to be addressed	School Readiness Indicators Correlated to the needs and priority roles	FTF Priority Roles in the Early Childhood System	SFY 2013-2015 Strategies
School Readiness – Limited pre-school opportunities, parents need education about preparing children for school	#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical	Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive and affordable early care and education programs.	Quality First (including CCHC, TEACH and Scholarships) Scholarship-non TEACH Inclusion of Children with Special Need Family Support—Children with Special Needs Recruitment Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (SFY13, SFY14)
Children w/Disabilities – lack of therapy services, early identification of special needs	#/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars	Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services – Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality care services (including oral health and mental health)and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families	Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals Oral Health Family, Friends and Neighbors Mental Health Consultation
Access to affordable Quality Child Care – High Unemployment/Poverty rates, more/Family, Friend and Neighbor Care	#/% of children receiving well child visits #/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)	Professional Development System – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.	Home Visitation Parent Outreach and Awareness Food Security Parent Education Community Based Training Expansion: Increase slots and/or capitol expense
Parent’s awareness of the needs of young children.	#/% of children age 5with untreated tooth decay % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child’s safety, health and well being	Supports and services for families – Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.	Reach Out and Read Needs and Assets (SFY14) Community Awareness Community Outreach Media Statewide Evaluation

 FIRST THINGS FIRST

Common Priorities

Goal: Yuma Children Ready To Succeed In Their Academic Career

Key Words/Phrases: School Readiness, Executive Function, Quality, Access, Professional Development, Collaboration, Early Literacy

Aligned to:

Regional Priority:

School Readiness – Limited pre-school opportunities, parents need education about preparing children for school

Access to affordable Quality Child Care – High Unemployment/ Poverty rates, more/Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

School Readiness Indicator:

#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical

#/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars

FTF Priority Roles:

Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive and affordable early care and education programs.

Professional Development System – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

 FIRST THINGS FIRST

Common Priorities

Goal: Healthy Children

Key Words/Phrases: BMI, Maternal Health, Oral Health, Health Insurance, Special Needs, Collaboration, Early Literacy

Aligned to:

Regional Priority:

**Children w/Disabilities – lack of therapy services, early identification of special needs
Parent's awareness of the needs of young children**

School Readiness Indicator:

#/% of children receiving well child visits

#/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)

#/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay

% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being

#/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars

FTF Priority Roles:

Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services – Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality care services (including oral health and mental health)and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families

Supports and services for families – Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

 FIRST THINGS FIRST

Common Priorities

Goal: Strong Families

Key Words/Phrases: Family Support, Resource Guide, Referral Form, Collaboration, Early Literacy

Aligned to:

Regional Priority:

Parent's awareness of the needs of young children

School Readiness – Limited pre-school opportunities, parents need education about preparing children for school

School Readiness Indicator:

% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being

FTF Priority Roles:

Supports and services for families – Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

 FIRST THINGS FIRST

Next Steps

- Starting our Strategic Planning Process
- Listen to our community, Include community voice into our strategic planning process.
- Needs and Assets, include the report in our strategic planning process.
- Wait for Allocation of Funds From State Board

Foundation: Collective Impact!



Review Strategic Planning

- **Key Components**
 - Imagined future: What does 2020 look like?
 - Our Vision (Big Picture)
 - Default Future (If we don't have a strategic plan)
 - Identify Assets
 - Build Goals
 - Identify Challenges
 - Create Actions



Ready for School. Set for Life.

** Questions?*

** Discussion*

** Suggestions/ Follow-Up*





FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

2014 MEETING DATES (AMENDED- DRAFT)

January 21-22, 2014 – FTF Staff presents FY2015 Funding Plan to Board

JANUARY 28, 2014

FEBRUARY 25, 2014

MARCH 25, 2014

APRIL 29, 2014

MAY - NO MEETING

JUNE 24, 2014

JULY - NO MEETING

July 30, 2014 – New Regional Council Member Orientation

AUGUST 5, 2014

August 18-19, 2014 – AZ Early Childhood Summit, Phoenix Convention Center

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 (the fourth Tuesday in September)

OCTOBER 28, 2014

NOVEMBER 25, 2014

DECEMBER – NO MEETING



Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council June 2014 Regional Director's Report

Executive Staff Update

- Sam Leyvas named the Chief Executive Officer of FTF. Chief Leyvas was the Interim CEO, and prior to that was the Vice President of External Affairs for FTF.
- FTF has posted the job announcement for the Senior Director of Tribal Affairs. Go to azstatejobs.gov.

Board Update

- On April 8, the Board asked the Program Committee to provide recommendations on how regional councils construct funding plans, possible adjustments to the Quality First model, and other program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered.
- After final discussion was held on June 16, the Policy and Program Committee recommends:
 - Regional Councils construct strategic funding plans based on an examination of available data to determine local needs; prioritization of needs that also align with the Regional Council's identified School Readiness Indicators; and, selection and development of evidence-based or evidence-informed funded and non-funded approaches that reflect system building to address those needs.
 - FTF separate Quality First improvement model costs from scholarship costs, provide no further guidance on number of regional scholarships funded, see no reduction to the number of providers and provide incentives to 3-5 star quality first sites with FTF staff to determine the exact amount of those incentives.
 - FTF continue to identify approaches that are evidence-based or evidence-informed; realize cost efficiencies; and, utilize data for continuous quality improvement of programs and strategies.
- Janice Decker will serve as Board Chair, and Dr. Pamela Powell will continue as Vice-Chair.

Regional Update

- Special thanks to Chair Homer and Vice-Chair Flores for serving on the Nominating Committee. The following new and reappointed Members will begin their terms July 1st: Members At-Large Amelia Flores and Vikki Olson, Business Representative Gloria Flores-Lopez, Philanthropic Representative Deniese Perez, Parent Representative Hanna Harper.
- The West Regional – Board Forum, held May 22nd, allowed for open dialogue with Board Members. Member Waggoner and Vice-Chair Flores represented the CRIT Regional Council.

Upcoming Events

July 1: Begin State Fiscal Year 2015

July 24: La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Meeting, 9:30am, La Paz County Boating Safety Center, 8484 Riverside Drive

July 30: New Regional Council Member Orientation, 10:00am-3:00pm, CRIT Family Activity Center

August 5: CRIT Regional Partnership Council Meeting, 10:00am, CRIT Family Activity Center

August 18-19: 2014 First Things First Early Childhood Summit, Phoenix Convention Center