

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD SOUTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Regular meeting of the First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on August 16, 2011 at the Cartwright Elementary School District located at 3401 North 67th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85033. Chair Robert Donofrio called the regular meeting to order at 4:46 pm.

Council Members in Attendance: Robert Donofrio, At Large Member and Chair; James Washington, Business Member and Vice Chair; Riann Balch, Child Care Provider Jasmine Sanchez, Parent Member; Kristi Langley-Wells, School Administrator Member; Dr. Patricia Merk, Educator Member; Dr. Eva Marie Shivers, At Large Member; Jennifer Quillin, At Large Member.

Member in Attendance by Phone: N/A

Members Not in Attendance: N/A

Quorum: Established.

Staff in Attendance: Jonathon Gonzales, Regional Director; Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant; Tracey Craig, Senior Director.

Chair Donofrio thanked the Cartwright Elementary School District for holding the regular meeting at their location.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Included in an email prior to the meeting and in hard copy at the meeting were the regular meeting minutes of June 21, 2011.

Motion: Dr. Patricia Merk moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 21, 2011, second by Dr. Eva Marie Shivers, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

3. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** Bruce Liggett. Arizona Child Care Association: Presented to the Council an update on State of Arizona cuts to child care.

4. **CHAIR/VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS:** According to section 1-108 Council Officers and Their Duties of the Governance Policy, at the first regular meeting following May 1 of each fiscal year beginning in 2008, the Council shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among the appointed members to serve for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, who shall hold office for twelve months and until successors are duly elected. The election shall be by ballot. At the last meeting held on June 21, 2011, the Council lost quorum and was unable to vote on the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Included in Council packets was section 1-108 Council Officers and Their Duties of the Governance Policy and a voting ballot that named James Washington as the Chair and Robert Donofrio as the Vice Chair. Chair Donofrio indicated that he would like to step down as the Chair and asked the Council if anyone else was interested in the two positions available. Dr. Patricia Merk advised that she was interested in the Vice Chair Position as a write-in. The Council chose their selections on the ballots and the results are as follows:

James Washington as Chair

Dr. Patricia Merk as Vice Chair

Director Gonzales advised that Dr. Donofrio will chair the remainder of this meeting and James and Patty will assume their position as Chair and Vice Chair effective the next scheduled meeting.

5. FAMILY FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE: Regional Director Jonathon Gonzales provided the Council with a brief update. The South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council has had success in partnering with Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) in sharing T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships and have tried hard to foster relationships with GRIC with success in the increase of Family Friends and Neighbor allotment for Kith and Kin in South Phoenix and part of that expansion was to include some partnership work in districts six and seven in the Gila River Indian Community. Throughout the summer, GRIC Regional Director Cathy Thornton was very vigorous in working through Tribal Council to pass resolutions to allow work to happen in District six and seven through South Phoenix grantee Association for Supportive Child Care. Jonathon and Sarah Ocampo did a presentation on the Kith and Kin project in the Laveen zip code area 85339 to the GRIC Council. South Phoenix will expand the Kith and Kin investment in the Region and GRIC would like to expand Kith and Kin services into the Indian Reservation beyond districts 6 & 7. Gila River Indian Community has proposed and approved to work with the South Phoenix grantee Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC) and will provide fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for South Phoenix to serve as a pass through by opening up Kith and Kin contract number FTF-MULTI-10-0192-03 to Gila River Indian Community and expand services beyond their districts 6 & 7 further South near Sacaton. ASCC is excited to expand their work into the Gila River Indian Community. Jonathon advised the Council that the vote for their consideration is located in their packet.

Motion: Dr. Eva Marie Shivers declared conflict. Member Kristi Langley-Wells moved to amend Contract number FTF-MULTI-10-0192-03 between the First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council and the Association for Supportive Childcare, Family Friend & Neighbor program to expand Family Friend and Neighbor Services as defined herein, to the children of Gila River Indian Community in districts 1-7. This expansion shall be funded solely by Gila River Indian Community funding in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) and provide up to forty (40) caregivers the opportunity to participate in the Family Friend and Neighbor program effective October 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, second by Vice Chair Merk, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried with Dr. Shivers abstaining from the vote.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Regional Partnership Boundaries: Regional Director Jonathon Gonzales reminded the Council of the boundary discussion that takes place every few years and that the South Phoenix obtained zip code 85042 a few years back. Based on questions coming up for this coming year related to boundary discussions, several council members from the Southwest Maricopa Council expressed concerns around the delivery of services and other challenges that may be in place for families in zip code 85037 which is the farthest West zip code for South Phoenix. Chair Washington participated in a discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Southwest Maricopa Council and Michelle Walsh from the University of Arizona – the consultant who performed the regional boundaries assessment. Ms. Walsh provided some cross walk documentation that showed some of the alignment in terms of strategies and where there were some differences in strategies and areas that are funded by the two Councils. The outcome of the meeting was that there is a lot of capacity that needs to be built up to have the transition of zip code 85037 to Southwest Maricopa. Based on the dollar amount that would go with the transfer, there may not be enough dollars to meet the same level of services that are currently being provided through the South Phoenix Council. The addition of zip code 85037 to Southwest Maricopa would provide an additional \$600,000.00 (estimated) to their budget from South Phoenix.

