



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

### Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

**August 11, 2011**  
**4000 North Central Avenue**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85012**  
**1:00 p.m.**

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

Members Present: Dr. Pam Powell, Bill Berk, Randal Christiansen, Amy Corriveau, Coleen Day-Mach (by Phone) Julianne Hartzell, Toni Harvier, Naomi Karp, Kim Van Pelt

Members Absent: Gayle Burns, Mary Ellen Cunningham, Kenton Laffoon, Eva Marie Shivers, Laurie Smith, Brad Willis

Special Guests: Michael Kelley, Co-Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee Members: Marilee DalPra and Coleen Day-Mach (by phone), Co-Chairs of the Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Chair Powell asked for review and possible approval of the meeting minutes from the past two meetings. Called for questions or comments on the minutes and there were none. Member Corriveau moved to approve, seconded by Member Karp, all in favor with no discussion. Minutes approved with no changes.

Chair Powell called for member updates.

Member Corriveau provided update on work between ADE, FTF and other stakeholders around the issue of readiness. Arizona does not currently have a State definition of readiness but ADE is meeting with the Head Start Community and with the Federal Office of Head Start to discuss readiness development. These discussions may result in development of a definition or a profile but ADE will continue looking at research and indicators around readiness and come to an agreement about what readiness looks like. ADE will communicate with the Birth-5 and the K-12 community to ensure them that they are working towards the idea of readiness in Arizona.

Chair Powell shared that Dr. Ida Rose Florez resigned her position with ASU to take the position of Senior Director for Strategic Initiatives at FTF.

Karen Woodhouse gave an update on the Early Learning Challenge Grant as well as on the Home Visitation Grant and reviewed the packet handout. The Governor designated ADHS to apply for a formula grant and they have completed the first and second phase of submissions. An additional opportunity for a \$9 million a year – four year competitive grant has also been submitted by ADHS in partnership with other agencies including ADE/Head Start, DES and FTF and hopes to hear the status this Fall.

The Governor's office also convened with ADE, FTF and WestEd to discuss application for the Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge Grant of \$700 million with \$500 million specified for 0-5 services. The application is out in August and has submission deadline in October with awards being made by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Arizona would be eligible for a \$70 million award and is well positioned to compete as the requirements of this grant are aligned with work being done in the state among the early childhood partners.

Member Corriveau discussed a grant through the U.S. Department of Education for Striving Readers which will create a literacy plan for the 0-12 Community with a percentage allotted to the 0-5 Community for capacity building. Committees have submitted a plan and will be notified of awards in September.

Chair Powell continued with the review and discussion of the FTF School Readiness Indicators. She thanked the Advisory Committee Chairs and Members for all their work. Karen Woodhouse led the Committee through the process, development and review of the recommended FTF Indicators. Karen provided a brief overview of the work of the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force and the FTF Advisory Committees. Based on discussion and recommendations from the Advisory Committees and with the recommendations from the Program Committee, these indicators will be forwarded to the Board at the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting for their review and possible vote. When the Indicators are approved, FTF will use them in their FY12 statewide funding plans.

The three Advisory Committees refined the goals written by the Early Childhood Task Force and developed indicators for 15 of the 20 roles recommended by the Taskforce and approved by the Board. Five of the 20 roles were not assigned to the Committees because they addressed public awareness & system building and aligned well with the FTF Communications Plan. The Health Advisory Committee has recommended one additional role be added for a total of nine priority roles. The new recommendation relates to Nutrition, physical activity and obesity prevention and is highlighted in a joint letter from the Health Advisory Committee Chairs, which members reviewed.

Development of the indicators began with an initial review by the Advisory Committees who looked at goal statements and identified possible indicators. Committees used an approach adapted from Mark Friedman's Results Based Accountability model to sort indicators into four categories: How Much (did we do for Children, Families and Teachers), How Well (did we actually do the work), and are they Better Off (what are the results) and are there Systems Supports (in place and how do we identify needs).

The Committee reviewed the Indicator materials and reviewed the list of Better Off Indicators for the priority roles, which FTF recommends are recommended to the Board and branded as a composite set of "School Readiness Indicators".

In reviewing early learning indicators 1-3, , Member Kelley commented these were the items the Early Learning Advisory Committee spent the most time on and unanimously recommended these move forward. FTF staff recommended that indicators 4 and 5 be taken off the list because indicator 4 is a "How Well" indicator. Members expressed concern that this measure of cultural responsiveness does not get lost and is somehow imbedded within the roles.

