



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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AGENDA ITEM: Regional Boundaries

BACKGROUND: The First Things First statute provides the Board the opportunity to review regional boundaries every two years. FTF contracted with Dr. Michele Walsh of the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth & Families at the John & Doris Norton School of Family & Consumer Science, University of Arizona, to conduct the review of the regional boundaries. The purpose of the review was to determine whether a change in regional boundaries would better serve children and families in the regions affected. Changes to the boundaries will go into effect for SFY13. The attached report provides an overview of the assessment conducted, findings and recommendations.

The following recommendations are presented to the Board for review and approval:

Recommendation 1: Maintain the current boundaries for 29 Regional Partnership Councils, all but North Phoenix and Northwest Maricopa

Recommendation 2: Move the Glendale portions of zip codes 85302, 85304, 85306 from North Phoenix Region to Northwest Maricopa Region

By shifting the portions of these three zip codes that comprise sections of Glendale, the city would be wholly included in one region, and resources utilized by families living within Glendale are likely to be more accessible to them. This aligns with the guiding principles established in 2007 when the first regional boundaries were determined:

- They should reflect the view of families in terms of where they access services
- They should coincide with existing boundaries or service areas of organizations providing early childhood services
- They maximize the ability to collaborate with service systems and local governments, and facilitate the ability to convene a Regional Partnership Council
- They allow for the collection of demographic and indicator data

Below are estimates on the population and funding level changes with this recommendation.

	POPULATION 0-5 (2009)	POVERTY POPULATION 0-5 (2009)	Total Allocation
North Phoenix	67,104 to 58,686	11,132 to 9,876	\$10,380,683 to \$9,147,921
Northwest Maricopa	52,125 to 60,543	9,359 to 10,616	\$8,415,524 to \$9,648,780

Dr. Walsh convened the North Phoenix and Northwest Maricopa Regional Council Leadership and staff to review the findings and discuss the recommendation. Michelle Katona attended the North Phoenix Regional Council meeting on August 9, 2010 to review the recommendation with the full regional council. Members of the North Phoenix Regional Council expressed the following concerns regarding this change:

1. We are in our infancy as an organization, hardly getting the dollars out, and therefore it is too soon to make this change
2. This may address a problem that is really not a problem, more information is needed
3. There is a concern that this will de-motivate us as a region
4. Alignment along city boundaries should occur across Phoenix as there are a few City of Phoenix zip codes that are included in Northwest Maricopa

While there was a mixed response by the Regional Councils, this boundary change further illustrates the importance of regional councils, particularly those in Maricopa and Pima to develop collaborative partnerships. This point is further addressed in recommendation four.

Recommendation 3: Convene cross-regional discussions to address issues raised for which collaboration or coordination appeared the most appropriate mechanism

Recommendation 4: Assess more closely and systematically the desirability and feasibility of consolidating urban Regions for SFY15

To address recommendation 4, staff recommends the Board appoint a statewide taskforce that will convene January 1, 2012 through April 1, 2013 to recommend developing a long range plan for data gathering and monitoring to examine whether consolidation in the urban areas is likely to improve communication and service delivery, increase efficiencies, and reduce duplication, while retaining the sense of local decision making that is the cornerstone of First Things First’s governance model. The taskforce

recommendations will be presented to the Board in August 2013 to be implemented for SFY15.

Collaboration is recognized across the regional councils as a critical element of success. Several discussions and efforts are underway that demonstrate the direction regional councils want to move to increase cross regional collaboration. Through a partnership with Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust the Maricopa regional councils have come together to identify immediate and long term opportunities for collaboration. The Southeast regional area will be convening during the summit to continue collaborative discussions.

RECOMMENDATION: The CEO recommends the approval of the regional boundaries as recommended in the report and recommends the Board give authority to the Board Chair to appoint a statewide taskforce responsible for a more extensive review of the regional boundaries, specifically Maricopa and Pima, with recommendations due to the Board by April 1, 2013.