



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on September 27, 2011 at the Gilbert Southeast Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road, Gilbert, Arizona 85234. Vice Chair Dillenberg welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:23 p.m.

## Members Present

Dale Fisher, Julie Sallquist, Jack Dillenberg, Chris Scarpati, Anna David, David Wade (who joined the meeting at 4:43 p.m.), and Dee Tamminen (who attended the meeting via telephone conference).

## Members Absent

Eileen Moizen, Michelov Rhau, and Erica Alexander

## Guests

38 members from the public were present.

## Consent Agenda

Council member Scarpati moved to accept the minutes. Council Member Sallquist seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

## Call to the Public

- Andy Romley, the new Quality First Program Manager with Valley of the Sun United Way, introduced herself to the council.
- Deanna Kaplan, from the University of Arizona stated she would be taking notes for the 2012 needs and assets report and asked council members to please contact her if they had any questions.
- Rhonda Bannard gave a brief presentation to the council about Reach out and Read Arizona.

## Regional Director Updates

Regional Director Terri Duhart updated the Council as follows:

- The application period for FTF Professional REWARDS is from September 1 – October 31, 2011. Further details can be found on [www.azftfrewards.org](http://www.azftfrewards.org).
- The Big Check event will be held on October 5, 2011 from 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. at the Scottsdale Civic Center Auditorium.
- On September 8, Governor Brewer announced a new 9-year education initiative called "Arizona Ready". More information is available at [www.arizonaready.com](http://www.arizonaready.com)
- David Wade was featured in the Arizona Republic.

## Coordination Update

Regional Director Duhart introduced Michelle Katona, Chief Regional Officer, to discuss the Piper collaboration which Council Member Fisher is attending as a representative for the Southeast Regional Partnership Council. Ms. Katona stated that regional councils want to come together across Maricopa to leverage dollars to either expand service delivery, enhance delivery, or improve service delivery from a quality standpoint. The second area of focus that rose to the top in that initial meeting was around awareness - recognizing that Maricopa is huge and diverse, a vast region to cover, but families don't like to access service



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based upon where regions are – it's based on where they are, where they work, or where they have relationships established. There has been a lot of focused coordination across Southwest and Central Maricopa, with Northwest and Southwest Maricopa and also within Phoenix. There was a lot of discussion about leveraging and taking the opportunity at this time to look at what are each region's priorities, looking at where there are similarities across Maricopa and then determining what are the top three across the regions and then determining whether to send out RFGA's together, identify funding sources that could be leveraged, etc. The collaboration will be meeting again in early December. Ms. Katona acknowledged that the Southeast council has been at the forefront with this project. Dale Fisher said it was very beneficial to have a meeting with all of the various councils. There was also a lot of discussion about how difficult it was for grantees to respond to so many RFGA's as well as for councils to review that many. Regional Director Duhart stated that grantees may later be added to the meetings after the collaboration group decides how they want to proceed. Council Member Wade arrived at 4:43 P.M.

### Fiscal Year 2013 Strategic Planning

K. Vilay, Senior Program Specialist, discussed the background of First Things First. She asked Council members that if they would like any more data as they proceed through the strategic planning process, to please let Regional Director Duhart what they would like. For the process this year, Council members are to select a minimum of three school readiness indicators. At this time, Regional Director Duhart handed out the list of indicators. Ms. Vilay acknowledged that at this time, the Council has a carry-forward, however, there are shrinking revenues and rising program costs and that these items need to be taken into consideration as the planning process proceeds. She announced that the State of Arizona was just awarded a 94 million dollar grant for home visitation through the Department of Health Services and that the Council may want to consider other funding sources and programs which are in existence as they determine their priorities and strategies. Vice Chair Dillenberg presented Ms. Vilay with a plant in appreciation for the services she has provided to the Council.

### The State of Childcare in Southeast Maricopa

Mr. Bruce Liggett, Executive Director of the Arizona Childcare Association, presented a handout regarding the Arizona state child care subsidy being cut by the state, which also equated to a loss of federal funding. Child care funding has been reduced 42%, with Arizona now being the only state with no state funding. Over one-third of all children receiving subsidies are in the CPS system. He then presented statistics detailing the reduced numbers of children in child care in the region, with a total loss of about 3,000 children. He asked if anyone knew any reporters who wished to speak to people waiting for child care services, he would be happy to assist in setting up the interviews.

### Family Friend and Neighbor Care

Dr. Eva Shivers, Director of the Indigo Cultural Center and South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council Member, presented a PowerPoint presentation about child care, along with the statistics regarding family, friend and neighbor aka "kith and kin" care. She stated that a lot of parents would prefer to have their children attend a quality center in their neighborhood, but due to financial constraints, use this type of care. Regional Director Duhart gave the following Southeast Maricopa statistics: There are 85,000 total children, with 42% of all children in some type of regulated care. There are six councils who provide funding in Maricopa for the Association of Supportive Child Care to assist the in-home providers in caring for the children in their care. These providers have asked for more training and access to resources.

### Obesity Prevention in Southeast Maricopa

Siman Qasim, Program Manager of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, along with Tina Wagner, dietician, gave a presentation about the history of increasing obesity in the United States, which includes child obesity that shows one-third of Arizona children ages 2 to 5 are obese, and the effects of that obesity of children's health and ability to learn.

### Southeast Maricopa Grantee Updates

Vice Chair Dillenberg asked grantees to indicate what share what they have learned regarding needs as they have provided services and also how they make their clients aware of the services that are available to them. The following grantees gave updates on their services:



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- Jessica Black from TOPS stated that they have realized that there is a major need for transportation assistance for parents to attend classes and doctor's appointment. As to awareness, TOPS receives a lot of referrals.
- Megan Milks from Chandler Regional Medical Center presented a handout regarding the statistics for tooth decay in young children and stated that they are going to where the people are as in schools and child care centers to make them aware of the services that are available.
- Kim Freehan from Mesa Public Schools stated that they have seen an increased need for their services which coincides with an increase in poverty in the southeast valley.
- Tina Sykes from the Department of Economic Security stated that they have been making staff more aware of early learning standards and that they provide free training.
- Carol Lopinski from the Child Crisis Center stated that they have discovered that lack of transportation is a huge issue and that there are a lot of families out there with mental health issues as well as those in need of speech and physical therapy.
- Gayle Spenner from AzPac – Parents as Teachers stated that they are seeing a need for affordable child care as well as access to health care and health insurance.
- Erika Mendoza from Parenting Arizona stated that they are seeing a high need in the Hispanic community and have been engaging the Hispanic media to get the word out to the public.
- Becky Hancock from ASCC stated that all of the Southeast region T.E.A.C.H. slots have been filled.

### A Summary of Regional Information Presented

Vice Chair Dillenberg stated that purpose tonight was to make everyone more aware and thanked everyone for their input as the Council goes forward with the strategic planning process and welcomed them to also participate in the Town Hall which will be commencing at 6:30 p.m.

### Community Outreach Report

Ms. Menyon Scott, Southeast Maricopa Regional Community Outreach Coordinator, stated that she signed up an additional 98 champions from July 27 through September 27, and that there are now a total of 270 champions. She thanked the grantees for bringing in story banks as well as those agencies for getting their parents to tonight's meeting.

### Council Member Updates

- Dale Fisher stated that he had appeared on KTAR Radio.
- Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Julie Sallquist's son Jacob for his first birthday.

### Adjourn

There being no further business, on motion of Council Member Wade, and seconded by Council Member Tamminen, there being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. to be followed by the Town Hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. after a brief recess.

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Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III

Approved:

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Jack Dillenberg, Regional Council Vice Chair