

ATTACHMENTS #1, 2, 3, 4



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council Meeting November 13, 2014

AGENDA ITEM	Approval of Minutes
BACKGROUND	<p>The attached minutes are from the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phoenix South Regional Council Regular Meeting held on October 9, 2014 at the Southwest Human Development Board Room, 2850 N. 24th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008.• Phoenix South Regional Council Health Committee Meeting held on October 28, 2014 at St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI) Conference Room, 2929 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.• Phoenix South Regional Council Early Learning Committee Meeting held on October 30, 2014 at UMOM New Day Centers, Activity Room West, 3333 E. Van Buren Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008.• Phoenix South Regional Council Family Support Committee Meeting held on November 3, 2014 at Arizona Department of Health Services State Lab "Igloo", 250 N. 17th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.
RECOMMENDATION	<p>The Regional Director presents these four sets of minutes for the Regional Council's approval.</p>



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Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2014

Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order

Chair Karen Stewart called to order the Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting at approximately 9:06 a.m. The meeting was held at Southwest Human Development Board Room, 2850 North 24th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008. Introductions were held and attendees welcomed.

Call to the Public

Cristina Lagunas with Phoenix Crisis Nursery provided a program update on Family Support Coordination services.

Rebecca Crisafulli with Maricopa Integrated Health Systems Family Learning Center provided a program update and distributed their October newsletter.

Erin Raden with Arizona Child Care Association informed the Council on the impact of Quality First Scholarships in the region.

Emily Singleton with Parent Partners Plus provided a program update and distributed information.

Schuyler Hall with Enroll America presented on the importance of health insurance enrollment and his connection to the Preventive Health Collaborative program.

Kensley Gabbard with Kidz Kampus Preschool and Childcare informed the Council on the impact of how Quality First Scholarships and incentives will have on the center should they be depleted.

Mary Ross with Laveen KinderCare/ACCA informed the Council on the importance of maintaining and sustaining the Quality First Scholarships for the center and possible detrimental effects any reductions may have on children and families.

Consent Agenda

Chair Stewart called for a motion to approve items on the consent agenda. Vice-Chair Jarvi moved to approve items on the consent agenda. Member Ward seconded. Motion carried. Items:

- *September 11, 2014 **Regular** Council Meeting Minutes*
- *September 30, 2014 **Early Learning** Committee Meeting Minutes*
- *October 1, 2014 **Health** Committee Meeting Minutes*
- *October 2, 2014 **Family Support** Committee Meeting Minutes*

FY16-18 Strategic Planning Regional Priorities

Director Hallett presented an overview of the process the Council Members enlisted to develop recommended priorities. Director Hallett asked a representative from each Committee to share their recommended priorities, including justification for each proposed priority.

Committees:

Early Learning – Committee Chair Horn shared the Committee's priorities:

- *Increase the number of quality programs serving children B-5.*
- *Influence public policy to increase funding for access to quality programs serving children B-5.*

Health – Committee Member Rodgers shared the Committee's priorities:

- *Increase access for all children B-5 to developmental and sensory screenings, oral health screening and services, and access to healthy food.*
- *Work with community stakeholders to increase awareness and education to parent, providers (including medical professionals) and policy makers around the importance of quality health practices and nutrition to children B-5.*

Family Support - Committee Chair Ward shared the Committee's priorities:

- Families of children B-5 will increase their understanding of early childhood development and health.
- Families of children B-5 will have access to information and support as needed.
- Families of children B-5 are connected and engaged in their communities in order to support their child's school readiness.

Council Members further discussed the priorities established by the Committees. Chair Stewart called for a motion to approve the priorities recommended by the Committees as presented.

Motion: Member Rodgers moved to approve the priorities as presented. Member Winzer seconded. Motion carried.

FY14 Program Implementation

Director Hallett provided an overview of FY14 year-end data and financial reports that capture final expenditures and targeted service units for strategies and grantees for the Central Phoenix and South Phoenix regions. Director Hallett also shared a detailed report that includes all strategy descriptions and contractual strategy descriptions currently funded for the FY15 South Phoenix Region. This information will also assist and inform the Council during continued strategic planning discussions.

FY16-18 Strategic Planning Regional Strategies

Discuss Opportunities for Approaches to the Work (funded/unfunded) – Director Hallett provided an overview of the process Council Members may utilize to develop recommended strategies. Council Members further discussed considerations of collaborative and cross-regional activities, traditional funded strategies, non-funded approaches to build on the assets in the region in order to better leverage FTF funding, and work efforts to ensure a coordinated and quality system of services for children birth to five is developed.

Member Ward requested strategy descriptions and/or scopes of work for all of FTF strategies be provided to the Council.

Vice-Chair Jarvi requested a list and/or information of unfunded strategies currently being implemented in other regions.

Director Hallett asked the Council to brainstorm their ideas/knowledge of collaboration and/or system building non-funded opportunities in the region:

- Member Ward BUILD, ReadOn Arizona, Obesity Coalition
- Member Dr. Merk Arizona Nutrition Network, ECCS, Headstart Coalition, faith-based organizations
- Member Winzer suggested possibly attend other state agency serving B-5 population. (i.e. committee meetings at AHCCCS, Maternal Child Health Quality Management, CRS, ADHS, ADE, etc.), “Grassroots” community organizations (CUSP), and foster families
- Member Wood City of Phoenix Mayor’s Initiative on early childhood and education
- Vice-Chair Jarvi Connect with accreditation agencies

Establish Strategy Committees – To further refine the priorities and opportunities to support early childhood programming, coordination and system building in the Phoenix South Region for FY16-18, Council Members were asked to participate in one or more goal area specific Committees (Early Learning, Health, Family Support). Council Members indicated which committee they wish to participate. Committee meetings will be scheduled prior to November 13th regular Council meeting.

Regional Director’s Update

Council Member Webinars – Director Hallett thanked members who have participated in the *Conflict of Interest* and *Open Meeting Law* trainings. She further informed the members who weren’t able to participate that they will be given a training CD and materials to view at their earliest convenience. Additional required trainings on *FTF Statewide and Signature Strategies, Communications, and Research and Evaluation* in the coming months.

Maricopa/Phoenix Chair/Vice-Chair Meeting – Director Hallett informed the Council that Vice-Chair Jessica Jarvi will participate on a teleconference meeting with FTF CEO Sam Leyvas and Board Chairwoman Janice Decker today at 3:30 p.m. Chair Stewart will attend a teleconference meeting on October 17th. They will provide an update at the next meeting.

FTF honored by City of Phoenix Library – Director Hallett excitedly informed the Council that FTF was invited to attend the “Dinner in the Stacks” event and was honored and recognized for their contribution and efforts around early literacy.

Regional Site Tour – Director Hallett invited Council Members to attend a site tour of the Roosevelt Family Resource Center at MLK School on Thursday, October 23rd.

Council Member Announcements

None

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

UMOM New Day Centers, Activity Room East

3333 East Van Buren Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008

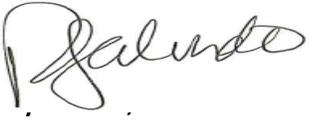
Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on this 17th day of October, 2014

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Ros  _____
Assistant

 _____

Karen Stewart, Chair



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Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Health Committee Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2014

Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order

Committee Chair Dr. Patty Merk called the [Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council Health Committee](#) meeting to order at **3:07 p.m.** The Committee meeting was held at [St. Luke's Health Initiatives \(SLHI\), Conference Room, 2929 North Central Avenue, Suite 1550, Phoenix, Arizona 85012](#). Introductions were held and Chair Merk welcomed attendees.

Committee Members

Dr. Patty Merk, Committee Chair

Kim Winzer

Angie Rodgers

Elizabeth McNamee

Call to the Public

None

Presentation of Strategic Planning and Reference Materials

Regional Director Susan Hallett provided an overview of the reference materials provided to the Committee to assist in identifying strategies that support the finalized regional priorities. Materials referenced included *2014 Central and South Phoenix Needs and Assets Reports*, *South Phoenix Neighborhood Summaries*, and *Central and South Phoenix Regional Data Snapshots*. Director Hallett informed the *FY16-18 Regional Priorities* would serve as their foundation and anchor for strategy considerations. Director Hallett reminded the Committee that the *FY15-16 Funding Plan Summary* identifies existing FY16 funds already committed by the FTF Board: Quality First programming and support and FTF statewide Evaluation. She further informed the Committee of additional strategy considerations.

Discuss and Establish Strategy Recommendations

Director Hallett provided an overview of the three additional attachments; *FTF FY16 Strategy Universe*, *Strategy Summaries and Standards of Practice*, and *FY15 Phoenix South Region Funded Strategies*.

Committee Chair Dr. Merk referred the Committee to the *FY16-18 Regional Priorities* as their guiding tool and facilitated a discussion on the Region's needs and Council's intent leading to strategy options that will positively impact the Phoenix South regional priorities.

The Committee agreed to recommend the following Health Strategies for FY16 to the Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council:

- Oral Health
- Access to Healthy Food/Nutrition
- Developmental/Sensory Screening

Recommendations and Next Steps

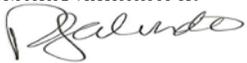
The Committee agreed to reconvene this discussion on Friday, November 7, 2014 to complete their strategy recommendations.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD - Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Respectfully Submitted.



Rosemary Galindo, Administrative Assistant



Susan Hallett, Regional Director

Dr. Patty Merk, Committee Chair



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Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Early Learning Committee Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2014

Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order

Committee Chair, Vice-Chair Jarvi called the **Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council Early Learning Committee** meeting to order at **1:07 p.m.** The Committee meeting was held at **UMOM New Day Centers, Activity Room West, 3333 East Van Buren Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008**. Introductions were held and Vice-Chair Jarvi welcomed attendees.

Committee Members

Vice-Chair Jessica Jarvi, Committee Chair	Jeremy Wood
Kresta Horn	Dr. Bill Johnson
Jasmine Sanchez	Chair Karen Stewart

Call to the Public

Eric Raden with the Arizona Child Care Association informed the Council on the importance of maintaining current Quality First Scholarships in the region in FY16.

