

East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2014

Welcome and Call to Order

A regular meeting of the First Things First East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on October 15, 2014 at the Vista del Camino Park and Community Center, 7700 East Roosevelt Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85257.

Chair Frank Narducci welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Chair Narducci asked members of the public to introduce themselves at this time if they wished to do so.

Members Present:

Chair Frank Narducci, Vice Chair Marie Raymond, Council Members Trinity Donovan, Cheryl Foster, Beth Haas, Becky Henry, Bill Myhr, Emily Rajakovich, and Marin Velarde

Members Absent:

Council Members Nicole McNeil and Mary Permoda

There were 28 members of the public present.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2014

Council Member Donovan moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2014. Council Member Myhr seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 9.0.

Strategic Planning

Regional Director Conrad Lindo reviewed the East Maricopa Vision as well as the prioritized needs which were identified at the last Council Meeting. Regional Director Lindo provided the Council members with input garnered from the public in which they identified what they viewed as the gaps and needs in the region. Regional Director Lindo then led the Council members in an exercise to identify the specific needs for the identified priorities. The results are as follows:

1. Increase support to meet the needs of children with developmental/social-emotional issues.
 - Parents need to know what normal development is (knowledge of developmental stages)
 - Pediatricians not focusing on social/emotional needs of children
 - Comprehensive needs of the entire child
 - Reduce stigmatic effect of behavioral health and seeking care
 - Lack of awareness around interventions/options
 - Resources
 - Support
 - Availability and accessibility of providers

2. Increase timely access to high quality information and resources for families to support their child's optimal development.
 - Developmental stages of children
 - Proactive communication
 - Trusted source – based on evidence (research – emotionally safe)
 - Transportation
 - Convenient locations
 - Appropriate language and literacy levels
 - Stability of partnerships
 - Usable, friendly information
 - Comprehensive services to meet need of entire child (emotionally safe)
 - What information will parents/caregivers utilize

3. Access to high quality early care and education (including infant and toddler settings).
 - Transportation
 - Cost/Affordability
 - Availability in specific areas
 - Available times in which care can be provided
 - Lack of education or experience (providers)
 - Awareness of what high quality is (importance of all levels of care)
 - Limitations on organizations to implement high quality
 - Evidence based approaches
 - Training for unregulated care providers

4. Coordination of existing resources and services for young children and their families.
 - Leveraging
 - Assess and evaluate coordinated efforts with other regions (Return on Investment)
 - Comprehensive

5. Increase access to early preventive medical and dental care for children birth-five years of age in specific underserved and isolated groups.
 - Transportation
 - Location
 - Affordability
 - Dentists and communities don't think young children need to see them (lack of awareness of importance of preventative dental care)
 - Family friendly opportunities
 - Comprehensive needs – addressing the entire child
 - Convenient locations – home, community, not intimidating, going to where families are
 - Appropriate language care
 - Lack of awareness of research/evidence based medical/dental care
 - Lack of access to individuals who do not feel safe about seeking medical/dental care

6. Build public awareness and support.
 - Leverage partnerships
 - Legislative awareness
 - Multiple touch points/platforms with same message
 - Common messaging – create linkages

a. Prioritizing Needs

Regional Director Lindo then asked the Council members to break down into their previous small groups from the last meeting to further define their top two priorities. The Council members broke down into their groups at 4:40 p.m. and reconvened at 5:15 p.m. with a list of six identified priorities. Regional Director Lindo then gave each Council member a total of six colored dots, 2 red indicating highest priority (3 points), 2 yellow indicating medium priority (2 points), and 2 green indicating lowest priority (1 point). Council members then placed their dots on the six priorities as they felt appropriate, with the resultant six prioritized needs, with their ranking, as listed below.

1. Increase access to coordinated early preventive medical and dental care that includes comprehensive services in a familiar setting. *5 red, 3 yellow, 4 green (25 points)*
2. Trusted, safe source of comprehensive resources conveniently located to meet the needs of the entire family. *5 red, 1 yellow, 2 green (19)*
3. Early identification of developmental/social emotional needs through awareness of typical child development. *5 red, 1 yellow (17)*
4. Access to Early Care and Education. *6 yellow, 5 green (17)*
 - Cost/affordability
 - Availability in specific areas
 - Time
 - Location
 - Transportation
5. High Quality Early Care and Education. *3 red, 2 yellow, 3 green (16)* –
 - Providers’ lack of education or experience
 - Awareness of what high quality is and the ability to get there (i.e., material/resources recognition)
 - Providers - Parents
6. Awareness around interventions, options, resources and support to meet the comprehensive developmental/social emotional needs of children. *5 yellow, 4 green (14)*

b. Future Planning

Regional Director Lindo reviewed other components for the Council member’s consideration during this strategic planning process. These included the funding plan and a table of First Things First regional strategies.

