



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

May 18, 2011

4000 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

11:00 a.m.

***Policy and Program Committee
Meeting Minutes***

Members Present: Dr. Pam Powell, Bill Berk, Amy Corriveau, Mary Ellen Cunningham, Ida Rose Florez, Julianne Hartzell, Naomi Karp, Kenton Laffoon, Eva Marie Shivers, Laurie Smith, Kim Van Pelt

Members Absent: Brad Willis, Gayle Burns, Randal Christiansen and Toni Harvier

Special Guests: Advisory Committee Members Michael Kelley and Juan Sanchez, Co-Chairs of the Early Learning Advisory Committee
Marilee DalPra and Coleen Day-Mach, Co-Chairs of the Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee
Pat VanMaanen, Co-Chair of the Health Policy Advisory Committee

FTF Staff Facilitators: Rhian Evans Allvin, Karen Woodhouse, Michelle Katona, Sandy Foreman, Ena Binns, Ginger Sandweg

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 11:15 a.m. and called for introductions and Member updates. Chair Powell gave a brief update on federal legislation and activities related to early childhood. Member Cunningham shared information that growth and development charts/progress are available on the Arizona Department of Health Services website

Karen Woodhouse presented a review of indicator development for First Things First Roles by the Health, Early Learning and Family Support and Early Literacy Advisory Committees and provided a timeline for completion of final recommendations to the First Things First Board at the August 2011 meeting. FTF has been working with Kay Johnson on technical assistance for the development of the indicators. They have completed reviews of the first draft of indicators and will meet again to identify the headline indicators and those that will help us get our desired outcomes.

Member VanMaanen provided an update on the work of the Health Advisory Committee related to the health indicators. She spoke of the possible development of an online process for capturing health indicators but would need to determine how much data is needed and how it's going to be used. Member Florez cited the first outcome on the health indicators and asked what level of data we're looking at, is it by region or by county? Member VanMaanen noted that this is a next step to look at and also how it will be collected needs to be determined. Member Cunningham shared that through their home visiting grant they were able to look at data from all zip codes and can be sorted by age of child. Member Flores stated that if Regional Partnership Councils never say they need this information at the regional level, we may never receive it. Some Members shared that they didn't agree the need was for information at the regional level because if the regional boundaries change, it will cause problems and it would be best to research data by zip code. Member DalPra identified that one report could look at specific investments and accountability by regions but it is difficult to identify what level of data is reported and much data may come from providers and how do we universally require that providers are accountable for that level of reporting and could we expect this? Rhian Evans Allvin agrees that we first need to translate to participants at what scale we expect providers to report. Would also need to determine if we intend to capture tribal data. Indicators can help provide a way to develop future policy and on the Health Indicators.

Member Kelley gave an overview of the Early Learning Advisory Committee indicators and called for Committee questions. Karen Woodhouse shared that indicators for Family, Friends and Neighbors has generated strong discussion. This is a very hard to reach population as many immigrants use this means of care and it is a challenge to collect data in systematic way. Member Kelley identified that the same concerns exist in the indicators for the professional development area but recognized that there has been good discussion on career pathway opportunities and with trying to create/re-create these pathways. Member Karp believes we need to be more intentional in our provision of community educational opportunities. Budget issues are forcing us all to look at priorities and at streamlining processes and universities are looking at ways to provide these opportunities as well.

Member Day-Mach and Member DalPra jointly shared their report on indicators for the Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee. Reached near full consensus from Committee Members with the recommended indicators and they have two more meetings where they hope to refine them.

Sandy Foreman identified indicators which overlap among all groups and that next steps would be to bring together all the indicators and to identify if they're duplicated.

Karen Woodhouse shared that the Advisory Committees would not be disbanded but would continue working on items like benchmarks. She doesn't anticipate the Committees will meet continuously once a month but they'll keep going with changes in membership. Member Van Pelt questioned when First Things First strategies are developed, if the Advisory Committees would participate in the development and who would spur the action plan. Karen replied that the Committees could play a role as advisors but that the Regional Partnership Councils would develop the strategies. Member Van Pelt stated that if Council Members believed they could change policy, it might influence where funding is placed. Member Hartzell noted that Regional Partnership Councils have funded many programs at the State level but asked what would happen if Councils wanted to fund unidentified indicators. The Advisory Committees would need to be careful on how possible indicators were presented and how guidance was provided so it didn't seem like the Committees were overstepping the Councils' authority. Councils would also need training on how to identify indicators.

Member Karp suggested that it would be helpful to have a session on policy at the Early Childhood Summit this year. Karen Woodhouse agreed that this was indeed a good topic and that First Things First was already planning a session on policy. Member DalPra noted that other policy makers could help move policy changes outside of First Things First and that it would be helpful if current information and resources could be placed online so that others could review and provide feedback and assistance with data research.

Michelle Katona stated that conversations related to policy changes have been taking place within the Regional Partnership Councils but that they have found timing issues between aligning indicators to funding strategies and with funding capacity. Member Van Pelt shared that as a member on a Regional Partnership Council, they are looking at how to get from the point of funding strategies but don't know how to get from there to the point of changing policy. Chair Powell doesn't believe we can identify this before the Program Committee's last meeting this year. Member Karp would like information on what policies have been helpful and what policies work. Member Cunningham mentioned information on the spectrum of prevention which can be found at: www.preventioninstitute.org/index.php. Member DalPra identified two stakeholders at the table and that First Things First can't work alone and they could provide assistance and stated that we should encourage stakeholders to work with other agencies and that if we wait for First Things First to perfect the system, it would be too long of a process and would waste valuable time if we didn't work in collaboration with other agencies. Member Cunningham volunteered Wayne Trevella from the Arizona Department of Health Services for a project like this. Member Hartzell agreed that we should work in partnership and that we shouldn't see the "us" vs. "them" view, we should be working together.

Staff provided information and updates on First Things First strategies. Michelle Katona provided an update of the First Things First FY12 contract renewals and that 30 of the 31 Regional Partnership Councils have already gone through the process of renewals.

Karen Woodhouse provided information on the Quality First model and early childhood financing. Rhian Evans Allvin reported that the early care and education system needs to shift from the traditional work of early care providers from "keeping kids safe and healthy while parents are at work" towards "quality is as important in early care as all educational development for children 0-5". First Things First will never talk about quality without talking about financing and will use financing to drive quality and are committed to seeing what works. FTF engaged Burns & Associates to complete a cost of quality study and have received good data so far. Ena Binns and Ginger Sandweg presented an overview of the Quality First model. A key concept is that rating and finance levels basically translate that the lower the quality rating score, the more "in kind" benefits Existing providers in the Quality First program will remain enrolled beyond the original three years they've agreed to and will only be removed if they self-select to be dropped from participation or if they lose their child care license.

No Tribal Affairs Update was given as Beverly Russell was not in attendance.

The Infant/Toddler Mental Health Strategy presentation by Sandy Foreman, Senior Director for Early Learning and Rose Phillips, Senior Program Manager for Southwest Human Development was postponed.

Chair Powell announced that the next meeting would be determined and communicated to the Committee by e-mail. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.