



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

April 24, 2013
First Things First
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Early Learning Advisory Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance

Michael Kelley, Co-Chair; Karen Applequist, Terry Doolan, Peggy Federici, Cheryl Foster, Susan Jacobs, Bruce Liggett, Laura Martin, Jacquelyn Power, and Jakob Raskob.

Committee Members Attending Telephonically

Diane Fellows, Mary Lamm, Sibieanne Martinez, Karen Ortiz, Kymberlii Tenario and Karen Woodford.

Committee Members Absent

Lyra Contreras, Dennis Ichikawa, Mary Kramer-Reinwasser, Barb Mezzio, Barb Milner, Dana Naimark, Marjorie Rasper, Jeff Smith, Alan Taylor, Dee Tamminen and Daniel Zapata

Members of the Public Attending

Dawn Craft

Staff Members in Attendance

Karen Woodhouse, Sandy Foreman, Elsa Romero, Aaliyah Samuel and Ginger Sandweg

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, Early Learning Advisory Committee was held on April 24, 2013 at the First Things First Board Room, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Dr. Michael Kelley at approximately 10:00 a.m. Dr. Kelley made a brief welcome; everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the organization, which they represent.

Co-Chair Kelley acknowledged Co-Chair Juan Sanchez resignation from the Early Learning Advisory Committee. Mr. Sanchez resigned due to requirements of new position he holds, he will no longer be available to serve on the committee. Co-Chair Kelley publicly thanked Mr. Sanchez for his time and commitment to the advisory committee.

The process to select a new Co-Chair will begin, Karen Woodhouse, Chief Program Officer will be lead.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Member Jacobs. Motion seconded by Member Foster. Motion carried

Reports on Sub-Committee Activities

Ms. Woodhouse gave a brief up-date of the Family, Friend and Neighbor Sub-Committee. Sub-Committee has concluded work and has provided several recommendations, Standard of Practice; common definition to be incorporated into the Standard of Practice. Sub-Committee also investigation models relating to Family, Friend and Neighbor care support and how to measure progress of those involved in those particular projects. Work is continuing under the Alliance of Family, Friend and Neighbor Childcare AFFNCC.

Cami Ehler, Program Specialist is FTF representative. Sub-Committee did not go in the direction of recommending Legislative or Rule changes in the State of Arizona.

Susan Jacobs, Association for Supportive Child Care; added that the Alliance is open to anyone interested in participating. Kick-off for the Alliance will be held in early May, purpose of Alliance is to ensure that children cared for in unregulated care are not left behind in terms of quality services. Not advocating for a specific care but rather all children

should have the same access to childcare. Moving slowly toward platforms and organization. National conference in Scottsdale, July 2013.

Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Sr. Director for Family Support and Literacy provided a brief up-date on the Cultural Responsivity Sub-Committee. Dr. Samuel stated that the Cultural Responsivity Sub-Committee concluded on April 8 at that meeting conclusion of the definition of what Cultural Responsivity means for First Things First as well as five recommendations. First is to look at Standards of Practice across the board, determine how to create Action Statement. Second, to add Cultural Responsivity definition to the strategic plan, which guides the all work. Third, in depth look at the RFGA process to ensure that Cultural Responsive component requiring applicants to discuss how culturally responsive materials and activities would be provided, dependent on their region. Fourth was to look at how to infuse Cultural Responsivity into FTF include staff, regional staff, grantees, and regional councils to ensure that everyone aware of what Cultural Responsivity is on every layers. Last was to move forward with Summit planning to include a session on Cultural Responsivity to engage in conversation regarding Cultural Responsivity.

Ms. Woodhouse informed the committee that the quorum challenges are an issue for most committees due to the Open Meeting Law in Arizona, which is 50% of membership plus 1, presents challenges. The FTF AG representative has informed FTF that the board may set the requirements for advisory committees, if there is no Statue or Committee Charter quorum, default is 50% plus 1. FTF Advisory Committee Statue is silent, board may set quorum. Board began discussion at April board meeting regarding committee quorum and will finalize at June board meeting, establishing appropriate number for committees. Board will set quorum at 25% of membership, providing flexibility, implementation beginings July 1, 2013. A re-vetting of membership will occur this summer, what is the commitment to committees. Quorum is required to convene a meeting not just to vote.

BUILD AZ Updates on Quality Early Learning, Professional Development and Grade Level Reading

Ms. Woodhouse updated the committee on the work of FTF, Cory Underhill, Arizona Director/Coordinator for BUILD, provided Ms. Woodhouse with information which was shared with the committee. BUILD is a National Initiative, no national office all involved lived throughout the United States and work from their perspective areas. Arizona BUILD was established through generosity and commitment of HELIOS, Piper Trust and STEEL Foundation. BUILD focus is on Birth through age Eight, FTF is a partner in BUILD and not a duplication, BUILD is about the entire early childhood system.

Ms. Woodhouse presented a power point provided by Ms. Underhill and welcomed discussion and questions.

Cheryl Foster, Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children inquired regarding last bullet on the presentation; Ensure families have access to tools to support their children with stable, nurturing environments in their earliest years (Home Visiting, Parent Education). Aware of various efforts regarding home visiting, any studies on parent education? What is being offered, classes, formal, informal, in different communities.

Ms. Woodhouse indicated that she is not aware of any comprehensive studies, in the southern part of Arizona there is a study being conducted around support of parent education. How they interface or do not interface.

Jacquelyn Power, Blackwater Community School indicated that Tribal data is available, some information is limited.

FTF Early Learning Strategy Updates (Presentation and Discussion)

FY 15 Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Model Proposal

Ginger Sandweg, Director of Quality First, provided a brief update regarding the model proposal. Currently detailed document out for vetting, regarding policy decisions for Quality First. Provided a copy of the FY15 Proposed Model updates and welcomed comments. The document outlined the expectations for providers to achieve Star Rating. Scholarship eligibility timeline details requirements, reimbursements and expectation of quality.

Maintaining \$40 million base, vetting out for public feedback. Regions have opportunity to fund additional scholarships to go over base to fund to support Quality First sites but cannot go below. Cost of salaries for teachers; how it figures into the \$40 million, what is cost? Incorporated into model, shift in personal?

T.E.A.C.H. prioritize as QF participant, with no slot guarantee.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Early Learning Advisory Committee Focus Areas for FY14
Policy, Programmatic, Infrastructure pieces or linkages that need to be connected, how to bring to scale.

Next Steps

FY14 Meeting Dates; no summer meeting, possibly in early fall to provide recommendations no later than December 2013. Meeting dates/times will be forwarded to members provide availability.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED

Elsa Romero, Executive Staff Assistant

Karen Woodhouse Chief Program Officer

Committee Approval:

Michael Kelley, Co-Chair