



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

September 10, 2013 – *Draft* Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at Care1st Avondale Resource & Housing Resource Center, 328 West Western Avenue, Avondale, Arizona 85323.

Chair Dr. Dawson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Members Present:

Dora Barrio, Kelli Cordova Wright, Dr. Carlian Dawson, Colleen Day Mach, Kimberly Flack, Wendy Krisik, Amanda Reyes and David Schwake

Members Absent:

Patty Avery-Schuster, Marithe Denys Sandoval and Susan Laurita

Review and Approval of July 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes:

Council Member Barrio made a motion to approve the July 16, 2013 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Council Member Krisik and carried out by unanimous vote.

Chair Dr. Dawson addressed a change in the agenda for Item 4B due to the Coordination Strategy is not a part of the Buckeye Family Resource Center and should be voted on separately. It is a standalone agenda item and should be Agenda Item #5 not 4B.

Call to the Public:

Margaret Eldridge, Program Manager for the Early Care and Education Inclusion Program, Southwest Human Development – Ms. Eldridge provided Council with brochures and information about two programs, the Early Care and Education Inclusion Program and the Parent Coaching and Support Services program. Ms. Eldridge shared that the Early Care and Education Inclusion Program is designed to help child care providers support children, ages birth to five with developmental delays of disabilities, in the child care setting. With training and support child care centers, preschools and family child care home providers find that they are better equipped to serve all children, not just those with special needs. Ms. Eldridge mentioned that she is willing to be put on the agenda for a future Council meeting to provide more information about the programs.

Jennifer Sandate, Pilgrim Rest Foundation/Nurturing Parents Raise Great Kids Program – Ms. Sandate provided Council with information about the Nurturing Parents Raise Great Kids Program. At this time there are three new locations, Avondale, Gila Bend, Tolleson and they are working on a fourth location in Buckeye. Nurturing Parents Raise Great Kids empowers individuals and families to make positive

choices with new knowledge, strategies and skills and offers a series of twelve weekly classes topics including, "Understanding Feelings", "Communicating with Respect", and "Building Self-Worth in Children". Ms. Sandate introduced some of the program staff and mentioned that they had their first sessions at the three new locations and the turnout was a success. Ms. Sandate thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve in the Southwest Region.

Discussion and Possible Action Buckeye Family Resource Center:

a. Buckeye Family Resource Center- (Final program and budget recommendation)

Regional Director Santiago updated Council on the status of the Buckeye Family Resource Center, final program and budget recommendation. This item has already been approved by the Council and is being brought back for final review. Upon drafting the agreement there were various reviews, changes, edits and enhancements made to it. Regional Director would like to confirm that the intent of the project still adheres to the intent of the Council's approval and if there are any specific questions. Care1st Avondale Resource and Housing Resource Center will now play a role in the Buckeye project in terms of providing technical assistance and coordination of services along with First Things First and the Elementary School District. We would like to replicate the way that the Care1st and Gila Bend Resource Centers have been guided and will act as co-partners.

Council Member David Schwake made a motion to continue with enhancements to the new agreement for the Buckeye Resource Center and Buckeye Elementary School District with the new provisions made in this agreement. Motion was seconded by Council Member Reyes and carried out by unanimous vote.

b. Service Coordination Strategy – (Family Resource Collaborative SFY14 Funding Recommendation)

Regional Director Santiago updated Council on the Service Coordination Strategy (Family Resource Collaborative SFY Funding Recommendation). This project is being presented to the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council to recommend funding for Phase 2. The Family Resource Center/Family Support Coordination Project is intended to accomplish multiple outcomes at the family, community and system levels. Regional Director provided Council with a handout with all the details of the Family Resource Collaborative Project Updates and Recommendations for SFY14 & 15. The SFY14 Recommended Regional Council individual commitments is \$37,030.00.

Council Member Krisik made a motion to accept the recommendation to fund \$37,030.00 from Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council to this collaborative project for Family Resource Center Coordination. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Flack and carried out by unanimous vote.

c. Summit – Chair/Vice Chair Meeting Update:

Chair Dr. Dawson provided Council with an update of the First Things First Early Childhood Summit that was held on August 25, 26 and 27, 2013 at approximately at the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. Third Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85004. Just about all of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was in attendance. There was discussion about systems building, video presentations and other outstanding speakers throughout the Summit. The Chair/Vice Chair meeting was held on Monday, August 26, 2013 and the funding plan was one of the topics discussed. The State Board met on August 27, 2013 and had their initial discussion about the Regional allocations for 2015 and will vote on them on October 1, 2013. First Things First, Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona addressed the expenditures of funds and wants to make sure that all regions are on track, staying on course and being mindful of the expenditures of funds. The goal is to make sure that the funding is being spent. The State Board will be looking at funding and on January 21 and January 22, 2014 will vote on the new

funding plans. The Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council should have theirs approved by the November 2013 meeting.

Vice Chair Flack updated Council about the Quality First discussions that were held at the Summit. There has been a big public push from First Things First to share and educate across the State what quality first is and educate parents in the community about what quality centers and homes are. The word is getting out beyond councils, parents receiving scholarships, the centers receiving scholarship money and all the services. The star ratings are available and there is information that is now being pushed which means that the star system will be displayed in centers and homes and made available to the public.

Regional Director Santiago – The funding plan for FY15 is done other than some minor adjustments such as the changes in Quality First. A Quality First Staff will present at the October 2013 Council meeting to address and talk about the impact that Quality First might have for the Southwest Maricopa Region.