Presentation of Strategic Planning and Reference Materials

Regional Director Susan Hallett provided an overview of the reference materials provided to the Committee to assist in identifying strategies that support the finalized regional priorities. Materials referenced included *2014 Central and South Phoenix Needs and Assets Reports*, *South Phoenix Neighborhood Summaries*, and *Central and South Phoenix Regional Data Snapshots*. Director Hallett informed the *FY16-18 Regional Priorities* would serve as their foundation and anchor for strategy considerations. Director Hallett reminded the Committee that the *FY15-16 Funding Plan Summary* identifies existing FY16 funds already committed by the FTF Board: Quality First programming and support and FTF statewide Evaluation. She further informed the Committee of additional strategy considerations.

Phoenix Senior Director Jennifer Johnson, Quality First Finance Manager Lindsay Kaid, and Early Learning Senior Director Ginger Sandweg provided additional technical assistance on current Early Learning strategies in place in the Phoenix South region. FTF staff provided clarification on Quality First Programs and Scholarships in Phoenix South. Considerations and their impacts were also provided to the Committee. The Committee discussed the considerations provided.

Discuss and Establish Strategy Recommendations

Director Hallett provided an overview of the three additional attachments; *FTF FY16 Strategy Universe*, *Strategy Summaries and Standards of Practice*, and *FY15 Phoenix South Region Funded Strategies*.

Committee Chair Jarvi referred the Committee to the *FY16-18 Regional Priorities* as their guiding tool and facilitated a discussion on the Region's needs and Council's intent leading to strategy options that will positively impact the Phoenix South regional priorities.

The Committee agreed to recommend the following Early Learning Strategies for FY16 to the Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council:

- Director Mentoring/Training
- Family, Friend and Neighbor Care
- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs
- Mental Health Consultation
- Quality First Center and Home Enrollment and Programming
- Quality First Scholarships

Recommendations and Next Steps

The Committee requested additional funding options around 2 Star rated centers, scholarships for 3 to 5 year olds in 3-5 Star rated centers, and scholarships for children in high poverty areas.

Director Hallett informed the Committee of the existing coordination and cross regional strategies, such as the Family Resource Network and Oral Health Multi-regional Initiative. The Council will also discuss possible unfunded strategies and approaches at the next Council meeting on November 13th.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:39 p.m.

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD - Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Respectfully Submitted.



Rosemary Galindo, Administrative Assistant



Susan Hallett, Regional Director Vice-Chair Jessica Jarvi, Committee Chair



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Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Family Support Committee Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2014

Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order

Committee Chair, Jasmine Sanchez called the [Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council Family Support Committee](#) meeting to order at **3:11 p.m.** The Committee meeting was held at [Arizona Department of Health Services State Lab “Igloo”, 250 North 17th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85007](#). Introductions were held and Committee Chair Sanchez welcomed attendees.

Committee Members

Jasmine Sanchez, Committee Chair
Ginger Ward
Dr. Patty Merk

Jeremy Wood
Dr. Bill Johnson

Call to the Public

Carol McNally with Southwest Human Development shared information about Nurse Family Partnership, an evidence-based home visitation model.

Kimberly Richards with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health First Teeth First program shared the importance of preventative oral health in children 0-5 in the region in FY16.

Presentation of Strategic Planning and Reference Materials

Regional Director Susan Hallett provided an overview of the reference materials provided to the Committee to assist in identifying strategies that support the finalized regional priorities. Materials referenced included *2014 Central and South Phoenix Needs and Assets Reports*, *South Phoenix Neighborhood Summaries*, and *Central and South Phoenix Regional Data Snapshots*. Director Hallett informed the *FY16-18 Regional Priorities* would serve as their foundation and anchor for strategy considerations. Director Hallett reminded the Committee that the *FY15-16 Funding Plan Summary* identifies existing FY16 funds already committed by the FTF Board: Quality First programming and support and FTF statewide Evaluation. She further informed the Committee of additional strategy considerations.

Discuss and Establish Strategy Recommendations

Director Hallett provided an overview of the three additional attachments; *FTF FY16 Strategy Universe*, *Strategy Summaries and Standards of Practice*, and *FY15 Phoenix South Region Funded Strategies*.

Committee Chair Sanchez referred the Committee to the *FY16-18 Regional Priorities* as their guiding tool and facilitated a discussion on the Region’s needs and Council’s intent leading to strategy options that will positively impact the Phoenix South regional priorities.

The Committee agreed to recommend the following Family Support Strategies for FY16 to the Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council:

- Family Resource Centers
- Home Visitation
- Parent Education CBT
- Reach Out and Read

Recommendations and Next Steps

The Committee requested to hold further discussion on the Family Resource Center Network until the full Council meeting on November 13th.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD - Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Respectfully Submitted.



Rosemary Galindo, Administrative Assistant



Susan Hallett, Regional Director

Jasmine Sanchez, Committee Chair

ATTACHMENTS #5 - 10



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council Meeting November 13, 2014

AGENDA ITEM	FY16-18 Strategic Planning – Regional Strategies
BACKGROUND	<p>Regional Partnership Councils establish a three year strategic plan and then submit an annual funding plan to the First Things First (FTF) State Board which defines how the regional council will spend its regional allocation. In establishing their strategic direction, Regional Partnership Councils conduct an assessment of their region, determine prioritized needs and identify effective approaches for meeting those needs which includes both funded strategies and non-funded approaches in order to build on the assets in the region, leverage FTF funding and work to ensure a coordinated and quality system of services for young children is developed.</p> <p>The Regional Director will present the finalized regional priorities established by the Council on October 9th, along with a listing of recommended strategies developed in Goal Area specific Committee meetings.</p> <p>Representatives from each Committee (Health, Early Learning, and Family Support) will present their recommended strategies, including justification and highlights from the discussions.</p> <p>The Regional Director will present a proposed FY16 budget worksheet as a starting place for Council Members to work through and finalize their strategies and funding amounts. Several strategy items include specific proposal language and options for the Council’s consideration.</p> <p>Following the strategy and funding amount discussion, the Council will review unfunded strategies for continued attention and review the updated FY16-18 Strategic Planning Timeline</p>
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Early Learning, Health, and Family Support Committee representatives will present their recommended strategies for discussion and approval by the Regional Council.</p> <p>Council Members will finalize strategy funding amounts and service units for the FY16-18 Funding Plan.</p>

Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

FY16-18 Regional Priorities

- ❖ Increase the number of quality programs serving children birth to five.
- ❖ Influence public policy to increase funding for access to quality programs serving children birth to five.
- ❖ Increase access for all children birth to five to developmental and sensory screenings, oral health screening and services, and access to healthy food.
- ❖ Work with community stakeholders to increase awareness and education to parents, providers (including medical professionals) and policy makers around the importance of quality health practices and nutrition to children birth to five.
- ❖ Families with children birth to five will increase their understanding of early childhood development and health.
- ❖ Families with children birth to five will have access to information and support as needed.
- ❖ Families with children birth to five are connected and engaged in their communities in order to support their child's school readiness.

Phoenix South Regional Council
Committee FY16-18 Strategy Recommendations

Health

Yes	No	Strategy Name
X		Oral Health (includes support of Cross-Regional administrative home proposal)
X		Access to Healthy Food/Nutrition
X		Developmental and Sensory Screening (fund vision and hearing separately; integrate developmental screenings into other funded strategies)
	X	Comprehensive Preventative Health Collaborative
X		Care Coordination/Medical Home
	X	Recruitment – Stipends and Loan Forgiveness

Early Learning

Yes	No	Strategy Name
X		Family, Friends and Neighbors
X		Director Mentoring/Training (FY16 under strategy name Professional Development for Early Care and Education Professionals)
	X	FTF Professional REWARD\$
X		Inclusion of Children with Special Needs
X		Mental Health Consultation
	X	Kindergarten Transition
X		Quality First
X		Quality First Scholarships

Family Support

Yes	No	Strategy Name
X		Family Resource Centers
	X	Family Support – Children with Special Needs
	X	Family Support Coordination
X		Home Visitation
X		Parenting Education
	X	Prenatal Outreach (target population within other strategies)
X		Reach Out and Read (FY16 under strategy name: Parenting Outreach and Awareness)
X*		Family Resource Centers Network (FY16 under strategy name Service Coordination – *Committee seeking more information)

Not considered at Committee Meetings; to be considered by full Council

Yes	No	Strategy Name
		Court Teams
		Community Awareness
		Community Outreach
		Media
X		Evaluation

Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Health Committee

Oral Health – Continue

- Directly aligns to Regional Priority
- Discussed relationship between tooth decay in 0-5 children and absences/illness in Pre-K and Kindergarten; more than half (52%) of Arizona’s young children have experienced dental decay by age 4
- Reviewed strategy description with specific interest in continuing fluoride varnishes, oral health screenings, education to parents, increasing professional development, and reimbursement of expense where possible
- Council Members expressed interest in information on AHCCCS numbers related to EPSDT
- Currently delivered in WIC offices and childcare or community settings
- Focus on reducing the lack of oral health care - we know this is important, and sometimes available through formal health/dental services, but parents and professionals lack understanding of importance of oral health for young children
- Reviewed proposal for countywide oral health approach; Council Members support the idea of administrative home, data collection and coordination. Also expressed interest in monitoring for benefit of coordinated program

Access to Healthy Food/Nutrition – New

- Directly aligns to Regional Priority
- Discussion around what “access” means, along with affordability for children in Region
- Desire is to build on existing efforts, ie. convene key stakeholders, help connect dots, bring those who share community assets together
- Discussed that while nutrition is a “family issue”, it’s important to prioritize birth to five children as the primary focus of this strategy
- Needs include stronger education to parents, early care and education professionals, and community partners on options and alternatives to impact families healthy choices; as this is a preventive health issue; this can be done through helping to coordinate, connect and/or affiliate with agencies already charged with doing this, ie. helping to get parents/teachers in SNAP-ED programs, make sure food demos are available for different foods, etc.
- Discussed potential of adapting a model such as the Comprehensive Preventative Health Collaborative by having a group come together whose focus is on nutrition and healthy food access
- Partnership opportunities are great, there is much local interest in the Phoenix South region
- Federal grant opportunities exist to assist local coordination or system improvements for food and nutrition providers but they are often too large for our purposes
- There is a role for FTF to serve as convener or leader; Phoenix South Region has synergy around nutrition, local healthy food, gardens, nutrition for children, but there is a gap in a

coordinated effort particularly in the early childhood period which is an essential period of brain development that has specific nutritional requirements

