



FIRST THINGS FIRST

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Yavapai Regional Partnership Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First - Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Yavapai County Education Services Agency, Training Room, 2970 Centerpointe E. Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86301.

Vice Chair Dr. Kathy Watson called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Members Present:

Dr. Kathy Watson, Vice Chair
Angela Bradshaw Napper
Ophelia Tewawina
Anne Babinsky
Morgan Dubs
Olga Morris (via telephone)
Patricia Bryant (via telephone)

Members Absent:

Sherry Birch, Chair
Juanita Setzer
Dr. James Howard
Dr. Paul Tighe

Conflict of Interest

Vice Chair Dr. Kathy Watson asked Council Members if there were conflicts of interest regarding items on this agenda. There were none at this time.

Call to the Public

No members of the community addressed a call to the public at this time.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Council Member Anne Babinsky made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council, as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Morgan Dubs and passed unanimously. Council Member Ophelia Tewawina made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2015 Executive Session Meeting of the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council, as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Anne Babinsky and passed unanimously.

The Council Members elected to move agenda item 5 to a later timeframe until Council Member Angela Bradshaw Napper arrived at the meeting.

FY2016 Grantee Renewals

Lisa Blyth, Regional Director, discussed the SFY2016 Grantee Renewal eligibility for Parenting Education. The council examined the grantee performance of Yavapai College's Raising a Reader. Yavapai College has a history of successfully implementing Raising a Reader. Beginning in SFY2015 the CSU changed from "participating adults" to "adults completing a series" which created some barriers to successfully meeting the CSU. The Yavapai RPC Regional Director met with the RAR Program Coordinator and Director in early 2015 to discuss barriers. In renewal application Yavapai College proposed an adjusted CSU. Review with FTF Program Specialists indicated adjusted CSU commensurate with implementation expectations. Staff recommended renewal. Council Member Morgan Dubs made a motion that grant #FTF-RC022-15-0488-00 with Yavapai College to provide Raising a Reader Parenting Education program in the Yavapai Region be renewed in the amount of \$47,500.00 for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2015; with an adjusted CSU of 300 adults completing a series. Regional Director, Lisa Blyth

noted a correction to the grant number. Council Member Morgan Dubs corrected the motion to acknowledge #FTF-RC022-15-0488-01. The motion was seconded by Council Member Patricia Bryant and passed unanimously. Council Member Angela Bradshaw Napper arrived at the meeting.

Recommendations on Request for Grant Application (RFGA) Awards – Court Teams RFGA (FTF-RC022-16-0542-00)

Vice Chair Dr. Kathy Watson called for a motion to move into Executive Session Pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (C), for the purposes of discussing confidential information regarding Court Teams Grant Awards.

Council Member Ophelia Tewawina made a motion that the Council move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing confidential information regarding the Court Teams Grant Awards. The motion was seconded by Council Member Anne Babinsky and passed unanimously. Council moved into Executive Session which started at 9:26 a.m. with the review of Court Teams grants.

Council Members and the Public returned to the Council Meeting after Executive Session. Council Member Anne Babinsky made a motion that the Executive Session be closed. Motion was seconded by Council Member Angela Bradshaw Napper and passed unanimously. Executive Session was closed at approximately 9:54 a.m.

Vice Chair Dr. Kathy Watson called for a motion in regard to the RFGA for Court Teams. Council Member Morgan Dubs made a motion that the Yavapai Regional Council accepts the recommendation of the review committee for Court Teams RFGA # (FTF-RC022-16-0542-00). The motion was seconded by Council Member Angela Bradshaw Napper and passed unanimously.

Presentation: How the Consulting and Coaching components of Quality First Work Together

Community Members Virginia Hout, Mental Health Consultant, with Southwest Human Development; Sara Komadina, Quality First Coach for Association for Supportive Child Care; Christina Montero, Child Care Health Consultant; and Sheila Dorsheimer, Director for Learning Castle Children's Center shared their experiences of working together in Quality First. Each presenter shared the components they address in working with the Center Director to ensure supportive quality early child care for the children at the center. Presenters provided information regarding some of the barriers in moving through the quality rating system. They also indicated how collaborative working relationships provide a strong support network for the Center Director who stated that her experience with Quality First has been very helpful to her, her staff and the young children at her center.