Chair Washington at the meeting between the two Councils brought up a good point of that if the shoe were on the other foot and Southwest Maricopa had 15 million dollars of course they could probably build similar strategies and things may look very different.

Member Donofrio weighed in at the pre-briefing meeting of possibly splitting the difference of the zip code where South Phoenix would continue to cover basic statewide or larger strategies such as Pre-K Expansion, Quality First, and some of the other programs where the costs were high in zip code 85037 due to the increased costs associated with Quality First.

Jonathon advised that there are currently six centers and four homes in that Region which would be approximately \$300,000.00 to fund. There is a grantee that has a Family Resource Center in that Region which would be an additional \$150,000.00 – those two together is over half of what Southwest Maricopa would receive with the transfer of zip code 85037. There is also Pre-natal Outreach at Banner Estrella, Nurse Family Partnership investment (which Southwest Maricopa does not have and there are a number of strategies that South Phoenix offers for a comprehensive approach that Southwest Maricopa does not. Jonathon explained that South Phoenix and Southwest Maricopa are committed to find a way to

transition zip code 85339 to ensure that there is some infrastructure and capacity built in. There are a lot of resources on the west side that can be utilized.

Director Gonzales advised that a task force will be developed in line with the State task force and will look at boundary issues, the number of Councils within Maricopa County, and some of the challenges within Maricopa County to coordinate services. The transition of zip code will not happen this year but within the next cycle assuming that the boundary decision stays the same.

Vice Chair Merk questioned what the case is with 85037 of why change the boundary. Patty expressed that it was pretty cut and dry when South Phoenix obtained zip code 85042. Director Gonzales informed Dr. Merk that it is an identity issue where 85037 falls within West Phoenix. It is not Maryvale and it is not South Phoenix.

Member Kristi Langley-Wells expressed that a lot of the parents in the Maryvale area and Southwest Phoenix area are going to Banner Estrella and receiving services. If zip code 85037 moves to Southwest Maricopa, how would we continue to service the families that remain in our zip code that are utilizing that hospital? Jonathon advised that the conversation needs to be promoted in the next year and a half around this question. If the hospital can show that families are coming from other zip codes then South Phoenix can justify the continuation of providing services in the Banner Estrella hospital. Jonathon advised that the Council would do a crosswalk in the next few years to look at current services and work with those partners that are delivering services.

Vice Chair Merk requested how the transition would occur when another three year grant cycle is coming up in the spring. Dr. Merk feels that this may come in the middle of an agency delivering services if this is going to happen in the next two years. Director Gonzales advised that this is one of the topics that was discussed by Southwest Maricopa and will continue to be a conversation in the next few years around boundary changes, the number of Regional Councils, and regional collaboration.

Quality First Program Changes: Director Gonzales informed the Council that under the new Quality First model as part of the package, each licensed center and home will be receiving X number of scholarships (varied) per center and at a sliding rate. If you are a one star or a rising star, you will receive 80% of the Department of Economic Security (D.E.S.) market rate. Every center will get 6.33 scholarships at the 80% rate. For one star Homes would receive 1.33 scholarships. Part of the package costs will now include scholarships for every child care center enrolled in Quality First. As the centers and homes move up in their rating, they will receive an incentive or a higher percentage of the D.E.S. market rate. The average cost for a group home or in-home provider has been averaged out to about \$20,000.00. The average cost of a center because of scholarships has increased to roughly \$60,000.00. Last year the Council estimated the cost to be around \$35,000.00. To invest at the current level of homes and centers the South Phoenix has (approximately 50 centers and 33 homes) maintaining the slots next year would be an increase of approximately \$635,000.00 which would leave a \$600,000.00 deficit for that strategy line. The Council would need to increase the allotment to that strategy by \$600,000.00 in order to maintain current level of centers and homes. In the three year projection that the Council did, they already anticipated increasing and building capacity for those centers and homes on the waitlist increasing Quality First by roughly a million dollars to get centers and homes off the waitlist. The Council in the next few months of planning will need to determine what is sustainable and what the Council can afford to maintain ramping up and building the capacity of those on the waitlist. In addition, the State will no longer have State-wide funded slots. If the Council wants to pick up those five or six centers and a few homes and continue supporting them through Quality First, the total package of Quality First will be approximately a \$4,085,000.00 investment which does not include increasing the capacity for those on the waitlist. If the Council wants to increase the capacity of those on the waitlist, it will be an additional 1-2 million dollars. First Things First is trying to transition away from Child Care Tuition Scholarships above and beyond Quality First settings. It has been found that providing incentives is a way to get and maintain centers and homes in to the Quality First program. First Things First also came up with the average of scholarships so the Child Care Centers and Homes would not become dependent on First Things First dollars to sustain their Centers.

