



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on June 14, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the First Things First Office, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at approximately 8:01 a.m.

Members Present:

In Person

Steve Lynn, Dr. Eugene Thompson, Nadine Mathis Basha, Gayle Burns, Dr. Pamela Powell, and Vivian Saunders

By Phone

Cecil Patterson

Members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio Members Present:

John Huppenthal, Brad Willis and Will Humble/Mary Ellen Cunningham

Conflict of Interest

Chairman Lynn asked the Board members if there were conflicts of interest regarding items on this agenda. There were none.

Call to the Public

Alan Taylor, Director of Training for Southwest Human Development stated to the Board that Quality First is a valuable tool to help providers reflect on quality and think about their work resulting in centers evolving into child focused learning environments.

Janet Garcia, Vice President of Community Impact for Valley of the Sun United Way, commended First Things First and looks forward to creating one of the best quality rating systems in the nation.

Mechelle Wiesenthal, Child Care Provider with Serendipity Preschool in Anthem, reflected on the last two years and how developing and implementing a plan with the Quality First coaches has improved her skills and organization to meet her goals.

Kim Sutton, Quality First participant with Kidz Kare in Casa Grande, reported on her participation in the Quality First program, she acknowledged challenges and being inspired with the engagement of the program.

Susan Ryan, Adjunct Faculty Member for Community College and Quality First Participant. Ms. Ryan expressed her appreciation to First Things First and to Quality First. Ms. Ryan shared what a participant in the Quality First program means to them.

Bonnie Williams, Executive Director of the Arizona Head Start Association, shared with the Board her contact information and handed out the Associations 2010 Annual Report.

Kelly McCready, Valley Learning Center and Quality First Participant, shared with the Board her experiences in participating in the Quality First program. Ms. McCready thanked the Board and Quality First.

Juan Sanchez, Kinder Kare, Tucson, Arizona and Quality First participant, echoed the sentiments of the previous presenters and stressed that this program provides a unique impact during the economic turn. Quality First scholarships to retain staff and coaches to assist in re-engaging has brought back enthusiasm to staff.

Sherry Birch, Director, SonShine Learning Center, expressed her appreciation to First Things First and to Quality First and told the Board how proud she is to be chosen to participate in this program. Ms. Birch shared how Quality First has positively impacted her center.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda item 4A was removed from the agenda for discussion.

Consent Agenda item 4I – remove from the agenda the state item pertaining to the agreement with the Board of Regents for the demand study, no action will be taken on this portion of item 4I.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to approve the consent agenda as presented with exception to item 4A and the 4I state portion of the item regarding the agreement with the Board of Regents for the demand study, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Member Mathis Basha asked that agenda item 4A be amended to show she was not in attendance at the April Board meeting.

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha to approve agenda item 4A as amended, seconded by Member Thompson. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates

Member Burns reported on her trip to Washington DC with Judy Walruff for the Administration for Children and Families, State Advisory Council Meeting. The meeting included a brief overview of the 2011 Federal Budget and the President's 2012 proposed budget, a federal update of recent childhood initiatives and topics which included increasing quality and a quality rating and improvement system and workforce development.

Member Cunningham reported that the Arizona Department of Health Services submitted an Affordable Care Act and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant, and thanked the agencies that worked with them, including the Department of Economic Security, the Department of Education and Department of Health Services along with Judy Walruff from First Things First.

Member Powell reported on the progress of the Program Committee and thanked the subcommittees– Early Learning, Health and Family Support and Literacy and Chief Program Officer Karen Woodhouse for their hard work toward their goals. Member Powell reported that she and several early childhood experts, including Karen Woodhouse, attended the NAEYC Summit in Providence, Rhode Island and announced that Arizona's NAEYC is in the process of meeting with a number of young professionals in early childhood, for a Mind in the Making Grant.

Member Mathis Basha reported to the Board that she presented at the PTA State Conference and thanked them for their original endorsement of First Things First. Member Mathis Basha also presented to the Valley of the Sun United Way's New Women in Philanthropy Conference, which will be targeting education and the necessity of improving early childhood education.

National Perspective on Quality First Rating Systems Presentation

Rhian Evans Allvin, CEO, opened the presentation with a brief overview of the Quality First Rating System and introduced keynote speaker Dr. Gerrit Westervelt, Executive Director of the BUILD Initiative.

Dr. Westervelt spoke to the Board and members of the community and congratulated First Things First and Quality First for focusing on financing and supporting improvement, and then establishing its rating system. Dr. Westervelt discussed how Arizona could best use QRIS to move its early childhood systems work forward. By unifying the concept of quality, and developing a consistent statewide standard for it, Quality First can do more than empower parents: it can act as a quality driver, improving the overall standard for care statewide and it can serve as a level for alignment of the entire early childhood system, enabling each provider to perform more effectively.