Community Outreach Report

Community Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Hernandez provided information about the June Regional Partnership Council in Black Canyon City which will consist of a site tour visit at Sonshine Learning Center and lunch at the Rock Springs Café. Community Outreach Coordinator announced Prescott Public Library Services Director, Martha Baden, as the Yavapai 2015 Champion for Young Children. Vice Chair Dr. Kathy Watson presented Martha Baden with an engraved commemorative plaque. Martha shared how she became an advocate for early learning and literacy. Martha has successfully demonstrated her commitment to serving the young children and families in the region and has generously supported and promoted the work of First Things First.

Quality Assurance Site Visit Report

Lisa Blyth, Regional Director provided information pertaining to the Quality Assurance Site Visit Assessment for Child Care Health Consultation program and REWARD\$. Child Care Health Consultants are knowledgeable and supportive of all their sites; management interpretation of the SOP and SOW was lacking in some areas but the team was very responsive to feedback and has made appropriate changes. With regard to REWARD\$ statewide initiative assessment, Lisa Blyth, Regional Director shared that the allotted financial incentives are being distributed in their entirety; the grantee has been requested to tighten their documentation and procedures around distribution of REWARD\$.

Regional Director's Report

Lisa Blyth, Regional Director provided information on the Yavapai Apache Nation partnership. Jennifer tabled at the Earth Day event. Coconino Outreach Coordinator Cynthia Pardo tabled at the Prevent Child Abuse Event and Regional Director Lisa Blyth and Senior Director for Tribal Affairs Candida Hunter will be presenting to the Tribal Council on May 28, 2015. The Verde Valley Calendar meeting on May 5, 2015 focused on next steps for expanding agency participation and development of the Calendar Committee. Quality First Scholarship notification letters were sent on May 1, 2015. Quality First Scholarships for SFY2016 have been issued slots according to star rating and scholarship usage. Regional Director Lisa Blyth provided a list of FTF community related meetings that staff have attended during April and May.

Announcements & Future Agenda Item Reports

Vice Chair Dr. Kathy Watson provided information about the Chair and Vice Chair meeting which occurred Friday, April 24, 2015 in Phoenix which included CEO, Sam Leyvas providing agency updates. Senior Director of Government Affairs Ben Altenender shared legislative information and the shared opportunities to speak to Chairs and Vice Chairs throughout the State. The afternoon portion of the meeting focused on leadership and learning opportunities for Council Members. The Smart Start Conference Update was tabled until the next Yavapai Regional Partnership Council Meeting in June.

Next Meeting

The next Regular meeting will be held on June 24, 2015 in Black Canyon City.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Council Member Anne Babinsky moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Morgan Dubs and passed unanimously. Vice Chair, Dr. Kathy Watson adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:58 a.m.

Telephone Procedures

The Board Room telephone was used for members participating by telephone. Members on the telephone were identified when they spoke for the benefit of those physically present at the meeting.

Sherry Birch, Chair

SFY2016 Yavapai Home Visitation Transitions

SFY2015 FTF Funding for Home Visitation = \$806,020 (Awarded, does not include MIECHV)

- Nurse Family Partnership: \$255,000
- Parents as Teachers: \$273,752
- Healthy Families: \$277,268
- MIECHV Healthy Families: \$249,841

SFY2016 FTF Funding for Home Visitation = \$270,000 (Allotted, does not include MIECHV)

- Parents as Teachers: \$270,000
- MIECHV Healthy Families : \$256, 478

SFY2015 GRANTEES FOR HOME VISITATION IN THE YAVAPAI REGION:

GRANTEE	PROGRAM	SERVICE AREA	CSU's
Yavapai County Community Health Services	Nurse Family Partnership	Yavapai County	50
Family Resource Center at Yavapai Regional Medical Center	Healthy Families	West Yavapai	70
Arizona Children's Association	Parents As Teachers	Region wide	80
Verde Valley Medical Center	Healthy Families (MIECHV)	East Yavapai	40
			240

SFY2016 GRANTEES FOR HOME VISITATION IN THE YAVAPAI REGION:

GRANTEE	PROGRAM	SERVICE AREA	CSU's
Arizona Children's Association	Parents As Teachers	Region wide	70
Verde Valley Medical Center	Healthy Families (MIECHV)	East Yavapai	40
			110

NON-FTF FUNDED HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS IN YAVAPAI: *descriptions following

