



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## Meeting Minutes

### #1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council was held on Monday October 07, 2013 at the Santa Cruz County Complex, Courtroom A, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Nogales, Arizona 85621. Chair William Kirkpatrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. He welcomed and thanked Senior Director Erin Lyons. He asked each member to introduce themselves, identifying their seat.

### Members Present

Chair William Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair Karen Woodford, Danna Gallardo and Lee Vellom.

### Members Attending Telephonically

Dr. Melisa Lunderville, Anna Lepa and Karen Guilmette

### Members Absent

Veronica Santillo

### #2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Kirkpatrick directed everyone to the draft of the minutes of September 09, 2013 and asked if there was a motion to approve. Member Gallardo so moved, Vice-Chair Woodford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### #3. Call to the Public

None

### #4. Discussion and Possible Action: Regional Benchmarking School Readiness Indicator #2

Chair Kirkpatrick turned the agenda item over to Regional Director Padilla who explained that the Regional Council has selected Indicators that would reflect the effectiveness of their funded strategies. He introduced First Things First Consultant, Dr. Amy Kemp, Dynamic Analysis, who returned to complete the Benchmarking for Indicator #2. She restated Indicator #2 as #/% of children in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 star rating. The intent is to increase the number of children with access to an affordable high quality early learning program. She provided the council the Indicator #2 data sheet and worksheet to explain the current status of Indicator #2 in the Santa Cruz Region. She explained that Quality First star ratings should increase over time based on the coaching and incentives. Star ratings are 1 through 5 with 5 being the highest. This indicator would have 2 Benchmarks, A and B. Benchmark A references the % of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars. In Santa Cruz, there are currently 15. Benchmark B refers to Santa Cruz Region's #/% of all children (birth-5 years) enrolled in a regulated early care and education program are in a Quality First program with a rating of 3-5 stars, which is currently 15. There was discussion, followed by a motion by Member Gallardo that Part A's Benchmark be set at 90%, which sets Part B at 10%. Vice-Chair Woodford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### #5. Discussion: Fiscal Year 2015 Santa Cruz Strategic Planning

Regional Director Francisco Padilla reminded everyone that each fall all Regional Councils reviewed their current year's Funding Plan in anticipation of finalizing their next year's Funding Plan. All region's received their SFY2015 allocations allowing the work to begin. He explained that the expenditures and targeted service units have essentially been on target. He advised that as held previously a community workgroup to gather input and ideas followed by the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting for finalization of the funding plan would meet the schedule set by the State Board. A diagram was provided to show each strategy, contracted service unit numbers and percent expended in Fiscal Year 13.

He continued with an explanation of the programmatic changes in Quality First. The major changes were changing scholarship bands from 216 to 4 as well as the change for Fiscal Year 16 when only 3-5 star level Quality First programs will be eligible for scholarships.

Director Padilla will contact everyone with potential Work Group meeting dates and one will be scheduled for October.

**#6. Regional Director's Report**

Regional Director Padilla referred to the provided Expenditure Report and explained each entry. He announced the statewide Chair/Vice-Chair meeting that would be held this week. He told of the Cross-Regional Grantee Meeting September 26<sup>th</sup>. Several Santa Cruz region grantees attended. On September 21<sup>st</sup> he attended a Conference for Families with Special Education students. He explained that Arizona has become a member of an 11 state consortium working to develop a Kindergarten Developmental Inventory. He advised that First Things First is the lead agency on the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge. If successful, a response could be received in December.

**#7. Regional Council and Staff Announcements**

None

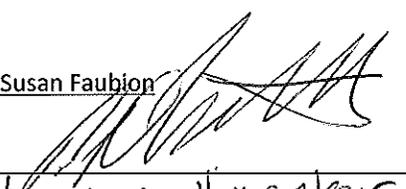
**#8. General Discussion**

Regional Director Padilla announced that at the State Board Meeting on October 1, the State Board of First Things First approved the appointment of Mr. David Verdugo to the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council. Mr. Verdugo will fill the School Administrator seat on the council.

**#9. Meeting Reminder/Adjourn**

Chair Kirkpatrick reminded everyone that the next meeting would be held on November 4, 2013 at 3:30 p.m., at the San Cayetano Elementary School, Reading Room, 1412 West Frontage Road, Rio Rico, AZ 85648. Member Gallardo made a motion to adjourn seconded by Member Vellom, motion carried, the time was 5:12 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Faubion

Approved by 

Dated this 4 day of November, 2013