- FTF can bring focus and attention to this group around children 0-5 and their families; importance of nutrition for babies and young children; opportunity for increased knowledge and awareness for families of young children, as well as behavior change

Developmental and Sensory Screening – Continue

- Considerable discussion around penetration rate within Phoenix South Region, who and where these screenings occur and if they can be incorporated into other strategies
- Importance of developmental screenings is to ensure children can be considered for AZEIP (Part C) and school-based (Part B) services, or referred to parent support or early education programs
- Concern shared that follow up and availability of services and interventions are critical
- For vision and hearing screenings, challenges include cost of equipment, and medical community/pediatricians may not have the information, equipment, or possibly lack awareness of vision and hearing screenings and assessment for children 0-5
- Committee recommends developmental screenings through other strategies and vision and hearing screenings through discrete funded effort

Care Coordination/Medical Home – Continue

- Shared FTF staff talking points which identified dependence on FTF funding to sustain this health practice in Phoenix South region; options to step down or consider targeting for a specific population as alternatives
- Strategy is effective because it provides more than a warm hand off for families with complex medical and social issues; practice is considered ahead of the curve
- Need to ensure continued coordination of agencies providing this service, and attention to outcomes such as increased quality, lowered costs, and increased patient and family satisfaction
- Intent will be to engage families in this model who otherwise don't have access to coordinated health care
- Growing support at federal level, so there continues to be a role for FTF to support care coordination in Phoenix South in the short-term

Recruitment – Stipends and Loan Forgiveness – Discontinue

- Discussed the original intent of former Council decision, ie. supporting recruitment and retention of new professionals to the region
- Effective implementation means access to increased qualified professionals throughout the region – not sure this is happening.
- Need to consider the role of employers in building capacity within the region
- Discussed “scope” of strategy under FTF regional funding (@\$25,000 per person per year).

- Interest in exploring how FTF can play an advocacy role to help change the landscape, ie. partner with recent Arizona Town Hall participants and use this model as illustration of possible successful strategy
- Committee considered the intent to change the availability of qualified professionals and the amount of funding available and does not recommend funding this strategy at this time

Comprehensive Preventative Health Collaborative – Discontinue

- Discussion on the original intent, and the evolution and early commitment to this innovative strategy
- Committee discussed the viability of continuation of this collaborative in balance to supporting other regional strategies
- Consideration was given to supporting this strategy with a specific focus on nutrition education, but concern remains that model is not reliable or sustainable
- Committee decided not to recommend continuing this funding, with hope that the current organization has enough steam to continue under other leadership or through strength of membership agencies

Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Early Learning Committee

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care – Continue

- Directly aligns to Regional Priority of increasing overall number of quality programs
- Only 19% of children in formerly South Phoenix region are participating in licensed child care
- Growing numbers of 0-5 children are cared for by relatives and others but do not wish to engage in licensure process for various reasons; there is need to equip informal caregivers with options for quality programming
- This strategy respects cultural norms and traditions of many at risk families in need

Director Mentoring/Training – Continue

- Council Members provided information on the value of this strategy in helping to develop strong leadership of child care professionals
- Supports provided through this strategy are otherwise non-existent to early care and education professionals, making this effort paramount to participants being able to increase their knowledge base around early child development
- Committee felt there has to be continued support of professional development to achieve increased quality in existing and new programming

FTF Professional REWARD\$ – Discontinue

- Concern was raised that there is no tracking of whether individuals receiving this incentive actually stay in the region or in this field long term
- Committee discussed the viability of continuation of this collaborative in balance to supporting other regional strategies

Inclusion of Children with Special Needs – Continue

- Discussed prevalence of children experiencing developmental issues in early childcare settings
- Received feedback from Council Members that overall most early childcare professionals are not trained or equipped to handle children with special needs and therefore they may not experience a quality learning environment
- Committee felt strongly that specialized supports provided to child care professionals and staff will increase access to quality programming for all children

Mental Health Consultation – Continue

- Continued the discussion around young children experiencing challenges in childcare and pre-K education settings, to include scenarios of where children have been asked to leave due to difficult behaviors

- FTF staff explained the level of credentials Mental Health Consultants are equipped with and greater degree of knowledge they exhibit related to children’s social and emotional development
- As with the above strategy, the Committee felt this continued support to childcare providers is critical to improving access to quality programming for all children

Quality First Center and Home Enrollment – Continue

- The Committee supports the FTF Board direction to sustain funding for existing enrolled Quality First providers in the Phoenix South region

Quality First Scholarships – Continue

- Directly aligns to Regional Priority
- FTF staff presented Committee members with various data points, including number of regulated and licensed programs within the Region; number of Quality First enrolled centers and homes, current and projected Star ratings for QF providers; and the number of Head Start and Early Head Start child care sites and slots in the Region
- Committee asked if analysis could be done to determine all the “systems” that could be impacted by the reduction in QF scholarships; for example, unintended consequences of providers having to close or let go of staff if don’t have right ratios of children to serve
- Questions arose around how scholarships are utilized, ie. one slot for one child or if slots can be shared amongst multiple children, ie. part-time attendees
- Discussion around whether focus should be on preparing 3-5 year olds for Kindergarten vs. value of providing quality care for 0-36 month olds; how many centers only serve 0-36 month olds
- Discussed higher scholarship rates for younger children
- Committee feels supporting Quality First scholarships at the base level is important, but would also like FTF staff to provide options for inclusion of 2 Star programs; 3-5 year olds in 3-5 Star programs; and 0-5 children in targeted high poverty areas
- Committee would also like to see maps that display geographically the distribution of all QF providers, along with high child poverty sections of the region; FTF may also be able to include all licensed programs and Head Start/Early Head Start sites to show where gaps in programming are present

Kindergarten Transition – Discontinue

- FTF staff presented this strategy is in an early formation and transition period over this fiscal year and therefore no specific neighborhood school community has been designated
- As described, the strategy supports a community of practice model to bring local groups of early care and education program providers together with administrators and teachers from the public elementary school sites offering Kindergarten
- Concern was shared by several Committee members that this type of coordination should already be happening through the Department of Education and therefore should remain as their role, not FTF’s

Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

Family Support Committee

Family Resource Centers – Continue

- Directly aligns to Regional Priority
- Committee members shared considerable knowledge around benefits of FRCs to include: many FRCs are organically grown and now employ former participants, methods of engagement work for all kinds of families, especially those not comfortable going to DES or medical offices, partnerships are strengthened with local early care and education providers who often refer families, and many FRCs also leverage support and funding from other sources
- Committee members also shared knowledge around some challenges, such as some FRCs might have limited hours which impacts accessibility, they have unclear outcomes, and there is limited or no tracking of who visits FRCs and from where
- Need for increased parameters around a standard scope of work, to include a stronger emphasis on outreach
- Discussed parallels between this strategy and Family Support Coordinators which involves staff who are assigned to a family in the community and provide services in their home vs. in a community setting
- Addressed need for some families to have case management services and how some FRCs are adding Navigators to provide this function; Committee member suggested we consider using a different term as Navigators is also used by federal Affordable Care Act program
- FTF staff presented proposal for continuing the multi-regional Family Resource Network project which led to how many FRCs South Phoenix vs. Central Phoenix has/had; what level of support do they get from FTF vs. other funding sources
- Committee wants to support this strategy but interested in greater definition around needs and supports in the RFGA process; related to the Family Resource Network they would like to hold this for the full Council's review

Family Support – Children with Special Needs – Discontinue

- Decision made to not support this strategy as children with special needs was not specifically called out in regional priorities and the amount of funding does not effectively impact the scale and scope of this issue in the region
- There was also discussion about the opportunity to thread children with special needs populations in other strategies, such as Home Visitation

Family Support Coordination – Discontinue

- Discussion was held around this strategy in relationship to similar strategy of Family Resource Centers. Committee understands there is gaining momentum and energy invested in community-based settings for serving young children and families in need

- It was agreed the Committee would recommend investing in FRCs at this point moving forward vs. the Family Support Coordination strategy

Home Visitation – Continue

- Committee members shared considerable knowledge about the efficacy and evidence-based effectiveness around this personalized case management model, which included specific outcomes around improved child health and development, children's school readiness and enhancement of parents' abilities to support their children's development
- Various models to include Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers were discussed somewhat; which model the region should support depends on what families they are wanting to serve
- Question as to where Parents Partners Plus falls into this was asked; they provide a coordinated intake, referral and coordination function for Home Visitation providers; this component is embedded within specific program models
- The Committee was informed that Prenatal Outreach as a separate strategy is not continuing in FY16, so they would like to see this population included within this strategy

Parent Education – Community-Based Training – Continue

- FTF staff shared the effectiveness of providing a series of training sessions to parents to increase their knowledge and skills around child development and parenting
- Committee members expressed interest in this delivery mechanism as it can be provided in a variety of community settings; as a compliment to parenting education provided at Family Resource Centers
- This strategy would also allow for specific parent populations to be targeted (ie. at risk, underserved, disconnected) and through the program, creates peer support opportunities

Reach Out and Read – Continue

- Committee members shared the history of this strategy and continuing support which is leveraged by many other funding partners in order to provide this literacy program
- Delivered through pediatricians/medical professionals to parents and children, creating connections and early childhood awareness to health professionals
- While the amount FTF is providing is small, the Committee felt it is important to remain a supporter of this effective and popular strategy