Director Gonzales advised that Quality First includes T.E.A.C.H., Child Care Health Consultation and Child Care Scholarships. Changes to Quality First include: Child Care Health Consultants will be standard as part of the model as it is now but some of the components will be shifted to the coaches to do some of the training that was done by the Child Care Health Consultants. Coaches will be trained on a mental health module which will show them how to coach teachers to better assess behavioral issues related to social/emotional development and when they should refer out to another resource.

Dr. Eva Marie Shivers questioned the increase in costs for Quality First in addition to scholarships. Jonathon advised that the Council will see more true costs for Child Care Health Consultation at the September meeting and that the majority of cost increases are associated with scholarships.

Vice Chair Merk questioned if South Phoenix will continue to fund Child Care Health Consultation outside of Quality First and if so will it be the light version that will be attached to Quality First or the full version that the Council is currently funding.

Maricopa County Coordination and Collaboration: Director Gonzales provided a brief overview of the background sheet provided in Council packets. Jonathon would like the Council to look through the summary provided and review the recommendations and email what the top two of seven would be important to each Council Member before the next Council meeting on 9/20/2011.

Review and Discussion of First Things First Indicators: Director Gonzales apologized for not being able to share the power-point in Council packets due to the room change. Jonathon would like for the Council to review the pdf file that was sent to the Council prior to the next meeting. The indicators will be discussed at the summit in detail and voted on by the State Board. Program committees were assigned by the Board which some of the Council Members are part of. Each of the program areas voted on a set of indicators. Those indicators were then brought to the program level of the State Board, prioritized and voted on again. The end result is what was provided in Council packets and is the strategic direction for the implementation and timeline related to what will be called school readiness indicators. First Things First will be looking at the approved indicators to see how things line up for the planning process in order to develop and set benchmarks in 2013 and planning for 2014 to ensure the alignment with indicators and benchmarks are tied to the funding plan. School readiness indicators are labeled 1-12 in the packet provided to the Council. The program committee just chose 10 of the 12 with the help of members of leadership, staff, and the policy team. The top 10 indicators will set the overall strategic direction of First Things First. Director Gonzales provided key points to the Council from the power-point. At a minimum, Councils should choose 3 school readiness indicators but should also have a maximum number.

Break: Vice Chair Merk moved to take a five minute break, second by Dr. Shivers, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

The meeting was called back to order by Robert Donofrio.

Review and Discussion of Data Reports and Data Narratives: Provided in the June meeting packet were the data narrative reports for the Council to review. Provided in the packet for today were the new data reports from evaluation. Director Gonzales would like the Council to review the reports and email him with any questions or concerns.

Evaluation, Studies, Needs and Assets Update: Director Gonzales sent an email out with updated information – he is currently working with the chosen vendor Applied Survey Research for additional work and will provide the Council with a summary. Dr. Shivers is working on the community based survey that will go out.

Welcome: Director Gonzales welcomed the newest Member of the South Phoenix Council, Jennifer Quillin who has filled the At Large position vacated by Dr. Ida Rose Florez who took a position with First Things First.

7. CURRENT, PROJECTED, AND UN-EXPENDED FUNDING: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE: There is a new model of how Councils are supported by finance. As a result, South Phoenix has been assigned Lindsay Kaid and Kathy Rice from Finance to

take the place of Dana Browning. Lead Fiscal Specialist Kathy Rice highlighted for the Council the line items with unexpended dollars and explained that her estimates are a ballpark. Looking at FY2012 of what is awarded and un-awarded and looking at the total carry forward this will be an extra pot of money to drop down for disbursement in FY2012. In reviewing the financials for South Phoenix, the \$400,000 un-awarded in the funding summary for Developmental and Health Screening if that is something that is not moving forward, the Council can un-allot and drop it down. The \$110.00 in Director Mentoring, the \$135,498.00 for Family Resource Centers, \$13,449.00 for Home Visitation, the media would be left alone, as well as the Mental Health Consultation and the Needs and Assets. \$580.00 could be dropped down from Oral Health, and \$6.00 for Pre-Natal Outreach could be dropped down. The Council would need to vote to drop the amounts mentioned above down and un-allot them to go into a total pot and look at potential carry forward from 2011 which will be un-allotted, un-awarded, and un-expended. The reconciliation of funding will be finished in September. Kathy advised that the pots of money as well as any funds that can be loosened up from un-allotted in 2012 will be the amount that the Council will have to divvy up for the rest of 2012 going into 2013.