Quality First and Financing Child Care Presentation

Dr. Amy Kemp, Senior Director of Research Evaluation reviewed with the Board a study of the costs child care providers face and how quality improvement affects them.

Ginger Sandweg, Quality First Program Coordinator, presented to the Board an overview of the rating system and how it works based on a five-star format. Ms. Sandweg also reviewed the various assessments used by Quality First to determine a provider's rating.

Ena Bins, Quality First Director, presented to the Board the scope of Quality First and discussed the rating packages available to providers.

Dr. Roopa Iyer, Senior Program Data Analyst presented to the Board a statistical analysis of the Quality First ratings pilot study.

Karen Woodhouse, CPO, concluded the presentation by discussing financing for quality childcare. Ms. Woodhouse stated that Quality First financing will come from a variety of sources: Head Start funding, the State and Federal Child Care Subsidy, and Parent fees, though she emphasized that keeping these fees reasonable for families is critical to accessibility.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to approve the Quality First Rating Scale as presented, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Communications/Messaging Research Results Presentation

Liz Barker Alvarez, Vice President for Communications, updated the Board on the results of the first year implementation of the First Things First Strategic Communications Plan. Ms. Alvarez reviewed with the Board benchmarks in the areas of community outreach, brand management, earned media, email, web and social media, and advertising.

Discussion and Possible Approval of RFGA Recommendations

A motion was made by Member Powell that the Board approve the RFGA recommendations as presented, seconded by Member Burns. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Appointment of Regional Council Applicants

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha that the Board approve the appointment of Regional Council applicants as presented, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding External Evaluation University Consortium Contract in Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Thompson to move into Executive Session at approximately 12:40 p.m. to consult with legal counsel regarding the External Evaluation – University Consortium Contract, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha to return to regular session at approximately 1:40 p.m., seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

RGFA Renewals

Michelle Katona, CRO, and Josh Allen, COO, reviewed with the Board proposed RFGA renewals.

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha to approve the renewals as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Rhian Evans Allvin, CEO and Josh Allen, COO presented to the Board the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for review.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to reduce the budgeted FY2011 Tobacco Tax and interest revenues by a combined \$2 million dollars and increase the fund balance draw down by \$2 million dollars, so that individual Administrative and Program account expenditure budgets have a bottom line net impact of zero as shown in the attached documents, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to accept the revised line item expenditure budgets as presented in the Tobacco Funds Summary report, seconded by Member Burns. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to accept the increase to the Administrative Account's "one-time expenditures" line item as presented in the various documents detailing the Administrative Account FY2012 budget, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to accept the revised Statewide Funding Plan as presented, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Chair and Vice Chair Election

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha to re-elect Steve Lynn as Chairman of the First Things First Board, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Powell to re-elect Dr. Eugene Thompson as Vice Chair of the First Things First Board, seconded by Member Burns. Motion carried.

Chairman Lynn and Vice Chair Thompson thanked the Board Members for their confidence in re-electing them for another term.

General Discussion

There was no general discussion.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 19, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:56 p.m.



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on July 19, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the First Things First Office, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m.

Members Present:

Telephonic

Steve Lynn, Dr. Eugene Thompson, Nadine Mathis Basha, Gayle Burns and Dr. Pamela Powell

Members Absent:

Cecil Patterson and Vivian Saunders

Ex-Officio Members Present:

John Huppenthal, Brad Willis and Mary Ellen Cunningham

Conflict of Interest

Chairman Lynn asked the Board members if there were conflicts of interest regarding items on this agenda. There were none.

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda item 4A the Cochise Strategy was removed from the agenda for discussion.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to approve the consent agenda as presented with exception of the Cochise Regional Partnership Council New and Revised Strategy, seconded by Member Burns. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Thompson that the Board approve the funding plan changes recommended by the Cochise Regional Partnership Council with the exception that the Regional Council identify a representative to meet with the Senior Director of Evaluation to develop a specific program evaluation model for the region and present to the CEO for approval before implementation of the strategy can begin, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates

There were no Board Member updates at this time.

Discussion and Possible Appointment of Regional Council Applicants

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha that the Board approve the appointment of Regional Council applicants as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding External Evaluation University Consortium Contract in Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Thompson to move into Executive Session at approximately 9:45 a.m. to consult with legal counsel regarding the External Evaluation – University Consortium Contract, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to return to regular session at approximately 10:25 a.m., seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

General Discussion

There was no general discussion.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 29, 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.