Quality First Scholarships Options
presented to

Phoenix South
Early Learning Committee

November 13, 2014

FY15 Quality First Child Care Scholarships

Total Allotment: \$8,567,290

Base Model Scholarships

2-5 Star Rating
Children 0-5 years

- 722 slots
- \$5,413,210

+Additional Scholarships

2-5 Star Rating
Children 0-5 years

- 50 slots
- \$423,880

+Additional Scholarships

3-5 Star Rating
Children 3-5 years

- 327 slots
- \$2,387,100

+Additional Scholarships

Targeted high poverty areas, for
Children 3-5 years

- 47 slots
- \$343,100

1,146 total Scholarships currently funded in the Phoenix South Region

FY16 Options*

<p>Base Model Scholarships</p> <p>All 3-5 Star Programs Children 0-5 years</p>	<p>+Additional Scholarships</p> <p>2 Star Programs Children 0-5 years</p>	<p>+Additional Scholarships</p> <p>3-5 Star Programs Children 3-5 years</p>	<p>+Additional Scholarships</p> <p>3-5 Star Programs Children 0-5 years (high poverty areas of the region)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 626 slots • \$4,747,592 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 251 slots • \$1,680,655 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 slots • \$375,276 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 slots • \$449,465

*The Council may fund scholarships at any number or dollar amount; and has several choices for targeting scholarships if funding above the base model.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR PHOENIX SOUTH COUNCIL

Cross-Regional Support to the Gila River Indian Community FTF Region

FY15 Phoenix South Regional Council funds
two Quality First Program Enrollments and
eight Child Scholarships
for the Gila River Indian Community

Currently:

One Program is enrolled
Two Scholarships in use

Proposal: Maricopa Countywide Oral Health Multi-regional Project

INTENT OF THE STRATEGY

The intent of the evidence-based Oral Health Strategy is to provide best practice approaches that enhance the oral health status of children birth through age 5. The expected results are prevention of tooth decay and reduction in the prevalence of early childhood tooth decay and the associated risks for pain and infections that can lead to lifelong complications to health and wellbeing. The approaches for this strategy include: oral health screening for children and expectant mothers with referrals to oral health providers for follow up care as needed; fluoride varnishes for children; oral health education for families and other caregivers; and, outreach to families, other caregivers including early learning and care providers, and oral health and medical professionals. This proposal is intended to provide a coordinated and systemic approach to providing oral health services to children birth through age 5 within Maricopa County.

PROPOSAL

The proposal for a robust, effective, multi-regional preventative oral health program was created in response to the needs of Maricopa County and to achieve the following:

- a. Leverage funding by pooling each region's oral health budget to;
 - i. Receive the full capacity of a local oral health program and
 - ii. Expand the capacity for multiple organizations to implement an oral health program that may not have otherwise had the capacity to carry out the full scope of work as outlined
- b. Reduce the administrative costs apparent in the current array of FTF funded oral health grantees
- c. Maintain a coordinate reimbursement system across all FTF oral health providers and implement an organized method to re-invest those dollars back in to local service delivery
- d. Provide a case management system to ensure that children are being attached to a dental home, and that urgent/emergent dental needs are being treated by a dental provider
- e. A comprehensive effort to coordinate access to services to reduce the barriers that cause families not to access existing services and supports due to lack of awareness and/or lack of knowledge needed to locate and engage in services.
- f. Create a seamless service delivery structure that ensures that children do not receive duplicated fluoride varnishes across regional boundary lines
- g. Provide consistent messaging around oral health education for families, caregivers
- h. Reduce inefficiencies by offering coordinated workforce professional development to all oral health providers delivering oral health preventative services in the Phoenix/Maricopa regions with the purpose of developing a workforce with similar levels of knowledge and skills

- i. Leadership amongst all county FTF funded oral health programs and promote collaboration
- j. Advocate for policy development for the oral health agenda within the county

The proposed approach to achieve the projected gains noted above, is to utilize an administrative home.

An administrative home approach model will allow for a lead agency to work with multiple community partners to implement the countywide scope of work and achieve oral health outcome objectives. This approach will allow for funding from the Regional Partnership Councils to be pooled and leveraged to both build upon current infrastructure and capacity and move toward scale. This approach will assist in moving the oral health agenda forward and assist in moving toward sustainability.

The administrative home entity is strongly encouraged to utilize the current array of oral health providers that provide screening, varnish and education. The RFGA applicant will be asked to submit signed Memorandums of Understanding with their grant application. The administrative home will be responsible for all aspects of program and fiscal oversight, including ensuring that any sub-contractors adhere to the First Things First Standards of Practice and Arizona State Procurement Laws.

In FY14, councils within Maricopa County awarded \$2,354,062 for oral health services, serving a total of 23,456 children (actual). Councils within Maricopa County awarded for oral health services \$2,337,106 to 23,854 children in FY15. The Councils represented in this include East Maricopa, Northwest Maricopa, Southeast Maricopa, Southwest Maricopa, Phoenix South and Phoenix North.

IMPLEMENTATION DESIGN

A. Expected Administrative Duties

- i. Service Integration specific to sub-grantees: coordination and collaboration of program and services with sub-grantees to implement Scope of Work and Standards of Practice
- ii. Coordination of quality data collection and reporting
- iii. Evaluation and Quality Assurance
- iv. Fiscal management, reporting and fluoride varnish reimbursement

- v. System Coordination
 - a. Establish and maintain a countywide child oral health data collection and surveillance system for ongoing tracking/monitoring, timely communication of findings, and the use of data to initiate and evaluate interventions.
 - b. Actively participate in the statewide Oral Health Community of Practice.
 - c. Actively promote the Oral Health Dental Network website <http://healthyteethaz.org/> and assist in recruiting provider enrollment.

- vi. Policy Support
 - a. Provide leadership around policy advocacy for oral health agenda.
 - b. Mobilize community partnerships between and among policymakers, professionals, organizations, groups, the public and others to identify and implement solutions to oral health problems.
 - c. Advocate for the reimbursement of fluoride varnish from commercial insurance plans
 - d. Develop and promote policies for better oral health and to improve health systems.
 - i. .
 - e. Provide oral health communications and education to policymakers and the public to increase awareness of oral health issues.

B. Service Delivery Components

- i. Oral Health Intervention, Promotion and Education
- ii. Oral Health Education for Families and Other Caregivers
- iii. Provider Education

PROPOSED COST

A unit of service of 3,000 children receiving screening/varnishes is proposed. It is suggested that a region choose 1 unit or ½ unit.

At 3,000 children per unit, we propose a budget of \$250,000 for all services per unit.

Phoenix South Strategy Consideration

Strategy: Service Coordination

Project: Family Resource Network

Service agencies that work together and achieve high level coordination and collaboration are often easier for families to access and the services provided are more responsive to the needs of the families. Cross-system efforts may also result in increased capacity to deliver services because of the work that organizations do to identify and address gaps in service sectors. Therefore, by supporting a variety of cross-system efforts, First Things First will be instrumental in creating a high quality, interconnected, and comprehensive early childhood service delivery system that is timely, culturally responsive, family driven, community based, and directed toward enhancing children's overall development.

The Maricopa and Phoenix regions have established a "Family Resource Network" to improve the quality of services delivered by family resource centers and family support specialists. The cross-regional Service Coordination Strategy includes activities which require "FTF directed" implementation.

- Convening of Family Resource Network members in order to address the established objectives of: sharing of knowledge, experiences, and innovative practices; strategic planning and problem solving; and to establish collective philosophies that Collaboration members can embrace and implement.
- Improve quality through best practices by development of a best practice tool kit, establishing a speakers' bureau and providing trainings for all new members, and by developing a professional development schedule for members.
- Establish a shared extranet as a forum for strategic planning, coordination of resources, professional development.
- Support the operation of the FindHelp Phoenix website provides an online directory for families who are in need of resources

Recommendation: Each Regional Council in Maricopa County is being asked to consider funding \$50,000 to support the activities of the Network and to fund an FRC evaluation study.



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FY16 PHOENIX SOUTH REGIONAL FUNDING FOR

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, MEDIA AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

Public awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health is a crucial component of efforts to build a comprehensive, effective early childhood system in Arizona. That's why the framers of the initiative that created First Things First and a cross-sector task force of early childhood stakeholders identified public awareness as one of the key system areas in which First Things First should focus its investments. Why is public awareness so important?

- **Public awareness impacts individual behaviors.** Every day, individuals – from parents and caregivers to business leaders and policymakers – make decisions that impact the lives of young children. Without awareness of how early experiences influence later success, individuals may not make decisions that are in the best interests of young children. In the case of parents and caregivers, a fundamental understanding of the importance of early childhood may also affect their willingness to seek out or participate in early childhood programs funded in their communities.
- **Public awareness impacts system building.** In order for various sectors in our community – service providers, businesses, philanthropy, faith communities and policymakers – to do their part to ensure school readiness for all children, they must first understand the importance of early childhood and value early childhood *for their own reasons*. Connecting early childhood to issues that diverse audiences value – such as reduced government spending, lower crime, higher graduation rates and an improved economy – helps to ensure that these varied audiences will see early childhood as an issue that matters to them and in which they are willing to invest time and resource.
- **Public awareness impacts public policy.** Therefore, as a critical partner in creating a family-centered, comprehensive and collaborative early childhood system, one of the primary responsibilities of First Things First is to raise public awareness about the importance of early childhood and elevate the public discourse about our shared commitment to children birth to 5.

First Things First's efforts in this area are outlined in the statewide FY14- FY17 Strategic Communications Plan adopted by the Board. The three major goals include:

- Raise awareness of, and build public support for, the importance of early childhood;
- Position FTF as a recognized and trusted voice in early childhood;
- Build awareness of early childhood programs and services, including First Things First statewide initiatives.

There is no one strategy that will achieve all those goals and make early childhood an issue that more Arizonans value and prioritize. Therefore, the plan includes strategies that complement and build on each other, including:

Paid Media:

Paid advertising offers the opportunity to reach the greatest number of Arizonans with simple, impactful messages about the importance of early childhood. For many Arizonans, this is the only contact with early childhood messaging they will have, so it is important that the messages be consistent statewide and repeated often enough to be internalized by the audience.

