



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Meeting Minutes

#1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Special Meeting of the First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday September 25, 2014 at the San Cayetano Elementary School Reading Room, 1412 West Frontage Road, Rio Rico, Arizona 85648. Chair Bill Kirkpatrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. He welcomed and thanked Senior Director Erin Lyons, Eleanor Droegemeier, Regional Director for Pima South and Jessica Brisson, Pima North Regional Director for attending. He then thanked Ms. Berenice Rodriguez, Principal, for the meeting space. He asked each member to introduce themselves, indicating their seat.

Members Present

Chair Bill Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair Karen Woodford, Danna Gallardo, Fr. Patrick Maitrejean, Veronica Santillo and Chris Ciruli

Members Attending Telephonically

Erika Garcia

Members Absent

David Verdugo, Karen Guilmette and Dr. Melisa Lunderville

#2. Strategic Planning Discussion: Identifying Goal Areas and Priorities for State Fiscal Years 2016 through 2018

Chair Kirkpatrick reminded the Regional Council that each fall all 28 regions of the state engage in strategic planning for the coming fiscal year. This year is slightly different in that the Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Years 2016-2018 is to be developed. Today's meeting would concentrate on establishing or reestablishing the Regional Priorities. He then asked Regional Director Francisco Padilla to lead the Regional Council through this agenda item.

Director Padilla reviewed the SFY2013-2015 Regional Priorities. He explained that they should also be thinking about both their funded and unfunded approaches to address these Priorities. He also gave the Regional Council members a review of the FTF Statewide Strategic Direction. He added that it was possible to specify to a priority that was still viable. Questions were asked and answered, there was some discussion and clarifications made. He again reviewed the Needs and Assets summary points. The Regional Council then divided up into three small groups to discuss Regional Priorities and possible unfunded approaches for SFY2016-SFY2018.

Director Padilla proceeded by breaking up the present Regional Council members into three groups. Following the small group discussions, a member from each group presented the information to the remaining Regional Council members.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Provide access to comprehensive education and support for families.

Regional Council Discussion: This remains a priority for the region.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Increase access for high-quality, affordable early childhood education.

Regional Council Discussion: This remains a priority; the high cost of the Regional Council enrolling additional Quality First homes/centers is still a deterrent for more children to participate. Local Quality First centers are at capacity. Others lack enough scholarships to cover those families not able to pay for childcare or preschool.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Improved access to quality health services.

Regional Council Discussion: This Priority is still appropriate to the region. The strategies in place are doing a good job and collaboration between grantees is evident.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Increase public awareness and community support for early childhood development and health.

Regional Council Discussion: They felt that this was still relevant but suggested that even more emphasis on reaching teen parents and grandparents raising children would be beneficial. There was discussion regarding the need for more information to be available in Spanish.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Improve coordination and communication of services.

Regional Council Discussion: This remains a Regional Council priority but several felt that additional effort to translate more information into Spanish was desirable.

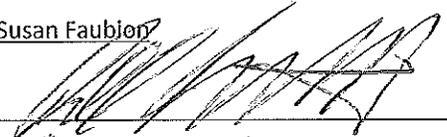
Following the paired discussions, the whole Regional Council reviewed the priorities in relationship to the current strategies which address each need along with the current unfunded approaches. Director Padilla advised the Regional Council that he would calculate the results of the prioritization and present them at the next meeting.

Chair Kirkpatrick then opened up the discussion and asked for questions or comments from the public. A meeting attendee introduced herself as Shirley Gibb, and explained her background with early childhood development and her current involvement with St. Andrews Children's Clinic in Nogales and the Nogales Lion's Club. She said that there is available a vision checking instrument, a type of digital camera purchased with grant funds, has proven to be 90% accurate. Several Lion's Club members have been trained in the use. It is effective screening for ages 6 months through 2nd grade. They would like to volunteer their vision screening services to the preschools of the Santa Cruz Region. Director Padilla will connect with Ms. Gibb and discuss the potential.

#3. Adjourn

Chair Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for their time and reminded everyone of the next Regular Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council meeting. The meeting will be held on October 6, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Calabasas Middle School Library 131 Camino Maricopa, Rio Rico, Arizona 85648. Member Gallardo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Santillo. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Faubion

Approved by 

Dated this 6 day of Oct, 2014