Director Update:

- **One on One meeting results**

Regional Director Santiago thanked Council for the one on one meetings. Two main topics came up during one on one conversations; 1.) Is Council business making sense and is it meeting Councils expectations? Is the Council meeting date, time and workflow working and since the one on one meetings, have there been any other thoughts, ideas or suggestions?

Council agrees that the date and time slot works effectively for everybody and would like to keep as is.

Council Member Cordova Wright recommended that Council move meetings around the Region once a quarter.

Regional Director Santiago will explore these options.

2.) Topic two was around the System Building Project. One topic that has been discussed with Council throughout previous meetings is the possibility of creating and putting together a meeting as a first phase to reach out to different community stakeholders that are not currently in close relationships with the Southwest Maricopa Region.

System Building Project – Regional Director Santiago will be recruiting volunteers to start the process of putting together a working plan for the System Building Project. The project was described as reaching out to other community stakeholders in the Southwest region i.e. school superintendents, health professional etc. with the intent to form an advisory committee to the council and gain support and other resources forming an enhanced early childhood network in our region.

- **Indicators Benchmark Plan Meetings**

Council Member Day Mach updated Council on the Indicators Benchmark Plan Meetings. Member Day Mach referred Council to the School Readiness Indicators chart and handout. Some highlights go back to the data and how First Things First is looking at different timelines with the three advisory committees to work on the definition of the goal areas and indicators that are being set for the benchmarks as well as the history. The chart indicated where all the regions are and what priorities were set. Member Day Mach talked about the indicators that were being looked at in addition to the process. In 2014 First Things First is planning to get public input and feedback and are currently looking at

building partnerships. One of the things that were noted is a repeated request from Councils requesting data at the local level and First Things First is working on getting that. Member Day Mach provided information about the South Phoenix meeting and shared that when they were looking at setting their benchmarks they did keep in mind what data is available. There are webinars available for these meetings.

- **Quality First SFY15 Changes:**

Vice Chair Flack shared information on some of the Quality First SFY15 Proposed Model Update and shared information about progress expectations and when providers are no longer eligible to participate in Quality First. At a recent meeting there was discussion about the Readiness Indicator #2 and what percentage is acceptable to come up with in this indicator specifically. There was discussion about the numbers of children who are being served through Quality First Centers as well as the group of children who are served in all of the accredited types of settings. They looked at two different age bands and came up with two different percentages and the bottom line is the concern for kids and teachers, the quality of care and all those children that are not being served. Every Maricopa Council was represented.

Regional Director Santiago - Council will be updated as soon as they develop the data for the different benchmarks however; the ones that were recently discussed are not the ones that the Southwest Maricopa Region chose in their region as a priority.

Community Outreach Update:

- Community Outreach & Awareness Plan: Community Outreach Coordinator Bray provided Council with a copy of the Community Outreach and Awareness Plan for FY2013. Ms. Bray highlighted areas such as Community Outreach Tools and Measures and the target is to secure at least four presentation opportunities per month, Target Audiences such as Parent Bloggers and the Focus on Engagement, a new 3-year Strategic Communications Plan that was launched and is a more formalized, deliberate engagement plan.
- Upcoming Outreach Opportunities: Speakers Series Training, Training Part 1: Early Childhood, Every Day, Wednesday, September 25, 2013 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., West-MEC Multipurpose Room, 5487 N. 99th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85305 and Training Part 2: The Write Way, Wednesday, October 23, 2013 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., West-MEC Multipurpose Room, 5487 N. 99th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85305. Ms. Bray encourages all to attend.
- Outreach Activities: Ms. Bray enjoyed meeting with Council Members and thanked Council for bringing her on board. Ms. Bray shared that she will be out on Maternity leave between the months of November and December 2013.

Needs and Assets Process Kickoff Presentation:

John Daws, PhD, University of Arizona Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences- Mr. Daws provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation on the Needs and Assets process. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce the UA Norton School of Family & Consumer Sciences Project, to briefly summarize the Scope of Work for the First Things First 2014 Needs and Assets Assessment and to discuss the 2014 report cycle parameters and priorities. Mr. Daws also provided a project time of tasks and deliverables.

Council Member Updates:

Council Member Cordova Wright shared that she worked on the Preventative Health Collaborative in South Phoenix and they are launching their Prevention Professional Development Stipend program. If

anyone knows of any organizations that work specifically in that 85037 Zip Code please share the information with Member Cordova Wright. Anyone interested in information that is specific to South Phoenix can see Member Cordova Wright following the meeting. There is also a website with more information.

Regional Director Santiago informed Council that Council Member Susan Laurita will no longer serve on the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council as she has some personal issues that she is dealing with. Member Laurita expressed her gratitude in terms of the relationships that she built through her years as a Council Member. The Child Care Provider position will become vacant and we are debating as far as recruiting whether to fill it mainly because at the end of this Fiscal Year there will be some expiring terms and this category is one of them.

Council Member Barrio shared that the Summit was excellent with great research, presenters and strategies. The passion that was there for Early Childhood was evident and is becoming a Statewide Vision.

Council Member Day Mach updated Council on the progress of the Family Support and Literacy Committee. One of the things previously discussed is that they want to provide useful tools to bring back to the Councils and Grantees. The Committee is currently looking at Benchmarking and there were three themes that were posed to the Committee which include; Awareness, Early Access and Connections. Member Day Mach will continue updating Council on the progress of the Family Support and Literacy Committee and will email Regional Director Santiago the new Policy Brief which is the Family Support and Literacy Component.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Dr. Dawson adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.