



## Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Meeting Minutes

### **Call to order**

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 North 3rd Street, North Building, Rooms 126A and 126B, Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Chair Decker called the meeting to order at approximately 2:05 p.m. at which time Melody Bozza, Board Administrator conducted roll call and confirmed quorum.

### **Members Present:**

Nadine Mathis Basha  
Gayle Burns  
Janice Decker  
Cecil Patterson  
Pamela Powell  
Vivian Saunders  
Ruth Solomon

### **Members Absent:**

Steve Lynn

### **Ex-officio Members Present:**

Amy Corriveau  
Mary Ellen Cunningham  
Brad Willis

### **Conflict of Interest**

There were none at this time.

### **Call to the Public**

Chair Decker asked if there were any members of the public present that wished to address the Board and provided the parameters for doing so.

Mr. John Cregg, Program Coordinator for TEACH at the Association for Supportive Child Care, submitted a request to address the Board. Mr. Cregg highlighted the positive and successful work that has been occurring in Arizona through the TEACH Educational Scholarship Program. Mr. Cregg expressed concerns regarding the expected changes to the program and felt that there should have been the opportunity for more input from coordinators on how the current system was working.

### **Consent Agenda**

Chair Decker advised that all items on the Consent Agenda will be considered by a single motion with no discussion unless an individual item listed on the Consent Agenda is removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed and voted on as a regular agenda item upon the request of any Board member.

- A. *Board Meeting Minutes July 22, 2014* ([Attachment #1](#))
- B. *Statewide and Multi-Regional Agreements and Amendments* ([Attachment #2](#))
- C. *Regional Partnership Council New and Revised Strategies, Grants and Contract Agreement Amendments* ([Attachment #3](#))
- D. *Communications & Public Affairs Report* ([Attachment #4](#))
- E. *Tribal Affairs Report* ([Attachment #5](#))
- F. *Quality First Update* ([Attachment #6](#))
- G. *Technical Changes to Strategies and Allotments* ([Attachment #7](#))
- H. *FY15 Contract Renewal – Government Agreement* ([Attachment #8](#))
- I. *Annual Report* ([Attachment #9](#))

After reading the items on the Consent Agenda Chair Decker asked if members of the Board wished to remove any item for discussion. There being no request to do so, Member Solomon moved to approve the consent agenda, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

#### **Report on the 2014 Early Childhood Summit**

FTF CEO Sam Leyvas provided an overview of the summit and shared some of the feedback received. This year's summit hosted over 1,240 attendees, including over 240 regional council members, as well as raised \$64,000 from sponsorships. Mr. Leyvas thanked the Strong Families program for their collaboration and support of this year's summit as well as First Things First staff and partners that made the summit a huge success.

#### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Regional Council**

Chair Decker asked if any Board member wished to call for an executive session to consider the applicants for Regional Council appointment. With there being no request to convene an executive session, Member Mathis Basha made the motion to approve the appointment of regional council applicants as presented, with a second from Member Saunders. Motion carried.

#### **Tobacco Tax Projections/Modeling and Sustainability Model Review**

At its July 2014 meeting, the Board adopted a Program budget spending target of \$126.6 million. This Program spending budget was set so as to provide a stable, and known, annual expenditure level which could be sustained over multiple funding cycles based on projections of future revenues and current carry forward balances. Projections of tobacco tax revenues, by the ASU College of Business, were important in the evaluation of this analysis. Josh Allen, FTF CFO/COO, presented the report on revenue projections and sustainability model. There will be two additional updates, one being two years from now and another update two years after that, with each using refreshed data and demographics and carrying the projections out to SFY2020.

Mr. Allen reminded the Board that there have been broad conversations in the Finance Committee around the current trend of individuals moving to alternative types of nicotine delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes, as well as the legalization of marijuana, including the potential taxation of those products, and the Committee is waiting on additional data.

Member Mathis Basha made the motion to accept the updated ASU report on Tobacco Tax Projections and updated Sustainability Model Projections as presented, with a second from Member Saunders. Motion carried.

#### **FY2014 Communications Year End Update**

Liz Barker Alvarez, VP of Communications and Public Affairs, updated the Board on the public awareness campaign. In SFY14, media and outreach efforts resulted in important milestones and better relationships

with local media outlets. The FTF Community Outreach and Awareness team has increased activities statewide by 50%, with over 2,000 people being trained on how to speak to the importance of early childhood. The current public awareness campaign will take a break over the election cycle and resume around the holidays, with message testing occurring next spring. At the request of Member Mathis Basha, Ms. Barker Alvarez introduced the members of the Community Outreach team in attendance.

#### **Additional FY15 Board Meeting**

It has been requested that a Special Meeting be added to the Board Meeting schedule to occur on May 19, 2015. This Special Meeting will be telephonic and for the review of potential contracts that may be released earlier so that grantees have additional planning time. Vice-chair Powell made the motion to approve the addition of the May 19, 2015 meeting, with as second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

#### **Board Member Report/Update**

Member Cunningham shared that the Milwaukee Sentinel had carried a story reporting that newborn screenings were taking an inordinate amount of time for results to come back from the lab. Member Cunningham reported that in Arizona, as of last month, 99% of blood spots were received by the lab in an appropriate amount of time, with results being returned in a timely manner. The return times for each hospital can be found on the DHS website.

Member Cunningham also indicated that a review of the Federal Block Grant may be necessary, as there has been a change in the draft guidance regarding performance measures, to include school readiness.

DHS is continually working on improving birth outcomes in numerous areas such as safe sleep, substance exposed newborns, and early induction rates. DHS is currently working with the provider community to educate parents on the dangers and provide guidelines for prescribing medications, and that providers should be asking patients if they are pregnant and/or sexually active and using birth control.

Member Willis reported on the separation of DES and CPS, resulting in the creation of the Department of Child Safety, and the ongoing work to de-bundle the two entities. Member Willis also highlighted a footnote in the budget bill, requiring the state to serve a minimum number of children through the child care subsidy. This allowed the authorization of an additional 1,500 children in July, and it is anticipated that there will be similar releases in the future.

Amy Corriveau reported that there has been an improvement in the reading assessment for third graders, and they are remaining diligent in moving them forward and working with their partners to move towards reading proficiency for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. ADE is continuing its work on the Transition to Kindergarten and Developmental Inventory for kindergarteners.

Member Powell recently presented at the Arizona School Board Association and was pleased to hear that FTF was mentioned numerous times, and that FTF was well represented by council members that attended. She continues to hear from the community that full day kindergarten needs to be brought back.

#### **CEO Report/Update**

Mr. Leyvas shared that FTF had made an offer to Candida Hunter to fill the currently vacant Sr. Director of Tribal Affairs Position and that she has accepted. Ms. Hunter is a former Hualapai Tribal Council Member and has served on the FTF National Research and Advisory Panel, as well as in the capacity of Education Coordinator for the tribe. Ms. Hunter will begin her new position in early September.

The 2014 FTF Tribal Consultation will be held on October 7, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4000 N. Central, Phoenix, Arizona. A Save the Date announcement will be distributed within the next week or so.

The United States Department of Education Preschool Development and Improvement Grant application, which will serving low to moderate income families, is currently being considered by the Governor's office, and if Arizona is to apply, FTF would work collaboratively with ADE if requested.

The Phoenix Library foundation will be honoring FTF for our early literacy work at their annual Dinner in the Stacks event on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Future Agenda Item Requests**

There were no requests at this time.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Development and Health Board will be held on September 29-30 in Yuma, Arizona

**Adjourn**

There being no further business Chair Decker adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:05 p.m.