c. Quality First

Regional Director Lindo noted that funding for child care scholarships is no longer a part of the Quality First package and the Regional Council will have to decide at what level to fund child care scholarships. He noted that the Quality First package for FY2016-18 will require continued funding of the 75 centers under Quality First in the region. The East Maricopa Regional fund allocation for SFY2016-18 will be \$8,098,846 each year. Regional Director Lindo shared four scenarios of what the projected funding allotments would be for the region related to the level of funding for child care scholarships. The SFY 2016-18 funding amount for the 75 Quality First centers will be \$1,194,478 and account for 15% of the budget; the funding amount for Evaluation will be \$575,236 and account for 7% of the budget. If the Council chose not to fund

child care scholarships, the remaining amount of \$6,329,132 would be available for all other strategies and would account for 78% of the budget. If the Council chose to fund scholarships at the SFY 2015 funding level, it would equate to 66% of the entire budget, or \$5.3 million, leaving \$1 million for all remaining strategies. Funding only 2 to 5 star centers would be \$5.2 million, or 65% of the budget, and funding only 3 to 5 star centers would equal \$4.1 million, or 51% of the budget. The Council may decide to fund a certain amount or percentage of the budget for scholarships and the Quality First Scholarship Specialist would then be able to calculate how many scholarships would be funded.

d. Next Steps

Regional Director Lindo stated that the next step will be for the Council to determine strategies at a future meeting.

School Readiness Indicators

After discussing the indicators in detail, the Council members discussed the present selected school readiness indicators and how they relate to the priorities previously indicated above. Chair Narducci asked if there was a motion to remove any of the selected indicators. There being no motion, the matter will be placed on a future agenda.

Draft Governance Policy Manual – Second Reading

Regional Director Lindo asked Council members if there were any recommended changes to the policy manual. There being none, Council Member Haas moved to adopt the East Maricopa Governance Policy Manual as presented. Council Member Donovan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, 9-0.

Community Outreach Update

Community Outreach Coordinator Joy Leveen updated the Council on community outreach activities for the month of September. She highlighted a site tour with Arizona Partnership for Children on October 25 at Mesa Baptist Church.

Regional Director Lindo noted that Ms. Leveen has been hired as the full-time Community Outreach Coordinator.

Call to the Public

The following individuals made statements to the Council:

- Kimberly Richards, First Teeth First
- Venilla Ramadoss, Kids World
- Victoria Olsen, Arizona Partnership for Children
- Chelsea Grieve, Tempe Community Council
- Katie Kahle, Chandler Care Center
- Erin Raden, Arizona Child Care Association
- Rose Phillips, Southwest Human Development
- Rebecca Nevedale, Arizona Public Health Association
- Ann Lynn DiDomenico, Scottsdale Public Library
- Brandy McIntosh, Bright Horizons

Director Updates

Regional Director Lindo thanked Chair Narducci and Vice Chair Raymond for participating in a conference call with First Things First Board Chairperson Janice Decker and CEO Sam Leyvas.

Regional Director Lindo stated that open meeting law and conflict of interest trainings are available on disk and for Council members to please let him know if they are interested in receiving a disk.

Regional Council Updates

Chair Narducci thanked Council Members Donovan and Permoda for attending the grantee meeting and facilitating the groups at the meeting.

Chair Narducci stated that the Chandler Unified School District is holding an appreciation Luau on November 5, and that he has provided invitations for all Council members to attend the event.

Council Member Foster stated that she had attended the open meeting law and conflict of interest trainings and enjoyed them.

Council Member Donovan noted that Chandler-Gilbert Community College will be holding an Empty Bowls fundraiser for the Chandler Christian Community Center where you may purchase a hand-made ceramic bowl filled with soup for \$10.00 on October 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Council Member Myhr stated he attended the Helping Boys Thrive Summit and found it fascinating. He encouraged everyone to visit the Gurian Institute website.

Regional Director Lindo asked everyone about the possibility of holding a two-hour meeting before the November 19 regularly scheduled meeting in order to look at the strategies, as well as unfunded approaches. A Doodle will be sent out to Council members with a few dates for everyone to indicate their availability to come up with the best date for this meeting.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Raymond asked for any additional questions or comments from the Council and receiving none adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III

Approved By _____
Frank Narducci, Chair