Community Outreach:

Region-based community outreach positions target specific audiences using a variety of tactics to share information about the importance of early childhood and the role of FTF in helping prepare Arizona's youngest kids for school. The focus is on creating community voices – from trusted and recognized local leaders – to help spread the word about the importance of early childhood and build an engaged, community-level constituency that can move local systems-building efforts forward.

Earned Media:

Conducted by community outreach staff, proactive regional media relations earn placement of stories on the importance of early childhood, in addition to success stories about FTF-funded programs, in a variety of media statewide, including newspapers, magazines, radio programs, newsletters and blogs. These placements convey to the community that early childhood is an important issue – not just for children and families – but for schools, businesses and communities throughout Arizona.

Community Awareness:

Community awareness encompasses activities to reinforce the messages sent through all the other strategies. It involves activities at the regional level, such as participation in/sponsorship of community events to build awareness of the importance of early childhood. It also includes the purchase and distribution of branded Educational Reinforcement Items (ERIs) and parent education materials to bolster messaging about the critical role that early experiences play in a child's early development.

Funding for Public Awareness

Funding to build public awareness of the importance of early childhood comes from both statewide and regional funds. **In total, the three strategies that comprise public awareness, account for \$234,940 or roughly 1% of Phoenix South's total FY15 allotted budget.**

The infrastructure that supports most of the activities outlined above is funded at the statewide level. This includes research on current awareness levels and effective messaging, the development of statewide advertising campaigns, the design and content of several websites and FTF's social media presence, design and content of marketing materials to support both public awareness and program efforts (such as fact sheets, brochures, etc.), initial training and on-going management support of community outreach staff, and staff to plan and implement FTF's statewide efforts in the areas of tribal affairs, government affairs, statewide media, and community awareness.

Strategies that support building public awareness at the local level, including placement of paid advertising in local media, regional community outreach staff and community awareness events/materials are supported through regional funding.

Recommendations

The success of the Strategic Communications Plan – and, by extension, efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development and health – depends on a consistent effort with the appropriate resources.

The Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council generously supported many efforts in FY15. The Communications and Public Affairs Division and FTF regional staff recommends continued funding of these strategies in Fiscal Year 2016, including:

Community Outreach

In FY14, community outreach expanded its scope with a systemic model of community engagement to move stakeholders beyond awareness to engaging in specific action on behalf of young kids. The Community Outreach strategy includes: salary, employee related expenses (benefits), regional travel, office supplies, external printing, and regional media subscriptions.

RECOMMENDATION: Maintain FY15 investment level of \$117,000 for Community Outreach strategy, which would allow for general and specific implementation using all three staff members.

Paid Media

The Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council's FY15 advertising dollars were strategically pooled with other regions in Maricopa County. Given the contiguous nature of the metro-Phoenix media market, this approach was designed to increase the reach and effectiveness of the media buy.

RECOMMENDATION: Maintain FY15 investment level of \$98,500 for Media strategy in Fiscal Year 2016.

Community Awareness

The Community Awareness strategy includes the purchase and distribution of Educational Reinforcement Items (ERIs), parent education materials and children's books, as well as support of event participation and sponsorship.

RECOMMENDATION: Maintain funding for the purchase of ERIs as well as community awareness event sponsorship and/or participation as part of the regional council's broader education and awareness strategy in Fiscal Year 2016 in the amount of \$19,440.

The following documents also provide additional details. If you would like a copy, please email Susan Hallett at shallett@azftf.gov.

- Strategic Communications Plan (2014-2017)
- Community Outreach and Community Awareness Standards of Practice-Phoenix Community Outreach plan State Fiscal Year 2015 and quarterly reporting

Allocations and Funding Sources		FY15			FY16		Notes/Considerations	
FY Allocation		\$17,751,460			\$17,299,507			
Carry Forward From Previous Year		\$12,002,472			-			
TOTAL - Regional Council Funds Available		\$29,753,932			\$17,299,507		FY16 allocation is a 29% reduction from the total allotment in FY15 (\$24,242,273)	
Strategies	Allotted	Awarded	FY15 Contracted Service Units	Proposed Allotted	FY16 Targeted Service Units	Notes/Considerations		
Early Learning	Director Mentoring/Training (in FY16 under Professional Developmental for Early Care and Education Professionals)	\$311,194	\$310,113	30 enrolled participants (CSU of 150 includes duplication)	\$300,000	30 enrolled participants (CSU of 150 includes duplication)	\$2,500 per person includes learning seminars, training tier levels, cohort/communities of practice, mentoring, conferences, guest speakers as well as incentive and reward programs for participating individuals who are eligible to earn college credits for coursework completed.	
	Family, Friends & Neighbors	\$996,000	\$996,000	672 home-based providers served	\$750,000	500 home-based providers served	\$1,500 per provider for facilitated group model	
	FTF Professional REWARDS	\$286,575	\$286,200	212 incentive awards distributed				
	Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	\$333,000	\$331,399	26 center/3 home-based providers served 56 participating children with special needs	\$333,000	33 centers served 66 participating children with special needs	Unit cost is \$10,000 per center/home	
	Mental Health Consultation	\$719,550	\$719,550	29 center/12 home-based providers served	\$502,000	41 centers served	FY16 Cost Model for MHC changed from average of \$15-17K per center/home to \$12,239 per center/home	
	Quality First- Center and Home Enrollment QF includes: QF Academy, Warmlines, Coaching and Incentives, Child Care Health Consultation, and state funding for assessments and TEACH Scholarships	\$2,171,954	\$2,071,217	97 Centers/30 Homes; includes 2 GRIC Cntrs	\$2,105,092	97 Centers/30 Homes; includes 2 GRIC Cntrs	FY16 direction by FTF State Board to Councils is to at least maintain number of centers/homes funded in FY15.	
	Quality First Scholarships	\$8,567,290	\$8,567,290	1,146 scholarships total	\$6,428,247	877 2-5 Star scholarships	See attachment - 626 scholarships at 3-5 Star base is \$4,474,592; 251 scholarships at 2 Star base is \$1,680,655	
Health	Care Coordination/Medical Home	\$1,616,624	\$1,283,721	2,095 children receiving screening 3,164 children served 2,021 developmental screenings conducted 1,343 families served (HIE Assistance) 2,095 hearing screenings conducted 2,095 vision screenings conducted	\$1,300,000	3,250 children receiving screening 3,250 children served 3,250 developmental screenings conducted 3,250 families served (HIE Assistance) 3,250 hearing screenings conducted 3,250 vision screenings conducted	Average cost per child is \$300-400 per year	
	Developmental and Sensory Screening	\$160,500	\$160,500	777 children receiving screening 901 hearing screenings conducted vision screenings conducted developmental screenings conducted	\$150,000	3,950 children receiving screenings 3,950 hearing screenings conducted 3,950 vision screenings conducted	Average cost for hearing and vision screening is \$38 per child	
	Recruitment - Stipends and Loan Forgiveness	\$364,387	\$354,855	14 therapists receiving loan forgiveness 14 therapists receiving stipends				
	Access to Healthy Food/Nutrition				\$50,000		New Strategy: Cost toward coordination of a Coalition	
	Health Insurance Enrollment	\$148,000	\$148,000	925 families served			Can be included in other appropriate strategies, such as FRCs, Home Visitation	
	Oral Health	\$751,000	\$734,352	7,107 children receiving screenings 7,026 children receiving fluoride varnishes 1,610 participating adults 186 participating professionals prenatal women receiving screenings	\$500,000	6,000 children receiving screenings 6,000 children receiving fluoride varnishes 1,200 participating adults and professionals 600 prenatal women receiving screenings	See attachment - Proposed funding to support FY16 Maricopa County Oral Health Multi-Regional Project	
	Family Support	Family Resource Centers	\$1,212,970	\$1,208,627	8,800 families served (duplicated count)	\$1,200,000	8,800 families served (duplicated count)	According to FTF statewide estimates, cost per FRC may vary from \$270,000 to \$555,000 depending on service delivery components and level of inkind/matching funding of partner agencies. For FY16 additional service - case management - costs \$35,000 per site. Additional Phoenix South considerations: continue to fund four FRC sites in region; or, add to the number of sites and geographic coverage in new region.
Family Support – Children with Special Needs		\$135,050	\$129,590	55 children receiving screening 55 developmental screenings conducted families served 55 hearing screenings conducted vision screenings conducted				
Family Support Coordination		\$625,500	\$566,592	495 families served				
Home Visitation		\$2,808,400	\$2,807,244	454 children receiving screenings 489 developmental screenings conducted 680 families served 166 hearing screenings conducted 163 vision screenings conducted	\$2,800,000	XX children receiving screenings XX developmental screenings conducted XX families served XX hearing screenings conducted XX vision screenings conducted	family/year; Healthy Families costs \$3,500 per family/year; Parents as Teachers costs \$2,000 per family/year.	
Parenting Education		\$175,750	\$174,993	280 adults completing a series	\$176,000	280 adults completing a series	Depending on model, cost may vary	
Prenatal Outreach (no longer a separate strategy)		\$698,000	\$697,334	772 participating adults attending training 643 adults receiving home visitation 193 developmental screenings conducted				
Reach Out and Read (in FY16 under Parenting Outreach and Awareness)		\$18,500	\$18,500	370 books dist, 7 participating practices	\$18,500	370 books dist, 7 participating practices		
Coordination	Court Teams	\$220,000	\$220,000	1,500 children served 500 participants attending	\$100,000	750 children served 250 participants attending		
	Service Coordination (Family Resource Network)	\$55,530	\$16,667	No target service units	\$50,000	No target service units	See attachment - Proposed funding to support Maricopa Family Resource Network, an FRC evaluation study and Find Help Phoenix website	
	Comprehensive Preventative Health Collaborative	\$306,250	\$306,250	No target service units				
	Kindergarten Transition	\$112,000	\$112,000					
Community Awareness	Community Awareness	\$19,440	\$19,440	No target service units	\$19,440	No target service units	See attachment	
	Community Outreach	\$117,000	\$117,000	No target service units	\$117,000	No target service units	See attachment - Phoenix South's portion of funding for 3 staff members for Phoenix North and Phoenix South	
	Media	\$98,500	\$98,500	No target service units	\$98,500	No target service units	See attachment	
Evaluation	Statewide Evaluation	\$1,213,309	\$1,213,309	No target service units	\$926,247	No target service units	See attachment - Evaluation is reduced by 24% from FY15 to FY16	
Total Allotted		\$24,242,273	\$23,669,243		\$17,924,026			
Total Remaining		\$5,511,659			(\$624,519)			

**Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council
State Fiscal Year 2016-2018 Strategic Planning Timeline
August 2014 – January 2015**

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER & JANUARY
<p>August 5- Phoenix North and South Cross-Regional Council Meeting</p> <p>Presentation and approval of the Central Phoenix and South Phoenix 2014 Needs and Assets Reports</p>	<p>September 11- Regular Phoenix South Regional Council Meeting</p> <p>Phoenix South Strategic Planning:</p> <p><i>Focusing on the Present:</i> - Review Detailed Timeline - FY15 Regional Funding Plan Overview</p> <p><i>Where Do We Envision Our Greatest Future Impacts?</i> -Summary of Needs and Assets Reports -Identify the Vision, Goal Areas and Priorities for FY16 and beyond -Formation of Subcommittees (Early Learning, Health, Family Support) to identify strategies and Systems Building Opportunities?</p> <p>September 29-30 - FTF State Board Meeting (Yuma)</p>	<p>October 9- Regular Phoenix South Regional Council Meeting</p> <p>Continuing Discussion on Strategic Planning:</p> <p><i>Moving Forward with a Strategic Vision</i> - Regional Allocation Solidified by FTF Board - Council approves fine-tuned priorities - Subcommittees meet to develop draft strategies and approaches</p>	<p>November 13- Regular Phoenix South Regional Council Meeting</p> <p>Continuing Discussion on Strategic Planning:</p> <p><i>Discussion Into Action: Finalizing Strategic Planning</i> - Subcommittees share recommendations - Council approves strategies, and determines funding amounts and service units - further discussion on unfunded strategies and approaches</p>	<p>December 11- Regular Phoenix South Regional Council Meeting</p> <p>Finalize FY16-18 Funding Plan including Strategies, Funding Amounts, Service Units and Funding Mechanisms</p> <p>Align Funding Plan with FTF School Readiness Indicators</p> <p>Approve FY16-18 Phoenix South Region Funding Plan</p> <p>.....</p> <p>January 8- Regular Phoenix South Council Meeting</p> <p>January 20-21- FTF State Board Meeting (Phoenix)</p> <p>-Funding Plan Presentations by 28 Regional Councils; Approval by FTF Board of Funding Plans</p>

ATTACHMENTS #11 & 12



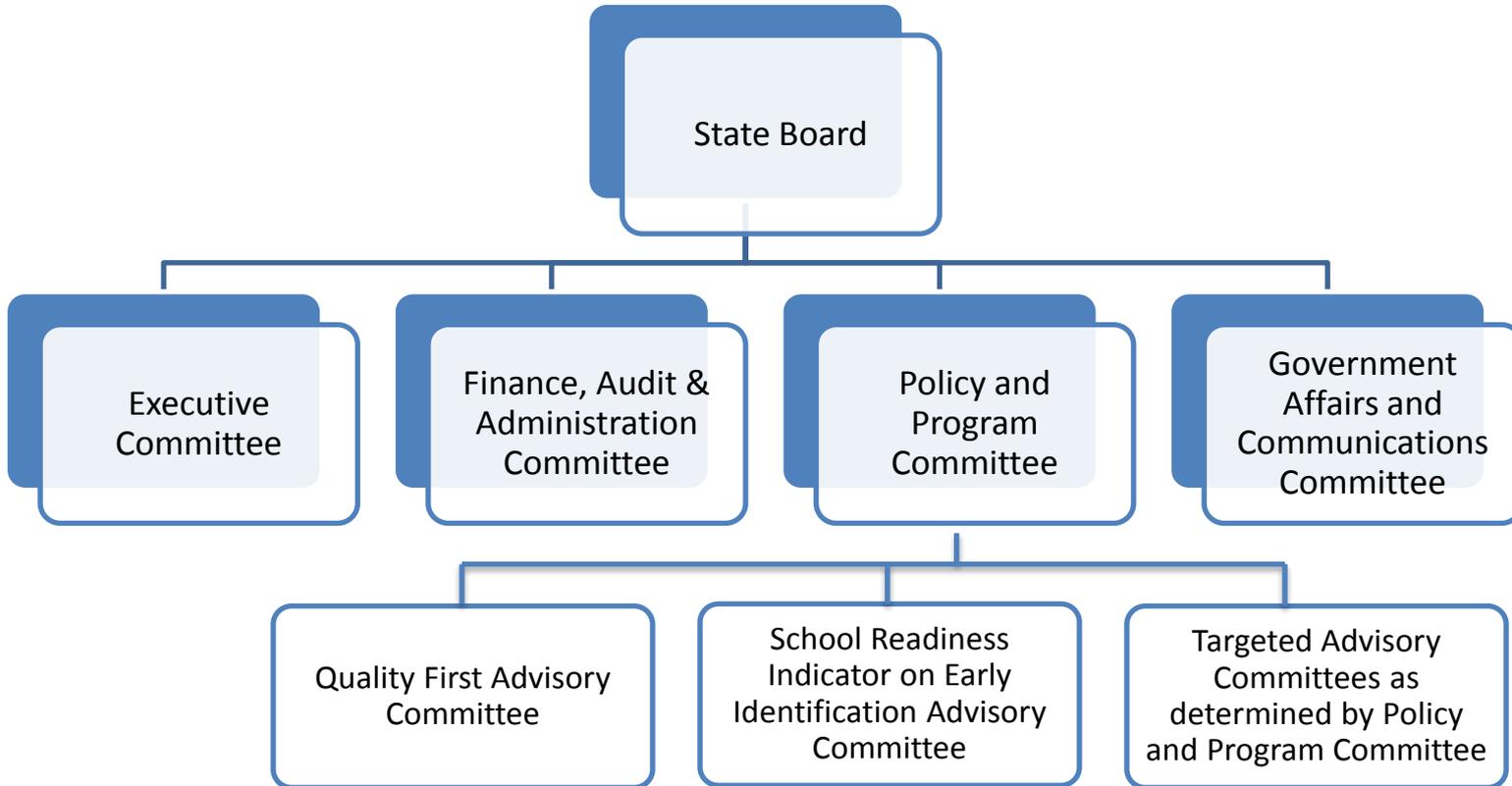
FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council Meeting November 13, 2014

AGENDA ITEM	Regional Director's Update
BACKGROUND	Regional Director will discuss and share materials from the October 23, 2014 FTF Program Committee Meeting.
RECOMMENDATION	No recommendation

FTF Advisory Committees





FIRST THINGS FIRST

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First Things First
Research and Evaluation National Advisory Panel
2014 Meeting Summary Report

June 2014

FIRST THINGS FIRST EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH AND EVALUATION NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL

John M. Love, Ph.D., Panel Chair, Retired Senior Fellow, Mathematica
Policy Research; Independent Consultant, Ashland, OR

Clancy Blair, Ph.D. Professor of Applied Psychology, New York
University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human
Development, Department of Applied Psychology

Diane Bricker, Ph.D., First Things First
Gila Regional Partnership Council

Kevin J. Brown, Ed.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Educational
Leadership, Northern Arizona University, First Things First,
Coconino Regional Partnership Council

Noel A. Card, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Family Studies and Human
Development, University of Arizona, John and Doris Norton School of
Family and Consumer Sciences

Greg Duncan, Ph.D. Distinguished Professor, Department of
Education, University of California, Irvine

Robert M Goerge, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at Chapin Hall at the
University of Chicago, Harris School, University of Chicago

Claude Goldenberg, Ph.D. Professor of Education, Stanford University
School of Education

Candida Hunter, First Things First, Hualapai Tribe
Regional Partnership Council

David P. Moxley, Ph.D., DPA, Oklahoma Health Care Authority,
Medicaid Endowed Professor of Public Health,
Professor of Social Work, University of Oklahoma

Pamela Powell, Ed.D. Associate Professor of Literacy and Early
Childhood, Northern Arizona University College of Education, First
Things First, Board Member

Malia Villegas, Ed.D., Director, NCAI Policy Research Center,
Washington, D.C.



Background

Research and evaluation have been a critical component of FTF since its inception. FTF strives for complete transparency and holds itself, and its collaborations with partners, accountable for achieving intended outcomes for children. In 2011, the FTF Board requested a re-examination of FTF's research and evaluation approach, resulting in the creation of the FTF Early Childhood Research and Evaluation National Advisory Panel (Panel) in January 2012. The Panel was convened to provide recommendations to the FTF Board on developing a comprehensive statewide and regional research and evaluation framework and included representation from experts in early childhood research; evaluation design and methodology; Native American early education; placed-based, systems-level evaluation; school readiness, including literacy and language development, cognitive development, and executive functioning; state prekindergarten evaluation; special needs and early intervention; health; and a unique Arizona, state-specific, perspective.

The Panel met three times in the winter and spring of 2012 and produced a [report](#) summarizing the Panel's recommendations. The Panel's report was accepted by the FTF Board in 2012. FTF staff produced the 2013-2017 Research and Evaluation Plan to implement the Panel's recommendations and set the research and evaluation direction for FTF. The Research and Evaluation Plan was approved by the FTF Board in October 2012.

One of the goals of this plan was to establish an advisory panel to annually review evaluation and research activities for their soundness and utility and provide feedback on planning activities based on their alignment with the National Panel's recommendations and best practices in research and evaluation. Annual meetings are open to the public and all interested stakeholders, including regional councils, state agency partners, and tribal leaders.

The current Panel responsibilities include:

- Reviewing FTF research and evaluation activities annually to ensure alignment with recommendations of the National Panel and quality standards;
- Reviewing and critiquing approaches for planned research and evaluation activities, e.g., longitudinal data system, Quality First study; and,
- Ensuring FTF undertakes high quality planning, coordination, and implementation of all research and evaluation activities.

