



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

NORTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 in the Governing Board Room at the Washington Elementary School District located at 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, Arizona 85304

Chair Cindy Hallman called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

Members Present: Cindy Hallman, Chair; Barbara Nicol, At Large James Emch, At Large; Mindy Zapata, Child Care Provider; Willette Watts, Faith Based; Billy Thrall, At Large; and Jenna Goad, Parent present by phone.

Members Not Present: Connie Robinson, Vice Chair; Bill Adams, School Administrator;

Quorum: Established.

Staff Present: Karen Yearwood, Regional Director; Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant; Rhian Evans Allvin, Chief Executive Officer; Marlene Moreno, Community Outreach Coordinator; Jonathon Gonzales, South Phoenix Regional Director.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Included in an e-packet prior to the meeting was the regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2011 for consideration.

Motion: Member Willette Watts moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2011, second by Member James Emch, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

3. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Deborah Meehling:** From the Washington Elementary School District provided a power-point presentation to the Council and hopes to partner with First Things First for Head-Start. WESD has the largest Head-Start in the district serving 588 children. With the cuts to the Community Development Block Grant, there are over two thousand children in the district without access to Head Start. Ms. Meehling hopes to be invited back to the Council to do a formal presentation. **Susan Wedman:** From the Trinity United Methodist Preschool asked the Council to consider funding more Scholarship Slots. Susan is the Director and has cut all of the scholarships in half to help fund more children in the Preschool. Ms. Wedman thanked the Council for scholarship slots provided.

4. **DISCUSSION WITH FIRST THINGS FIRST CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Chief Executive Officer Rhian Evans Allvin presented Members Cindy Hallman and Barbara Nicol with their one year certificate and pin. Ms. Allvin thanked members of the Council for attending the Summit and provided an update on a 10 month process on internal work to find out who FTF is. The process led to Beliefs Actions and Performance Measures as well as the Human Resources Toolkit. Ms. Allvin also provided the Council with programmatic change updates, SFY 2011 closeout data, and the Communications Plan. Ms. Allvin also provided an update on the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge which is due next Wednesday and would provide 40 million dollars in Federal matching funds.

Member Emch thanked CEO Allvin for doing such a great job and expressed his concern around struggling as a Council to spend down funds.

Rhian recommended to the Council that they look at their needs and assets during the strategic planning process and identify where the Council is investing well and where the gaps are. Rhian also suggested looking at the current grantees and strategies to see what seems to be scaling up and what seems to be reaching kids on the right side of needs, what isn't, and are there strategies the Council is not investing in that can augment and support what the Council is currently investing in. Rhian advised that she will be looking closely at funding plans with more than 10% in carry forward. Rhian also commented that the Request for Grant Application process has been looked at to see if some of the hurdles that FTF put in place could be eliminated in anticipation of the couple hundred RFGA's that will go out for bid in January. Rhian also pointed out the importance of elected officials hearing how important child care subsidies are in the next budget session in building the economy.

5. **COMMUNITY REPORT ON CHILD HEALTH IN ARIZONA:** Matt Jewett, Director of Health Policy for Children's Action Alliance presented to the Council a report on child health in Arizona. Chair Hallman expressed that she would like to see more region specific data. Matt was thanked by Chair Hallman on behalf of the Council for his presentation.

6. **QUALITY FIRST MODEL:** Regional Director Karen Yearwood walked the Council through the changes to the Quality First Model which will be decided on at the next regular meeting.

Chair Hallman voiced her concern around that First Things First will increase the quality of care and increase the number of scholarships based on their rating system, but the only ones that will suffer are the children if centers do not reach their goal of reaching a higher star level.

Member Emch expressed his concern around the cost of quality care and that the higher the star rating, the less those scholarships will cover. Mr. Emch feels that although the centers may want to reach a star rating of three, they may not be able to due to the cost and requirements associated with the star rating.

7. **SFY FUNDING PLAN REVIEW: DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:** Tabled due to conflicts of interest and the loss of quorum.