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	SERVICE AREA
NACOG	Early Head Start	Region wide
Family Resource Center at Yavapai Regional Medical Center	First Steps	West Yavapai
	Healthy Families (DES)	
Yavapai County Community Health Services	NICP	Yavapai County
	OCSHCN	
	Health Start	

Early Head Start: Region wide

- Provides early, individualized child development and parent education services to low-income families with infants and toddlers according to a plan developed jointly by the parents and staff
- Provides these services through an appropriate mix of home visits and experiences at the Early Head Start center
- Provides early opportunities for infants and toddlers with and without disabilities to grow and develop together in nurturing and inclusive settings
- Ensures that the Early Head Start program is supportive and nurturing to families
- Responds to the needs of families, including, where appropriate, the need for child care while families attend school or work
- Connects with other service providers at the local level to ensure that a comprehensive array of health, nutrition, and other services is provided to the program's pregnant women, very young children, and their families
- Recruits, trains, and supervises high quality staff, ensuring the kind of warm and continuous relationships between caregivers and children that are crucial to learning and development for infants and toddlers
- Ensures parent involvement in policy and decision making
- Coordinates with local Head Start and other child development programs in order to ensure continuity of services for these children and families

Yavapai Regional Medical Center – Family Resource Center West Yavapai**First Steps**

New moms and dads taking their first steps into parenthood have the support of First Steps experienced staff and highly trained volunteers. While in YRMC's Family Birthing Center, they receive a visit – and a gift bag*, from a First Steps representative which includes printed materials about Healthy Families, an immunization consent form from YCCHS, a new book, a developmental calendar, and various fliers on healthy child development. During the first months of parenting, First Steps families receive caring support and a wealth of parenting information, including:

- An “Our New Baby” calendar that features infant growth and developmental milestones.
- Follow-up phone calls to answer parenting questions.
- Parenting materials covering a wide variety of health topics, such as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and infant/childhood immunizations.
- Recommendations for valuable community resources.

*Arizona Parenting Kits are distributed to new parents through the hospital's birthing center.

Healthy Families – DES contract

Parents that participate in Healthy Families receive free home visits from highly trained, caring and knowledgeable family support specialists. Visits can begin during pregnancy or up until the baby is three months old. Once a part of Healthy Families, a family can participate for up to five years. Healthy Families offers:

- Information on how to ensure a healthy pregnancy, create a loving bond with baby and provide a stimulating as well as safe home environment.
- Ongoing individualized development screening.
- Guidance on how to resolve stressful situations as well as encourage positive relationships and interactions among family members.
- Connections to medical providers and community resources.
- Fun family activities year round.

Yavapai County Community Health Services Region wide**NICP – Newborn Intensive Care Program**

NICP provides home based follow-up to infants who spent at least 5 days in an Intensive Care Nursery setting immediately after birth. Specially trained, experienced Registered Nurses monitor the health and development of these high risk babies. The nurse provides support to families during the move from hospital to home. The RN looks at the health, development and well-being of the baby. They can help answer parents' questions about nutrition and will show parents activities that promote normal development. The nurses help families with high-risk infants connect to other resources including AHCCCS, WIC and other family services.

Parents enroll in NICP while their baby is still in the hospital, following birth. Special arrangements can be made for a nurse to follow those babies who were born out of state and then moved to Arizona or for those who were re-hospitalized after going home following birth.

OCSHCN (Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs)

This is a partner program to NICP. If a baby doesn't qualify for NICP – maybe they didn't need hospitalization right after birth but got really sick later or maybe they didn't meet the 5-day NICU requirement - these families can still get home visits by the same nurses who will provide education, support, referrals, help with communication with physician and others. Older kids with health problems can also qualify for this program.

For both NICP and OCSHCN the age cap for participation is 18 years, although families rarely stay formally enrolled that long. The nurse stays involved until the necessary services are in place and it's usually the school district that becomes responsible for delivering needed services. The family might still call periodically with questions for the nurse.

HEALTH START

Health Start helps women and teens who are pregnant or who have a child under the age of two (this is an age based discharge criteria). If the mother becomes pregnant again, she can re-enroll with the new baby and the older child will be served also. Trained, experienced women (Community Health Workers) who are all mothers themselves, help answer questions about pregnancy and taking care of babies. They help parents find a doctor. The Community Health Workers help parents fill out forms and help make appointments for AHCCCS, WIC and other family services. The Community Health Workers help mothers get ready for labor and delivery. They visit in the home during the pregnancy and after the baby is born to help the mother, baby and other family members to become and stay healthy. When disenrollment age is close and it is determined that the child is still in need of services, the CHW's refer the family to Parents as Teachers and Early Head Start.