Karen Woodhouse shared that these measures are imbedded in the very DNA of the FTF framework but understands the concern of the Advisory Committees that unless we specifically call them out, they may get lost. Staff Member Dr. Kemp shared that these measures are captured in the FTF Program Guidelines as well. Member Hartzell inquired if the Program Committee could make a recommendation to the FTF Board that, minus these items from the list of recommended indicators, could they approve the recommended indicators with the understanding that items 4-5 will require further study? Marilee Dal Pra also shared her concern that these items be captured and believes they should be captured in each indicator overall. Member Christensen shared we need some flexibility as you start to measure, because the "Better Off" indicators are the most difficult to measure, and certainly measuring cultural sensitivity is very difficult, vs. measuring clear numbers.

Indicator 6 addresses accessibility and access so that families are spending no more than 10% of their income for early care and education. Member Karp believes this number reflects a low cost to families and services actually cost more. The data came from national research which often cites 10% of family income as the norm with geographical variations.

Members recommended that each indicator have an intent statement to explain the desired outcome.

Discussing indicators 6-7, Member Corriveau shared that ADE does have a developmental delay category for children that is relatively new in Arizona. It's only be implemented for the last few years and it works for children who are three years old to age nine. Dr. Florez asked if a child must be identified with a developmental delay in preschool in order to have a developmental delay category later on, or could a first grader be categorized as developmentally delayed? Member Corriveau confirmed, yes. What would happen in past is that children that had a specific category in preschool would get re-evaluated to see if they were eligible for the K-12 system and if they didn't match the law as written, then they were determined eligible for services in an inappropriate category. The Program Committee recommends that the wording be changed or recognized that the term developmental delay captures the intent. The Health Advisory Committee intended that there needed to be a broad definition around this word "developmental delay" to include children with special health care needs.

Indicator 8 intent is that intervention provided in the early years is effective and more kids are entering kindergarten without needing additional intervention.

Items number 10-12 were reviewed with no comments.

The Committee next discussed policies on how the indicators would be utilized in FTF. The set of indicators will primarily be used in funding plan development. FTF recommends that the Regional Partnership Councils select three of their highest priority indicators based on data for their region to be tracked annually and benchmarked every three years. Indicators for any other FTF priority role that are not included in the set of 12 cannot be utilized by the Council unless their local community data reflects why resources needed to be prioritized.

A motion was made by Member Karp that the Program Committee recommends that the FTF Board accept the Health Advisory Committee recommendation to add an additional priority role, which is Health Role #3: Nutrition and Physical Activity – Collaborate with partners to support improved nutrition and increased age/developmentally appropriate physical activity levels among children. Seconded by member Christensen. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Hartzell that the Program Committee recommend that the State Board approves the set of 10, out of the 12, School Readiness Indicators as developed by the FTF Advisory Committees for Early Learning, Health and Family Support and Literacy and to include the intent of the indicators and have further development and study of 4 & 5 which were removed. Seconded by member Willis. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Corriveau that the Program Committee recommend that the FTF Board approves that three, that Regional Councils will select a minimum of three FTF School Readiness Indicators to guide development of funding plans and that FTF School Readiness Indicators are benchmarked at a statewide and local level every three years or in alignment with the funding plan cycle. Seconded by Member Willis. Motion carried.

The next steps for the Program and Advisory Committees in 2012 will be to begin work on developing FTF Benchmarks.

Beverly Russell, Senior Director for Tribal Affairs provided an update and reviewed copies of the Tribal E-Bulletin, which is a compilation of activities in the early childhood community in Arizona and across the country which highlights the work and upcoming events of the Regional Councils and the Tribal Regional Councils. She reported that FTF hosted the second formal Tribal Consultation with an increase of participation of six Tribes represented this year.

Beverly announced that for the first time there will be a Tribal pre-session at the FTF Early Childhood Summit on August 28. Two keynote speakers, Mr. Albert Pooley, Executive Director of Native American Families and Fatherhood Association and Colin Kippen, Executive Director of National Indian Education Association (NIEA) will share information and on early childhood efforts across the country and how FTF may be able to help work with other initiatives by sharing our expertise with NIEA.

Beverly in partnership with three FTF Tribal Council Regional Directors will present at the NAEYC conference in November in Florida. FTF will also be part of a breakout session and in the Learning Gallery at the National Indian Association conference in New Mexico in October.

With the resignation of Dr. Ida Rose Florez from the Program Committee, Chair Powell called for recommendations for replacement with someone from Maricopa County or for recommendations for additional members who should be invited to join the committee. Karen Woodhouse will confirm if the vacant seat needs to be someone who also sits on a Regional Council and recommendations can be forwarded to Karen Woodhouse, Cynthia Chavarria or Chair Powell. Member Corriveau may want to consider inviting someone in the early education community.

Chair Powell announced that the Program Committee would meet three times in 2012 and the Advisory Committees would meet four times in 2012 each on a quarterly basis. FTF will send out scheduling requests to determine meeting dates.

Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.