



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Cochise Regional Partnership Council

### Work Session Meeting Minutes October 13, 2010

#### Call to Order

The Work Session Meeting of the First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council was held on Friday, October 13, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the First Things First Regional Office, 3643 South Highway 92, Suite B, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85650.

#### Council Members Present:

Marge Dailey, David Howe, Renae Humburg, Jane Strain

#### Council Members Absent:

Ana Bae, Mario Gonzales, Chuck Hoyack, Melodi Polach, Ginger Ryan, Michael Vetter, Nancy-Jean Welker

#### Others Present:

Melissa Avant, Cristal Martin

Chair Howe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 10:16 a.m.

#### Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public

#### Discussion of Family Support Strategies

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council, provided the Regional Council with handouts for Family Support strategies and discussed Strategy 1; Home Visitation. Ms. Avant provided a brief overview of the Home Visitation strategy that began SFY 2010. Throughout the strategy a service delivery system organically developed through the expedited process and the Regional Council's requirement of coordination and collaboration to ensure there was no duplication of services. The collaboration organically developed a system that models the Pyramid Model. The model, starting from the bottom includes:

Foundational: contains elements that are essential for all family support and services such as providing information for families, implementation of workforce standards and practices, financing, and cultural responsiveness.

Universal: services are provided to all children and families. Cochise County Health Department

Reducing Risk Factors: services targeted to vulnerable children to reduce risk factors that affect children's development and learning. Arizona's Children Association

Intensive Intervention: services are targeted for children with additional needs that require intensive and specialized services. Child & Family Resources

A Request for Grant Application was released to include early literacy. The grant was awarded to the Bright Start continuum. The continuum consists of Child and Family Resources (as the lead grantee) Arizona's Children Association, Blake Foundation, Catholic Community Services, Cochise County Health Department, Make Way for Books, Southeastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services, Sunrise Rotary and University of Arizona.

Additional funding could be allocated for a Parent Education campaign utilizing billboards/radio ads/cinema ads to address parental perceptions of family support services and early childhood development knowledge. The Regional Council discussed the research, development and dissemination of information and the belief that any gaps in knowledge should be addressed by the Home Visitation grantees.

Priority/Need within Cochise County: The home visitation strategy emphasizes building the capacity of parents by providing home visits, which build the knowledge base of parents/guardians of children birth through age five.

Funding Plan: Funding can come out of population based and frontier allocations.

First Things First Approved Priority: Supports and Services for Families.

Sustainability: The current numbers can be maintained for SFY 2012.

Ms. Avant discussed proposed new strategy Food Boxes with the Regional Council. The use of food banks in Cochise County has increased significantly as the recession has deepened. The number of food box distributions in 2009 increased by 22 percent over 2008, while the number of individuals served increased by nine percent. Willcox has a 94 percent increase in persons served, Huachuca City had a 75 percent increase, San Simon had a 44 percent increase, and Whetstone had a 41 percent increase. For SFY 2010, over 2,109 boxes were distributed Countywide, over 3,095 children were served, over 1,649 families were served and over 9,659 supplemental items (e.g. diapers) were supplied for young children and their families.

The Regional Council discussed a limited number of food boxes versus support for specific families over an extended period of time. The Regional Council also discussed the development of a voucher system.

Priority/ Need within Cochise County: Proper nutrition is a fundamental need and the use of food banks in Cochise County has increased significantly as the recession has deepened.

Funding Plan: Funding can come out of carry forward.

First Things First Approved Priority: Supports and Services for Families.

Sustainability: Proposed Expansion of \$100,000 in SFY 2011. Numbers can be sustained for 2012 and revisited in 2013.

**Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Chair Howe adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of Oct, 2010.

Submitted By: Cristal Martin  
Administrative Assistant

Approved By:   
Chair, David Howe