In addition to their annual review of progress and future planning, this panel may serve as an ongoing resource for technical review and advice on evaluation contracting, programmatic monitoring, development of data systems, and reporting and analysis.

Overview

Dr. John Love, Panel Chair, called the meeting to order and introduced the Panel members and FTF staff. Dr. Love has served as the Chairman of the Panel since its inception in 2012. Chairman Love underscored the importance of accountability, transparency, producing valid data and evaluations, and continuously improving efforts to support young children in Arizona as key FTF goals.

Dr. Roopa Iyer, Senior Director, FTF Research and Evaluation, provided the Panel with an update of the progress made to date on key FTF projects and activities outlined in the Research and Evaluation Plan, including those projects completed, in progress, on hold or behind schedule. Sam Leyvas, FTF Chief

Executive Officer, presented the Panel with an overview of the history of FTF, discussed FTFs responsibility to taxpayers for transparency and accountability, and emphasized the importance of quality data and sound evaluation for FTF data driven decision making.

Michelle Katona, FTF Chief Regional Officer, presented an overview of Regional Partnership Council governance and membership structure, and the funding and planning cycles by which they operate. Ms. Katona further explained that Regional Partnership Councils have prioritized FTF Board approved School Readiness Indicators and are in the process of setting benchmarks for 2020 for those indicators for which data is available, noting that FTF cannot meet these benchmarks with FTF efforts alone. It was emphasized that Regional Councils must find opportunities for leveraging funds, building partnerships, and infrastructure and capacity building activities to successfully reach targeted benchmarks.

First Things First Systems Approach

Karen Woodhouse, FTF Chief Program Officer, introduced and reviewed the FTF systems approach that outlines FTF's nine priority roles identified by the Early Childhood Taskforce (2010). These roles are an important part of the vision for and elements of a comprehensive early childhood model system, with the explicit understanding that FTF is only one of many key partners that have an important role in building and sustaining the early childhood system. As strategic planning begins for FY16 and beyond, FTF's is focused on achieving the 2020 benchmarks set for the School Readiness Indicators. The Advisory Committees of the Board's Policy and Program Committee, Regional Councils, and FTF staff have initiated planning discussions using a systems framework developed by [Julia Coffman \(2007\)](#).

As FTF moves forward, decisions must be grounded in robust data and evaluation. Towards this goal, FTF recognizes that gaps still exist in both implementation and outcome data for its funded programs, and that the implementation data required by FTF as part of strategy implementation isn't always adequate to answer whether the program is meeting its intended goal.

The discussion with the panel focused on when and how to collect meaningful implementation and outcome data towards continuous program improvement.

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

Supporting Capacity Building

- Rural communities may face challenges in attempting to collect good data due to variance in grant partner capacity. The need for grantee training with a focus on capacity building was identified.
- A dual tier approach was suggested for implementation data collection, one approach for the urban areas with grantees with greater capacity and another for rural or other communities with limited capacity and resources.
- Provide support to grant partners to initiate or better document the progress being made (e.g. how to demonstrate the needle is moving).
- Identify and provide tools to support all regions in collecting, understanding, and using data.

Efficient and Effective Data Collection

- Tighten standards of practice and selection criteria/rubrics to prioritize evidence-based programs. Create rigorous standards for evidence informed and/or innovative programs.
- Require grant partners to identify how they will comply with the standards of practice.

- Working with systems partners, collect meaningful implementation data and fidelity of implementation data from evidence-based models as part of program requirements.
- Guide grant partners and Regional Council members on what is expected for quality:
 - (i) implementation data,
 - (ii) short term outcome data, and
 - (iii) long-term outcome data.
- Focus on identifying the services FTF funds where quality data are available and at what level (e.g., implementation versus outcome).
- Examine how Regional Councils are meeting community needs using existing data, and provide support for data interpretation towards decision making.
- Audit programs for service and financial data.
- Focus on securing short term outcomes that might begin to address the question of whether funded programs and efforts are meeting the needs of their communities.
- Ensure implementation data is not used in place of data showing real outcomes.
- Collect dosage data (e.g. attendance of children and parents in participating programs), as it can inform impact.
- Identify outcome data that could be secured via an administrative data base versus evaluation studies.
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis to determine how much outcome data should be collected. Annual formal evaluations for all programs may be cost prohibitive, especially for all programs funded by FTF Regional Councils.
- Consider how to go to scale with programs while maintaining quality.
- Consider utilizing local universities and community colleges to collect short term and/or long-term outcome data.
- Maintain the extremely important focus on systems work.

Integrated Data System and FTF Dashboard

Dr. Iyer provided an overview of FTF's progress in implementing an integrated early childhood data system and securing data sharing agreements. While Arizona does not currently have an integrated data system for all early childhood state agency data, FTF will continue working on data sharing agreements with agency partners and focus efforts on building an administrative database to house comprehensive early childhood data. Simultaneously, FTF is focusing on continuously improving its data system to incorporate participant level data for programs funded. Nicole Johnson, Vice President of Operations, provided the Panel with an overview of FTF's data dashboard efforts to date, including the mapping tool. The FTF dashboard will present existing program service data, financial data, census data, and other agency data in new and meaningful ways. The dashboard is planned to be launched in the first quarter of FY15.

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

Ongoing development of the integrated database

- Focus on continuously building the administrative data system and the FTF integrated data system.
- Create a case-management and personnel-management system through which FTF can track service encounters and referrals for individual children and parents.
- Providers need to take attendance and take notes on their cases to improve practice. Very important to strive for identifiable and unduplicated service data.

Tribal Data Considerations

- Use caution when determining whether to consolidate or coordinate available data. Unique indicators for tribal populations may be lost in consolidation (e.g., the difference between unemployment rate versus joblessness in tribal communities and elsewhere).
- Focus on indigenous population identification and how different federal and local agencies define Native American. Many Native Americans are “getting lost” in mixed race classifications and being underrepresented.
- Ensure reciprocal access to data to address the need for transparency and access for tribes’ utilization and interpretation of data. .

Review of First Things First School Readiness Indicators and Data Sources

School Readiness (Kindergarten Developmental Inventory)

Ms. Woodhouse provided the panel with an overview of the status of FTF School Readiness Indicators and statewide and regional benchmarking. Only three of the ten indicators were discussed at the meeting, as the focus was to determine the best source of data for the indicators on hold/or under review for revision. An overview was provided for the Panel on efforts to date to implement an Arizona Kindergarten Developmental Inventory instrument (KDI) that is intended as a formative assessment and provide trend data for the FTF indicator of school readiness at kindergarten entry. Arizona is participating in a 10-state consortium led by North Carolina that is developing an assessment system for kindergarten through grade three that includes a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). The Arizona Department of Education is currently using the Teaching Strategies Gold instrument in public school preschool programs, as do most Arizona Head Start programs. This instrument was discussed as a potential measure for school readiness as well as a child outcome measure for the FTF Quality First validation study.

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

- KDI should include all five critical domains of school readiness identified by the National Education Goals Panel, including numeracy, executive functioning, and social-emotional development. Do not focus solely on literacy, or even just literacy and math in developing the KDI.
- KDI should be a high-quality, multidimensional assessment; FTF should consider using it not only to focus attention on the domains of school readiness but to draw attention to what FTF has accomplished with all its programs.
- KDI has more than one purpose. FTF should ensure that it meets FTF’s purpose as an outcome measure for all FTF services that children receive between birth and the time they enter kindergarten.
- Determine what percent of Quality First programs are currently using Teaching Strategies Gold as their assessment tool prior to finalizing a measure.

Developmental Delays Identified in Kindergarten

The Panel was informed that there is no quality data source currently available in Arizona to measure the school readiness indicator related to developmental delay identification — the percentage of children with newly identified developmental delays during the kindergarten year. This was underlined in the findings in the Intervening Early Opportunity Assessment Report by Dr. Charles Bruner. IDEA Part C, which funds services for children birth to age three, is administered through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP). When looking at the available data from AZEIP, FTF staff determined that

this is not the best data source given its high eligibility threshold. FTF is reconsidering the language/focus for this indicator and whether it is the best measure of progress of early identification of delays or if there is a more targeted indicator. The intent of this indicator is to accurately screen children with developmental delays and when indicated, refer these children and their families to appropriate services and supports.

The Panel observed the complexity of this issue given that Arizona does not have an integrated early intervention system to address the needs of all children on the continuum of development delays. The Panel further discussed how to identify and serve all children with mild to moderate developmental delays in a coordinated systematic approach. The Panel also highlighted HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) restrictions that protect the privacy of a child, but can make it challenging to share data and information with other service providers in the system to more effectively and seamlessly support the child.

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

- Focus to include healthcare providers, such as pediatricians, in conversations related to developmental delays identification as they are often the first to respond to children's issues; also include the state's Child Protective Services Department and their role in working with vulnerable children.
- With respect to early intervention, be mindful of where FTF sets the threshold for screening, due to the risk of false positives, under-diagnosis, and/or misuse of "at-risk" designations.
- Utilize medical professionals to refer children for services in the system (e.g. pediatricians to refer families for home visitation services).

Confident Families (FTF Family and Community Survey)

Dr. Iyer presented the school readiness indicator related to confident families--the percentage of Arizona families that report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being--and noted that FTF set a statewide benchmark for this indicator in 2013. The Family and Community Survey, conducted every 2 to 3 years, is the proposed data source to measure progress on this indicator. In FY14, data is also being collected from families in FTF tribal regions via focus groups or one-on-one interviews, using the same survey questions. This data collection approach was selected following feedback FTF received from tribal communities suggesting that a phone survey was not necessarily the best method to collect tribal survey data. The information received from the 2012 phone survey is being used as a first effort to set baseline information related to parents' self-report about confidence supporting their children. FTF requested Panel input on:

- Whether other national tools exist to measure parent confidence in supporting their children;
- How to collect population outcome data on this construct; and,
- How FTF family support strategies contribute to the population outcome of increased parental competence and confidence.

