

Written comments submitted on June 13, 2014 to the FTF Policy and Program Committee from Nancy Mongeau, Chair of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council, and requested to be read into the meeting minutes for June 16. Ms. Mongeau was invited to participate in the committee's discussion on fiscal and program considerations. She participated in the April 3 and May 15 meetings, but is not able to participate on June 16.

Ms. Mongeau's comments:

- *If the board sets the parameters then the need for regional input is limited. The idea is for regions to set their own priorities.*
- *I believe Regions have different needs and it is the regional councils that understand what these needs are and the BEST way to address them. Should the board make suggestions, educate & inform the regional councils on the various ways they may want to address a certain issue? Absolutely! Guidance is fine...Requiring mandated funding for strategies that the Board believes are important, with little regard for how the needs of the region are getting addressed, is concerning. I understand the need to prove to the state that our children are indeed advancing...but, a strategy that advances children in one region may force another region to use funds that are desperately needed for a different strategy. In the Board's efforts "to prove we are advancing children's education" to the state, we are losing the focus on the needs of the children in our region. What if one region's major problem is healthcare delivery and not Pre-K? What happens to their children's health, when they must fund Quality First with those funds? Perhaps the strategy should be that each region needs to prove to their own legislators that we are advancing children in our regions. The conversation regarding having us all on the same page is too soon. Let's put First Things First. After all, if we lose this regional perspective, you do not need Regional Councils any longer.*
- *I believe it is fine for the board to share their priorities as long as the expectation isn't to have council fund their priorities if there isn't agreement. Guidance is often construed as direction. Again, if the board is going to dictate funding priorities and how regions spend money, eliminate the regional councils.*
- *The whole idea behind regional council was to allow each region to review their needs and assets and set priorities around those. Over time the State funded activities have taken a lion's share of regional funding. If that continues then the need for local input is eliminated.*
- *Yes, lower cost is a concern ...but NO funds should be spent on researching lower cost before funds are spent on researching the efficacy of the entire program. I believe, it is the overall design & policy that have negative issues. Cost, of course, is always an issue, but it is not the only issue with Quality First. I do not think the Quality First program is the answer to the state's signature strategy.*