QUALITY FIRST

 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**



WHAT IS QUALITY FIRST?

WHAT IS QUALITY FIRST?



Arizona's quality improvement and rating system.

- Identify quality standards
- Assess early care and education programs
- Support programs in increasing quality standards
- Empower families

QUALITY FIRST PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

- Applications submitted
 - Programs selected based on regional openings every five weeks
 - Programs are notified of selection
 - Initial contact and welcome by Coach
 - Initial assessment by Assessor
 - Enrollment begins
- 

COMPONENTS OF QUALITY FIRST:

1. COACHING
2. ASSESSMENT
3. INCENTIVES
4. CONSULTING TEAM
5. PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



STAR RATING SCALE



STAR RATINGS

RISING STAR



Committed to quality improvement

PROGRESSING STAR



Approaching quality standards

QUALITY



Meets quality standards

QUALITY PLUS



Exceeds quality standards

HIGHEST QUALITY



Far exceeds quality standards

ERS Average Program Score 1.0 – 1.99	ERS Average Program Score 2.0 – 2.99	ERS Average Program Score 3.0 – 3.99 <i>No classroom score below 2.5</i>	ERS Average Program Score 4.0 – 4.99 <i>No classroom score below 3.0</i>	ERS Average Program Score 5.0 and above <i>No classroom score below 3.0</i>
CLASS™ Average Program Score N/A	CLASS™ Average Program Score N/A	CLASS™ Average Program Score (ES 4.5) (CO 4.5) (IS 2.0)	CLASS™ Average Program Score (ES 5.0) (CO 5.0) (IS 2.5)	CLASS™ Average Program Score (ES 6.0) (CO 6.0) (IS 3.0)
Quality First Points Scale N/A	Quality First Points Scale N/A	Quality First Points Scale <i>6-point minimum</i> (SQ 2) (AP 2) (CA 2)	Quality First Points Scale <i>10-point minimum</i> (SQ 2) (AP 2) (CA 2)	Quality First Points Scale <i>12-point minimum</i> (SQ 4) (AP 4) (CA 4)

ERS = Environment Rating Scales
ECERS: Early Childhood Environment
ITERS: Infant/Toddler Environment
FCCERS: Family Child Care Environment

CLASS™ = Classroom Assessment Scoring System™
ES: Emotional Support Domain
CO: Classroom Organization Domain
IS: Instructional Support Domain

Quality First Points Scale
SQ: Staff Qualifications
AP: Administrative Practices
CA: Curriculum and Assessment

CURRENT PARTICIPATION

Statewide

944 programs with star ratings

1 Star – 16 (2%)

2 Star – 440 (47%)

3 Star – 315 (33%)

4 Star – 136 (14%)

5 Star – 37 (4%)

Yavapai

36 programs with star ratings

1 Star – 1 (2%)

2 Star – 15 (42%)

3 Star – 14 (39%)

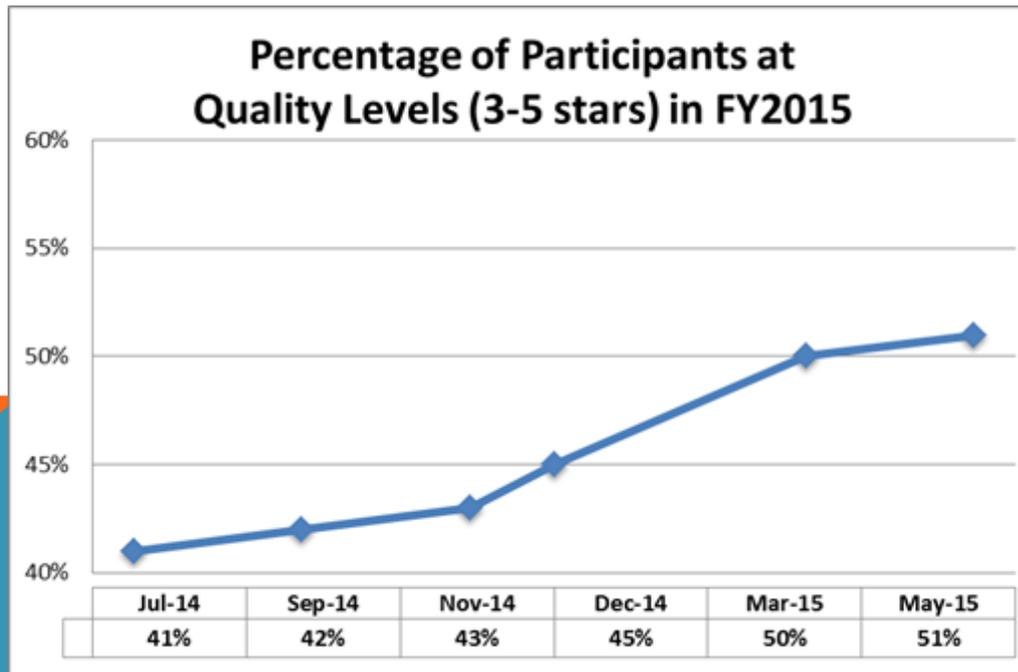
4 Star – 6 (17%)