8. SFY 2013-2015 FUNDING PLAN DEVELOPMENT: Regional Director Yearwood continued a conversation that started at the last council meeting; and provided the Council more details on how this item will be approached, and the timeline associated with the funding plan development. Karen went through the Regional life cycle which outlines the cycle that the Council will go through in terms of planning and decision making which will result in the 2013 Funding Plan that will be presented to the State Board in January. Karen informed the Council that for SFY 2013, approximately 75% of the Council's RFGA's will go out for bid. Director Yearwood went over the Funding Plan Development which includes the Council reviewing the Needs and Assets along with other assessment data to prioritize and select a minimum of three indicators that the Council is committed to move. The Council will align the priority goals with the indicators and then develop the strategies that will align with the indicators. The Council went through the five priorities and determined that the wording needed to be changed. Some of the questions the Council should consider are:

1. What is the level of impact that the Council wants to make?
2. How many children does the Council want to reach?
3. How many families does the Council want to reach?
4. Who does the Council want to reach?
5. Who was reached in the previous three years?
6. Does the Council want to focus on certain populations? (i.e. teen parents)
7. How does the Council impact the needs? (Maybe things have changed and the Council wants to move in another direction).
8. Can resources be maximized with coordination within the region, or cross-regionally?
9. Are there needs in the previous funding cycle that were not met and should be considered this time?
10. What are the barriers?
11. How do the school readiness indicators and the programs align with the strategic direction?

9A. FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS: Director Yearwood provided the Council with an update which included: **Deer Valley Inter-Governmental Agreement:** Has been approved by the State Board. **Family Resource Center RFGA:** Applications due tomorrow. Member Zapata will review the RFGA's received on behalf of the Council.

10: DIRECTOR'S REPORT: A. SFY 2011 4th Quarter Grantee Performance: Provided in packets for the Council to review. Karen advised that the information provided is the year end closeout information. **Maricopa County Coordination:** Maricopa County Councils have met to talk about how best to work together and coordinate efforts. At the last Council meeting in September, the Council agreed that the following are priorities which should be addressed: Community parent awareness; and leveraging funding through a decision making process. A meeting was held on September 19, 2011 where Director Yearwood represented the Council as staff due to Chair Hallman having a schedule conflict. The outcome of the meeting was that an agreement that through a collaborative RFGA process where the Maricopa Councils will work together to improve services for children and families County wide. A directive was given to staff to see how to best come together to release RFGA's with a common purpose. Regional Directors are meeting to discuss how best to regionalize and release RFGA's together. There will be another meeting in December with all of the representatives from each Council. **Big Check Tour:** Chair Hallman did an excellent job representing the North Phoenix Council at the big check tour.

A thank you to Outreach Coordinator Marlene Moreno for the logistics and coordination for the North Phoenix Region.

Council Member Request: Member Jenna Goad would like to have additional information on teen pregnancy programs in the valley. Member Goad would like to have this information available to consider moving forward with the funding plan process. Karen advised that she would have this information when talking about strategies.

Member Thrall would like to see information from staff on what other Councils are doing and what is potentially missing in the North Phoenix Region.

Member Goad would like to see the "toolkit" that was talked about a year or so ago. Karen advised that she would send out the link to the strategy universe.

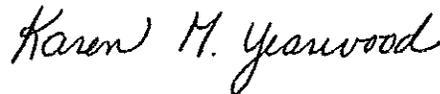
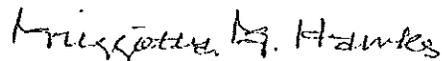
11. COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT: Community Outreach Coordinator Marlene Moreno provided the Council an oral update on the written report provided in packets to the Council on outreach efforts for the past three months.

12. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Workgroup Session Tuesday, October 25, 2011 4:30 pm located at the Washington Elementary School District in the Governing Board Room; 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, Arizona 85304.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Member Jenna Goad moved to adjourn the regular meeting, second by Member Mindy Zapata, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried. Council adjourned at 6:54 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

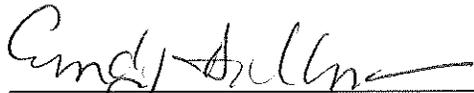
APPROVED



Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant

Karen M. Yearwood, Regional Director

COUNCIL APPROVAL



Cindy Hallman, Chair