



**East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2014**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the First Things First East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on September 17, 2014 at the Vista del Camino Park and Community Center, 7700 East Roosevelt Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85257.

Chair Frank Narducci welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Chair Frank Narducci, Vice Chair Marie Raymond, Council Members Trinity Donovan, Cheryl Foster, Beth Haas, Becky Henry, Bill Myhr, Mary Permoda, Emily Rajakovich, and Marin Velarde.

**Members Absent:**

Council Member Nicole McNeil

There were 19 members of the public present.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2014**

Council Member Donovan moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 24, 2014. Council Member Foster seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 8-0, Council Members Haas and Myhr having not yet arrived.

**Effective Regional Council Membership Follow-up**

Regional Director Lindo reviewed Attachment 2 with the Council and asked if there were any changes to or feedback about those documents.

Council Member Haas arrived at 3:37 p.m.

Regional Director Lindo continued to review the documents with the Council members.

**Approval of Final 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Report**

Chair Narducci noted that written authorization has been received from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation to release their data in a report publicly. Chair Narducci referred everyone to the Executive Summary and stated that copies of the full report are available at the meeting for both Council members and public. He asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the final report.

Regional Director Lindo stated that there were two changes that needed to be made. On Page 52, it included the Creighton School District as being within the region, and that school district is in another region. The report will need to be edited to have that school district removed from the report. Additionally, under the grantees for community-based parent education, on Page 125, the information needs to be edited regarding the City of Scottsdale.

Council Member Rajakovich moved to approve the 2014 Needs and Assets Report with the edits as noted above. Council Member Permoda seconded the motion, and it passed 9-0, Council Member Myhr having not yet arrived.

Regional Director stated that the report will now be forwarded to the First Things First Board for final approval and after that time, the final report will be formatted and uploaded onto the First Things First website.

### **Strategic Planning**

Chair Narducci welcomed Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona, who provided a presentation about the strategic planning process as well as the First Things Board financial decision regarding future allocations based upon reduced tobacco revenues. As a result, East Maricopa's budget for FY15 was \$12,791,000, however, the allocation for FY16 through FY18 will be \$8,400,000 per fiscal year. This amounts to a 37% reduction in available funds. She also stated that although regions will still be required to continue to fund the same number of Quality First sites as present, scholarships are no longer part of the Quality First package; therefore, Councils will decide whether to fund scholarships, and if so, to what extent.

Council Member Myhr arrived at 3:47 p.m.

Chief Regional Officer Katona continued with her presentation.

Regional Director Lindo led the Council members through an exercise in identifying a specific vision for the region. Following are those words and phrases were used by Council members and which other Council members found to also be very important as to a vision.

#### **a. Visioning**

East Maricopa Region:

- Accessibility to services/resources for all families
- Broad awareness
- Integrated systems
- Family Support
- Parent Education
- Preventative health care
- Healthy food
- Address gaps
- Choices
- Partnerships
- High quality
- Rating system
- Early Intervention
- Physical Activity
- Behavioral supports

#### **b. Prioritizing Needs**

Regional Director Lindo reviewed the needs as previously identified by the Council and then had the Council members break down into smaller groups according to their area of expertise: Health, Family Support, and Early Learning to identify prioritized needs.

The Council members broke into groups at 4:28 p.m.

Council Member Permoda left the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

The groups reconvened at 5:22 p.m. and identified the following needs.

- Access to high quality early care and education (including infant and toddler settings)
  - Parts of the system addressing this
  - Children accessing
  - Level of quality across all programs
  - What drives quality
  - Professional Development
- Increase access to early preventive medical and dental care for children birth – five years of age in specific underserved and isolated groups.
  - Linguistic
  - Crisis/exposed to trauma
  - Poverty areas
- Increase support to meet the needs of children with developmental/social-emotional issues.
- Increase timely access to high quality information and resources for families to support their child’s optimal development.

### **c. Future Planning**

Regional Director Lindo asked Council members if they needed any more information, statistics, etc., with the list as follows:

- Information on dental homes
- Quality First centers
  - Ratings
  - Geographic areas served
- Available grandparent raising grandchildren programs
- Linkages to faith-based community
- Resources available to support families with children with social-emotional needs

Regional Director Lindo asked Council members whether they would be willing to schedule the next meeting on October 15 for an additional hour, to start at 3:30 p.m. to reduce the possibility of having to schedule an additional meeting. Everyone was in agreement to starting at that time.

Chair Narducci left the meeting at 5:40 p.m., and turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Raymond.

### **Draft Governance Policy Manual – First Reading**

Regional Director Lindo conducted a first reading of the draft Governance Policy Manual with the Council members. The second reading of the manual will occur at the October 15 meeting.

### **Community Outreach Update**

Community Outreach Consultant Joy Leveen introduced herself and updated the Council on community outreach activities in the last month. She also stated that a celebration of Books and Babies will be held on September 26 at the Appaloosa Library, at which she will be presenting information about First Things First and congratulating the parents.

### **Call to the Public**

Marcela Polo with T.E.A.C.H. stated that scholarships are still available.

Elizabeth Clark with TOPS stated that Arizona has among the highest teen birth rate in the country despite recent progress and within the East Maricopa region; Fort McDowell, Guadalupe and Tempe are higher than the state average.

Roy Dawson, Coordinator of the Faith Opportunity Zone, spoke about the needs of African-American children in the region and state.

### **Director Updates**

Regional Director Lindo reminded Council members that all of their paperwork and trainings need to be completed by September 30.

Regional Director Lindo highlighted the Family Resource Network, showed everyone the new website, and demonstrated how families can put in their address or zip code to find family resource centers close to them. He also explained how the coordination of services budget line item for East Maricopa, along with funding by other regions in Maricopa County, is what helped to put the website together as well as hire a consultant to organize, set up professional opportunities, etc.

Regional Director Lindo also provided information about the Chandler Education Coalition, which has adopted an early learning initiative, with First Things First being a part of it. Former Regional Director Joanne Floth has been selected as a consultant to assist the group.

Regional Director Lindo stated that he presented to the community navigator training yesterday which is held for faith-based and community organizations. He thanked Council Member Permoda for making the connection which enabled him to attend the training.

Regional Director Lindo noted he will be presented to the Scottsdale Leadership class.

### **Regional Council Updates**

Vice Chair Raymond stated she will also be at the Scottsdale Leadership meeting.

Vice Chair Raymond reminded everyone that the next meeting is on October 15 and will start at 3:30 p.m. at Vista del Camino.

**Adjournment**

Vice Chair Raymond asked for any additional questions or comments from the Council and receiving none adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_  
Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Narducci, Chair