Regional Director Gonzales explained that the Council will not be able to move forward immediately with some of the strategies. There is a large chunk of money that is un-allotted and rolled over. Jonathon will be working with Lindsay and Kathy to assess based on the discussed increases as well as some sustainability questions related to Quality First and some of the other strategies in order to start to frame up work and see where the Council can continue to invest and ramp up or stay consistent. Jonathon's recommendation to the Council is to maintain the current level of funding. There is an opportunity to use the funding set aside for Care Coordination to do Physician's Outreach and training as well as Care Coordination pilots that are currently in the Central Phoenix Region and the Southeast Region through the Academy of Pediatrics. The outreach to Pediatric Offices is missing in the South Phoenix Region. The Academy of Pediatrics has a strong history now of piloting and doing some great work.

Jonathon recommended that the Council consider voting to amend the statewide contract to include South Phoenix in their statewide piece for Care Coordination for the Statewide Physician Outreach. Director Gonzales recommended Council move the dollars explained by Kathy Rice to un-allotted line and allot \$600,000.00 to Pre-K Expansion. A vote will be needed to amend the statewide contract by \$600,000.00. The Council will be able to bring on the Laveen School District and also has the potential to partner with Cartwright School District, the City of Phoenix, and Golden Gate to expand services through the City of Phoenix for a couple of classrooms. The details are still being worked out which may result in having Pre-K services in the Cartwright Region.

Dr. Merk asked why the Council did not fund Developmental Health Screening. Director Gonzales explained that the intent was to facilitate an early intervention coalition that would build on the current child find efforts at the School District level at identifying children with delays or disabilities. The challenge was the feedback from leadership and policy was that these efforts could be supplantation of funding. It is hard to establish a coalition to do some of the needs assessment and work with community based partners. Dr. Merk advised that she would like for the Council to re-visit this issue and that there other Councils that are funding strategies around developmental screening and sensory screening. A suggestion was made to fund a study.

Jonathon advised that there is currently an unexpended amount of almost 6 million dollars from the first year. Of that amount, three million was intentional for the three year funding plan and some of the strategies did not go out. There are additional dollars that did not go out that the Council will have to look at. The additional money may be quickly expended though due to the increased cost of Quality First.

Motion: Dr. Eva Marie Shivers moved to amend the statewide contract to utilize the un-awarded amount of two hundred fifty two thousand two hundred seventy five dollars (\$252,275.00) in the Care Coordination line so that the Academy of Pediatrics can provide Care Coordination Services in South Phoenix, second by Chair James Washington, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

Motion: Member Kristi Langley-Wells moved to have the following Un-awarded amounts moved to Un-allotted and transferred to Pre-K Expansion. Member Jasmine Sanchez declared conflict and abstained from voting, second by Dr. Eva Marie Shivers, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried

STRATEGY	AMOUNT
Developmental & Health Screening	\$400,000.00
Director Mentoring/Training	\$110.00
Pre-Natal Outreach	\$6.00
TOTAL	\$400,116.00

Motion: Member Kristi Langley-Wells moved to have the following un-awarded amounts moved to un-allotted, second by Member Eva Marie Shivers, Dr. Patty Merk declared conflict, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

STRATEGY	AMOUNT
Family Resource Centers	\$135,498.00
Home Visitation	\$13,449.00
TOTAL	\$148,947.00

Motion: Dr. Eva Marie Shivers moved to amend the Pre-K Statewide Expansion amount and increase the allotment by six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) for Pre-K Expansion, Member Jasmine Sanchez declared conflict, second by Member Kristi Langley-Wells, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

Regional Director Gonzales reminded the Council to review their indicators, the funding plan summary, and start thinking as a Council how the funding plan will align with the indicators. Jonathon advised that he will send the short list of indicators to the Council.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chair Patty Merk moved to adjourn, second by Dr. Eva Marie Shivers, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



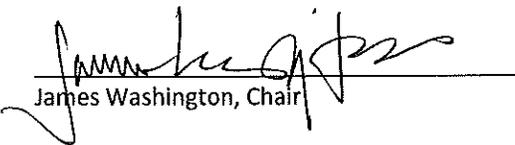
 Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:



 Jonathon Gonzales, Regional Director

COUNCIL APPROVAL:



 James Washington, Chair