The Panel discussed the challenges in getting truly representative survey samples, and even more challenges in ensuring similar representativeness across multiple time points in longitudinal surveys. The panel shared the concern over the current survey items' ability to reliably measure the confident families construct. The Panel noted that it is an enormous effort to collect data for this kind of a construct to be used in benchmarking.

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

- FTF should concretely operationalize the construct when surveying parents about competence and confidence. Define it and determine what measures represent it. Review the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) survey for guidance.
- Incorporate an additional qualitative approach to collecting data, such as the following items:
 - Asking parents what they think are the most important factors (rank order of importance);
 - Asking what parents are doing to address child development, safety, health and well-being related items; and,
 - Asking questions such as “do you have any concerns regarding your child’s development, health etc., and if so, where do you go to for help?”
- Monitor change over time and balance changing methodology with ability to measure this.
- Seek out expert assistance from other states or organizations that have conducted reliable surveys.

Tribal Data Considerations

FTF has several data related policies that address data collection, data approval requirements, data security, and data suppression and dissemination. For each FTF report that will incorporate tribal population data, agreements with the Tribes are secured before gathering data, including primary data collection, secondary data from other public state agencies and tertiary data from existing public reports. FTF is in the process of developing a tribal data policy that will consider long-term data agreements with tribes, data ownership and access to data. The tribal data policy is based on the items raised as part of the 2013 FTF Tribal Consultation with tribal leaders. The Panel suggested tribal data considerations that FTF should deliberate in implementing the Research and Evaluation Plan.

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

Data Collection, Methodology and Reporting

- Share the data collected with tribal leaders and communities in meaningful ways, and specifically pay attention to data presentation format. This was underscored as critical to foster tribes’ understanding and feedback as well as in fostering relationships with tribes.
- Continue to support diversity in all evaluation efforts, ensuring respect for the rights and aspirations of Native people.
- Consider culturally responsive measures (e.g. Quality First measures capturing what language a teacher spoke in the classroom; adding an observational component to Quality First assessment measures) and methods for tribal populations.
- Be mindful of challenges related to mobility and sample sizes when handling tribal data. Identify how to track tribal data, what identification number can and should be used.
- Utilize supplemental data sources in addition to census data for tribal populations.
- Look at the community investment as a potential unit of analysis.
- Be clear on definition of American Indian versus Alaskan Native.
- Utilize the United States Department of Education (US ED) guidelines on race and ethnicity definitions (tribal populations are often incorrectly counted in a mixed race or Hispanic category).
- Utilize the National Indian Evaluation Study (NIES) as a resource for setting language in data requests.

Strengthening Ongoing Relationships with Tribes

- Convene an actively involved tribal advisory consultation team to review and provide input for all aspects of FTF's evaluation efforts.
- Continue to honor the government-to-government relationship with tribal nations.
- Focus should not be to 'change the behavior of our Native children and families' but to improve the responsiveness of systems to the children and families being served – this impacts the unit of analysis, choice of indicators, and recommendations.
- Try to inform national policy conversations related to indigenous identification in state data sets, data linkage, the importance of tribal governance in research, and the importance of culture in early childhood policy considerations.
- Support the work of the 10 FTF tribal regions, and where appropriate, work together cross-regionally.

The Panel also recommended that FTF consider culturally responsive measures for other minority populations, such as the Hispanic/Latino population, and review the research literature for best practices in relation to these sub-populations.

Research and Evaluation Studies

Quality First Implementation and Pre-Validation Study

Dr. Iyer and Ginger Sandweg, FTF Senior Director for Early Learning, provided an overview of the Quality First program, Arizona's Quality Improvement & Rating System. Ms. Sandweg also informed the Panel on the cut-off scores on the Environmental Rating Scales (ERS), Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool and FTF Point Scale currently being used to differentiate the star levels of quality early care and education programs. The Quality First Implementation and Validation Study is proposed in the FTF Research and Evaluation Plan to be a three-phase study (or a series of studies) based on Panel recommendations from 2012. Panel members concurred that step 1 of this process will be to validate the Quality First rating scale. The Panel was provided with an overview of the Quality First program components, including how these components are implemented across participating programs, highlighting any model changes that occurred between FY12-14. The Panel was asked to recommend research questions and analysis approaches relevant to the Quality First components based on how these components are currently implemented.

The Panel discussion on research questions and approaches included:

- How many programs access Child Care Health Consultation versus professional development components?
- Is the Mental Health Consultation component linked to Quality First programs?
- What level of professional development do teachers receive?
- Are coaches able to train on curriculum elements effectively?

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

- Identify the standard curriculum that most of the Quality First programs use. Consider the importance of the relationship between early care and education curriculum and Quality First child-level outcomes.
- Focus on strengthening the data elements related to the coaching component of Quality First.
- Operationalize the intent of the coaching component. Given the high coaching expenditures, it is critical to have a good understanding about whether coaching is doing what it is intended to do to impact program quality.

- Focus on the cultural sensitivity aspect in coaching.
- Listen to the national conversation about quality measures and consider the appropriateness of the Environmental Rating Scales measures.
- Continue to focus your efforts around the quality rating system but simultaneously try to assess the fidelity of implementation of the curriculum. FTF needs to show that it has improved the quality of Arizona's preschools.
- Examine what teachers learned and how did that change what they do in classrooms towards program quality improvement and child outcomes.
- Examine each Quality First component's relation to Quality First program sub-measure scores and program rating scores.
- Utilize a KDI to measure child outcomes related to changes in program quality.
- Utilize a cluster analysis approach to examine the relation of quality ratings to type and intensity of Quality First components accessed by Quality First programs, given the variation in services that providers receive based on their star ratings.
- Enroll more programs into Quality First. How can FTF make a difference in the quality of care being provided in Arizona if 73% of providers are not in the Quality First initiative?

Child Care Capacity Study

Due to time constraints, the Child Care Capacity study was not discussed. The Panel determined that members with related content expertise can assist FTF on this topic at a later date.

Considerations for Planning Regional Studies

Panel members were asked to provide guidance on considerations Regional Councils should deliberate when/if they determine to conduct a region-specific program or strategy evaluation study.

Panel Feedback and Recommendations

- Regional Councils should resist the temptation to rush into an evaluation if a program is not yet up to speed. They should wait until the program(s) have been implemented for a while and also look at evaluations across regions and within regions, to identify what elements are contributing to successful outcomes.
- Continue to focus on accessing administrative data with high priority given to participant level implementation data, fidelity of implementation data and data from program participants to begin to capture differential outcomes.
- Utilize a case study approach when appropriate. Case studies can be used for describing packages or bundled programs. However, it is unlikely that they can deconstruct a package/bundle of programs to see what worked and how to spend regional resources. The first step is determining if a particular "bundle" makes a difference; then there is a basis for digging deeper in an effort to discover how the specific programs worked together.
- FTF cannot realistically look at program-level evaluation given the challenge of disentangling all the services in a regional strategic bundle.
- Leverage current regional data to inform regional research questions (e.g. regional needs and assets, school readiness indicators, quarterly data reports).
- Identify whether or not program wait lists exist by strategies.
- Look at statewide studies to capture enough regionally representative samples to inform regions.
- Conduct a thorough literature review to understand what evaluation efforts have been done by others elsewhere.
- FTF should try to be a repository of information to share with regions.

- Apply fidelity of implementation data towards opportunities to help improve program implementation. However, for outcome data, FTF still might need to do an evaluation study.
- Prioritize highly funded FTF strategies/programs to be evaluated for short- term and long-term outcomes. Put some mechanism in place to begin to collect short-term and long-term outcome data.
- Establish a clear set of priorities for strategies with clear, concise rubrics for council members and grantees to follow.
- Ensure that FTF standards of practice clearly demarcate implementation standards and support reduction/elimination of funded program models that aren't evidence-based.
- Think carefully about relying on existing evidence from evidence-based programs especially to the extent FTF may be implementing them under circumstances that differ from those in which the evidence is based. Collect FTF implementation fidelity and impact data because it is difficult to replicate an evidence-based program with fidelity.
- Provide support to Regional Councils that need assistance to make evaluation decisions. Think about evaluation strategies that will help Regional Councils, particularly the smaller ones, do sound evaluations.

Concluding Comments and Future Direction

In addition to the Panel recommendations specific to the annual meeting agenda topics discussed already in this report, the Panel members also provided their concluding comments on FTF's progressing evaluation efforts. The Panel recommendations included:

1. As FTF comes up with solutions to the evaluation challenges in Arizona, think about how these can also advance the field and inform the larger national early childhood research community with respect to measures, evaluation approaches, and data systems.
2. Keep a balanced perspective of what FTF is trying to do with provision of services versus evaluating services.
3. Consider that there are three main goals for evaluation, and think about how to prioritize these:
 - a. Providing accountability and quality assurance means measuring the inputs more than outcomes.
 - b. Using data to guide ongoing programmatic efforts means evaluating the outcomes, especially with home-grown and/or innovative programs.
 - c. Measuring outcomes, even for established evidence-based programs, because FTF needs to justify how the investments and work are impacting children.
4. Continue to advocate for early childhood development programs for all children in Arizona; consider the fact that not all children participate in FTF's strategies and programs, but still can benefit from what FTF is doing throughout the state.
5. FTF should get the best data on fidelity implementation possible.
6. Find ways, where appropriate, to work with other agencies that may be collecting data FTF could use or are implementing studies similar to those FTF is planning.
7. As FTF deals with the many challenges—representative samples, validity of measures, etc.—consider the importance of timing. There will never be the perfect evaluation effort, but getting some results sooner can be better than getting more perfect results much later when policymakers have already moved on.
8. Keep in mind the needs of the Latino population that represents 30% of the Arizona population and approximately 50% of the population under age 6 years.

9. Think of families, not just children. Make sure parents are included in early childhood programs and in evaluations.
10. Consider paring down FTF's ambitious goals; focus on what is considered being the most important goals—the areas needed to generate evaluation data to address the most important questions.