5 Star – 0 (0%)

37 QF slots funded in Yavapai; 33 centers, 4 homes; 1 unfilled Rating Only slot; 1341 children being served

STAR LEVEL PROGRESSION

March 2015	May 2015	% Change
Participants: 965	Participants: 960	-0.5%
Children: 50,833	Children: 51,199	+0.7%
Waitlist: 331	Waitlist: 337	+1.8%
Ratings (945 Participants):	Ratings (949 Participants):	
1 Star: 16	1 Star: 18	+12.5%
2 Star: 460	2 Star: 449	-2.4%
3 Star: 308	3 Star: 315	+2.3%
4 Star: 127	4 Star: 128	+0.8%
5 Star: 34	5 Star: 39	+14.7%



QUALITY FIRST ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE

Purpose

The Quality First Advisory Sub-Committee will provide input and recommendations to the First Things First Board's Policy and Program Committee regarding continuous improvement of the Quality First program.

Objectives

The objectives of the Quality First Advisory Sub-Committee are to:

- Engage in a visioning process and agree on the strategic direction for and expected outcomes of the Quality First Initiative;
- Utilize data to develop recommendations on how to continuously improve Quality First components, standards and implementation;
- Examine overall costs of the Quality First model and program participation;
- Provide input on how to increase integration and coordination of the Quality First initiative in the comprehensive early childhood system.
- Make recommendations for strategy, model and/or policy changes to enhance participation in Quality First and contribute to the system goal of reaching statewide scale.

QUALITY FIRST VALIDATION STUDY

The Phase One study goals are:

Goal One: To review the conceptual framework and program design of Quality First and recommend refinements in the program theory and logic model as needed. (The current Quality First logic model will be provided to the contractor.)

Goal Two: To review the Quality First data system and related databases to determine if the existing data elements and infrastructure supports effective program management, program evaluation, and quality improvement of the QRIS.

Goal Three: To validate the Quality First Rating Scale (1 to 5 stars) and assess whether the five tiers of the scale represent differential levels of quality.



THANK YOU!



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Leslie Totten

Quality First Program Director

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Take action in support of Arizona's young children.

QUALITY FIRST

 FIRST THINGS FIRST



UPDATES

- A. Yavapai-Apache Nation partnership
 - 1. Lisa and Candida Hunter, Senior Director for tribal affairs presented to Tribal Council on 5.27.15
 - 2. Yavapai and Apache Culture Center Visit 6.9.15
 - 3. Gathering of the Pai Festival 6.12.15
- B. FTF Work Groups
 - 1. SOP revisions
 - Parenting Education
 - Home Visitation
 - 2. Health Strategy Implementation Group
 - 3. Data Portal Sub-Committee
- C. Unfunded strategies- summer hiatus
- D. Quality First Regional Provider Training


FTF and COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- A. Prescott Networking 5.29.15
- B. Tribal Early Childhood Workgroup 6.2.15
- C. Home Visitation Transition 6.3.15
- D. Tribal Technical Advisory Group 6.3.15
- E. Quality First Provider Training 6.9.15
- F. DCS Tribal Consultation 6.19.15

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This section will provide updated information about events or topics taking place between the posting of the meeting notice and the Regional Partnership Council meeting.