



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

October 14, 2014 Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on October 14, 2014 at the Family Resource Center, 817 North Country Club Road, Mesa, Arizona 85201. Chair David welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Members Present

Chair Anna David, Vice Chair Detza Van Bogaert, Council Members Jack Dillenberg, Abigail Conley, Sherreis Moreland, Maggie Pfaffenberger, and Chris Scarpati.

Members Absent

Council members Jamie Breaux, Bill Schultz and Dee Tamminen.

Members of the Public

There were 30 members of the public present.

Let the record reflect that Council Member Sherreis Moreland joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Chair David announced that the school administrator seat has been filled by Bill Schultz. Council member Schultz was unable to join the meeting. Community Outreach Coordinator John Taylor gave a brief history of Council member Schultz's work experience.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2014 and September 4, 2014

Council Member Dillenberg moved to accept the August 26, 2014 minutes. Vice Chair Van Bogaert seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously 7-0. Council member Scarpati moved to accept the September 4, 2014 minutes. Council member Pfaffenberger seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

Chair David explained that due to possible time constraints, she may need to limit the speaking time of each call to the public speaker and the call to the public will be done toward the end of the meeting.

Report on Quality First Progress in the Region

Leslie Totten, the Quality First Program Director, talked about how Quality First sites in star levels are progressing in the Southeast Maricopa region. She provided a power point presentation as to how the Southeast Maricopa region is progressing as well as how the state is progressing. The Southeast Maricopa region has 47 centers, ten homes and nine rating only programs participating in Quality First.

There are currently 72 centers on the region's waiting list. The region's star rated centers are two star-56%, three star-30%, and four star-14%. There are no one or five star centers at this time. Ms. Totten said time is a barrier for progression, time to learn the information and incorporate it into their classrooms. Finding and retaining Quality First coaches has been a challenge. She also reported that the Southeast Maricopa star provider ratings increased by two star-18%, three star-35% and four star-50%.

Strategic Planning

Senior Director Wendy Sabatini reviewed the Council's prioritized needs that were determined during last month's meeting. She informed the Council that no decisions or voting would be done in this meeting. Community Outreach Coordinator John Taylor responded to questions from the previous meeting regarding the use of technical equipment, specifically cell phones. The top three uses of cell phones are email, Facebook and text messaging.



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Prioritized Needs

The needs were discussed to be certain they are priorities for the Council. The five needs were ranked by each Council member and then the results were tallied. In order of highest to lowest priority, the results were:

1. Increase parenting knowledge and access to resources
2. Ensure access to affordable, quality child care (tied for second place)
3. Ensure regular utilization of healthcare providers (tied for second place)
4. Ensure support and retention for early childhood providers
5. Increase oral health knowledge

Strategies/Approaches

The Council chose to discuss the Strategies/Approaches as a group. Christi Lyons, Northwest Maricopa Regional Director, led the discussion. The Council named several Strategies/Approaches that address each specific need listed. The unfunded Strategies/Approaches were also noted.

Member Jack Dillenberg left the room at 5:14 p.m. and returned at 5:16 p.m.

Lindsay Kaid, Quality First Finance Manager, said the Standards of Practice recommends that families do not pay more than ten percent of their income to the child care centers.

Director Lyons asked the Council to think about if the approaches the Council identified are sustainable and are there opportunities for cross-regional work.

Senior Director Sabatini brought the discussion to an end. The next step as a Council will be to decide which approaches to continue, remove or add based on today's discussion.

Cross Regional Planning

The discussion on Cross Regional Planning was tabled until the next meeting.

Chair David stated that the Council's Funding Plan needs to be submitted by mid-December. In order to meet that deadline, the Council decided to have an additional two hour meeting prior to the regular scheduled meeting on November 25. The entire meeting will be dedicated to the funding plan. Patty will send a doodle poll to the Council members for availability of days and times.

Lindsey Kaid spoke to the Council about the approximate \$900,000 Quality First allotment in SFY2016. After the Southeast Maricopa Region's allotment to Quality First and the \$544,547 allotment to evaluation is calculated, there is approximately \$8.6 million remaining. The base scholarship amount for three to five year olds is approximately \$3 million and the Council will determine the scholarship allotment.

Financial Report

Director Sabatini reviewed the Southeast Maricopa Region's FY2014 Financial Report with the Council. She drew attention to the TEACH expenditures that appeared low due to the statewide funding that is utilized first. Most of the grantees have used their funds at 80-100 percent.

Call to the Public

There were eight calls to the public.

LaShanda Daviss, Director at Sunrise Preschool in Mesa, let the Council know how much the 6 scholarships the Region provides means to the parents at her school.



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Danielle Walker, Director of Education at Sunrise Preschool, reported that with the funding from the Council, they have implemented many quality improvements and would like to continue the commitment to the parents in the school.

Janelle Radoccia, from Family SPOT, has three family resource centers and numerous partners to help parents receive the services they need. She emphasized the importance of the Family Resource Network.

Jeanie Pefferly, from Arizona Academy of Pediatrics, shared an example of how care coordination is helpful to families.

Erin Raden, of the Arizona Childcare Association, stressed the importance of scholarships at the Quality First Centers.

Carol Lopinski, representing My Child's Ready, shared the success of the program and they now have a seven month wait list.

Leah Eckly, with Southwest Human Development, provided a handout on the summary of the Smart Support evaluation.

Rebecca Nevedale, representing the Arizona Public Health Association, encouraged everyone to be the voice for children as changes are being made to the state health care system.

Director Updates

Director Sabatini reported on the Chair and Vice Chair meeting with First Things First Board Chair Janice Decker and CEO Sam Leyvas.

Community Outreach Coordinator Taylor gave an invitation to two upcoming site tours.

Council Member Updates

Member Scarpati announced that the Boards of Child Crisis Center and Crisis Nursery voted to merge the two agencies.

Adjournment: Next Meeting to be determined

Chair David adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Submitted by:

Patty Morris, Administrative Assistant II
Southeast Maricopa Region

Approved:

Anna David, Regional Council Chair