



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

October 27, 2010

4000 North Central Avenue

Phoenix, Arizona 85012

10:00 a.m.

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Pam Powell, Bill Berk, Gayle Burns, Amy Corriveau, Mary Ellen Cunningham, Ida Rose Florez, Julianne Hartzell, Toni Harvier, Kenton Laffoon, Laurie Smith, Kim Van Pelt, Brad Willis

Members Absent: Randal Christiansen, Colleen Day, Naomi Karp, Eva Marie Shivers

FTF Staff Facilitators: Karen Woodhouse, Amy Kemp, Michelle Katona, Sandy Foreman

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15 a.m. and called for introductions. Chair Powell read through the agenda of the day as well as through the Program Committee Charter. Chair Powell and Members discussed the scope of work for the Committee as well as for the additional Advisory Committees which fall under the Program Committee. These Advisory Committees are the: Health, Early Learning, and Strong Families Committees. The Advisory Committees will include state agency, community and private partners from the early childhood field. The Program Committee is one of four FTF Board Committees and the other three are the: Audit & Finance/Administration, Communications and the Government Relations Committees. These Committees will include FTF Board members, Regional Partnership Council members and community stakeholders, who may also sit on Councils but bring a broader partnership experience. All Committee and Advisory Committee work will be posted on the FTF Website and the link will be distributed to members once a designated site is identified. The first of the Advisory Committees to meet will be the Health Advisory Committee, on November 18th in the FTF Board Room at 9:00 a.m.

Karen Woodhouse gave an overview of the work of the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force and reviewed the Recommended Priority Roles for FTF which the Board approved at the September 2010 meeting. The Arizona Early Childhood Model System is a broad structure of services to meet the needs of children in Arizona. Desired system outcomes will be accomplished through collaboration with state and community partners in a true statewide effort. The indicators listed in the Model are example indicators only. The Program Committee Advisory Committees may or may not use these example indicators to ultimately recommend which indicators will identify successful achievement of results for children.

Member Hartzell commented that all the work of the Task Force was shared with local and Tribal communities, Regional Partnership Councils and other partners throughout Arizona, and in the spirit of collaboration, everyone had an opportunity to hear about and contribute to the work.

Sandy Foreman reported on FTF Statewide and Multi-Regional strategies and provided an overview of program funding. She identified that only 10% of FTF funding may be used for administrative costs and that 90% must be used for programs. Some of the programs funded through FTF are Quality First, T.E.A.C.H., Family, Friends & Neighbors, Professional Career Pathways and Reach Out & Read to name a few. Through the Quality First Program, FTF is currently running a Quality Rating Pilot Project with 60 providers currently participating. The Pilot will conclude in December 2010. There will be approximately 850 child care providers enrolled in Quality First by the end of June 2011. The T.E.A.C.H. program provides scholarships for child care providers to obtain early childhood AA degrees. There were approximately 700 scholarships awarded in 2009-2010. FTF is exploring the extension of scholarships to include support for Bachelor's degrees. Member Powell shared that FTF is working off the concept that a better educated workforce in the Early Childhood field will provide more effective environments for children.

Michelle Katona reported on the proposed timeline for development and implementation of FTF priorities and indicators. She discussed the Regional Council funded strategies by goal area and their relationship to statewide efforts. Members believe indicators need to be culturally sensitive and need to allow Regional Partnership Council specificity.

Member Burns asked if there were statewide programs that provide immunizations for children in Arizona, or if specific information on what is provided and who is responsible for such services is available. Member Burns also questioned if FTF could mandate all children having immunizations for any of the FTF funded programs. Member Cunningham will check with the ADHS Office of Immunization and will report back to the Committee. Member Willis shared that the County Departments of Health have a big role in deciding some of these programs and mandates but they can vary county by county. Member Corriveau stated these priorities/responsibilities can be added to indicators for better tracking.

Sandy Forman briefly described the FTF and Head Start Collaboration efforts and introduced Member Corriveau, who is also the Director of the State Head Start Collaboration Office. Member Corriveau distributed copies of the Arizona Head Start Association 2008 and 2009 Annual Reports.

Copies of the State Advisory Council grant application were shared with the Committee for their review. The FTF Board is designated by the Governor as the State Advisory Council in Arizona, thus FTF was awarded the \$2.4 million grant to develop early childhood system quality and infant/toddler developmental guidelines. FTF also applied for a Training and Technical Assistant Grant but was initially denied. However, FTF has been asked to resubmit as one of a select group.

The Committee determined that Wednesdays would be the best days to meet. Future dates will be identified at the next meeting.

Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 p.m.