



# 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

A Town Hall 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 called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m.

## Members Present

Dale Fisher, Julie Sallquist, Jack Dillenberg, Chris Scarpati, Anna David, and David Wade.

## Members Absent

Dee Tamminen, Eileen Molzen, Michelov Rhau and Erica Alexander

## Guests

58 members from the public were present.

## Welcome

Vice Chair Dillenberg welcomed everyone and thanked John Lewis and the City of Gilbert for providing the venue for tonight's event. He thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

## Opening Remarks

Council Member Julie Sallquist welcomed everyone and stated that the purpose of the meeting is to gain everyone's input and to assist with that, a survey was created. The surveys were handed out to all in attendance and Member Sallquist asked everyone to fill out the survey whether or not they were a parent. At 6:45 p.m., participants were given time to fill out the survey before the meeting continued.

The meeting continued at 6:54 p.m. Council Member Scarpati thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

## Southeast Maricopa Region Parents Updates

The following people spoke about their experiences with First Things First grantees:

- Alex and Katie, two TOPS graduates, stated that they were part of a group of 25 pregnant and parenting teens from Mesa, Scottsdale and the surrounding areas who attended classes through TOPS and how thankful they were for the assistance they received to include finishing school and obtaining employment.
- John Relger extended his appreciation for all of the services his family has received from the Child Crisis Center for his children and stated that he now also is a resource for other parents at the center.
- Amanda Freeman stated that a parent educator from the Child Crisis Center comes to her home every other week to teach her activities which have helped her to become a better and more involved parent.
- Anna Lisa Romo stated that she has two children with speech problems and that her children were evaluated through My Child Is Ready and then went through RISE and then the Mesa Public Schools system.
- Parent Todd Wegart and his mother stated that CPS was involved before his son was born and that he took classes, gained full custody of his son, and has attended the Daddy Day Care boot camp program.

## Focus Groups

Regional Director Duhart stated that there will be three separate groups for the participants to join to have a dialog about the availability of and need for various services. The groups will be Child Care, Family Support, and Health, and she asked everyone



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to join whichever group they would feel most comfortable with participating in. There was also a group for Spanish-only speakers, with an Interpreter provided to assist them. The meeting divided into the separate groups at 7:15 p.m.

## Adjourn

The meeting continued at 7:50 p.m. Regional Director Duhart thanked everyone for participating and asked everyone to make sure they had signed in on their respective group's sign-in sheet so that the results may be sent to them. She thanked Kaplan Early Learning and the grantees for providing the food and refreshments for the evening. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III

Approved:

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Jack Dillenberg, Regional Council Vice Chair