



FIRST THINGS FIRST

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Day one of the meeting of the First Things First Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Boardroom of the First Things First offices located at 4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800 in Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Chair Decker called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 a.m. at which time Melody Bozza, Board Administrator conducted roll call and confirmed quorum.

Members Present:

Janice Decker
Dr. Pamela Powell
Nadine Mathis Basha
Gayle Burns
Steven W. Lynn
Hon. Cecil Patterson
Vivian Saunders
Ruth Solomon
Brad Willis (DES)
Mary Ellen Cunningham (ADHS)
Amy Corriveau (ADE)

Members Absent:

None

Conflicts of Interest

There were none at this time.

Call to the Public

Chair Decker asked if there were any members of the public present that wished to address the Board and provided the parameters for doing so. There were no comments from the public at this time.

Consent Agenda

Chair Decker advised that all items on the Consent Agenda would be considered for approval by a single motion with no discussion unless an individual item listed on the Consent Agenda was removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed and voted on as a regular agenda item upon the request of any Board member.

- A. *Board Meeting Minutes: December 9, 2014 (Attachment #1)*
- B. *Communications & Public Affairs Update (Attachment #2)*
- C. *Tribal Affairs Update (Attachment #3)*
- D. *Quality First Update (Attachment #4)*
- E. *Technical Changes to Strategies and Allotments (Attachment #5)*
- F. *Statewide and Signature Strategies Report (Attachment #6)*
- G. *Needs & Assets Report: Amended Extension Requests (Attachment #7)*
- H. *Meeting Location Change (Attachment #8)*

After reading the items on the Consent Agenda, Chair Decker asked if members of the Board wished to remove any item for discussion. There being no request to do so, Member Burns moved to approve the consent agenda, with a second from Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Tribal Data Policy – Second Read (Attachment 9)

Staff provided the Board with a written background and recommendation regarding this agenda item, which included the attached draft based upon feedback obtained in past tribal consultations, as well as First Things First's experience in obtaining tribal data agreements over the past six years. The draft was compiled with input from FTF Tribal Affairs, Research & Evaluation and the Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG). The Board had a first read of this policy at its December 2014 meeting; no changes were recommended.

Member Mathis Basha moved to approve the Tribal Data Policy as presented, with a second from Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Board Governance Policy Amendment – Second Read (Attachment 10)

Staff provided the Board with a written background and recommendation regarding this agenda item, which included the following:

- Current membership of the Executive Committee
- Duties and Composition of the Executive Committee
- Addition of the Communications and Government Affairs Committee

The proposed governance policy amendment would update the Executive Committee membership to include the chair(s) of all Board standing committees. The Board had a first read of the Board Governance Policy at its December 2014 meeting.

Member Burns moved to approve the amendment to the Board Governance Policy, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Briefing: Pre-K Development Grant and School Readiness Framework (Attachment 11)

Amy Corriveau, with the Arizona Department of Education, provided the Board with background on the recent \$20 million dollar award of federal funds as part of the 2014 Preschool Development Grant program, which is administered jointly by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ADE has the opportunity to receive \$80 million over the four-year grant cycle, depending on availability of federal funding. The funds will be used to make preschool programs in a variety of settings more readily available to thousands of children in 15 high-needs communities across the state and will promote success in those programs by enhancing quality and building infrastructure statewide.

The Arizona School Readiness Framework (ASRF) was developed through efforts coordinated by the Arizona Department of Education in partnership with First Things First and the Head Start Collaboration Office, and with the input of many early childhood educators and stakeholders. The framework reflects the purpose of identifying readiness, and builds on the state's efforts to establish a system in which all children have access to quality early learning experiences leading to school success. The ASRF will be an important guiding resource in the implementation of the Preschool Development Grant.

Member Lynn asked for clarification regarding overlap of zip codes, which Member Corriveau stated only occurs in two areas, and those concerns have been worked through and do not pose an issue.

Member Mathis Basha inquired as to what the timeline is for implementation. Member Corriveau stated they hope to begin implementation August of 2015, and work is ongoing with ADE's certification unit for the Higher Ed aspect of this grant and building capacity within their current structure.

Member Solomon asked for clarification of whether the 12 million dollars in scholarships equated to 3 million dollars over the 4 years of the grant. Member Corriveau explained that more of the funding would be received initially and then taper off. Member Corriveau also clarified that Quality First sites are included.

Member Solomon also inquired whether or not ADE will be dispensing with the letter grading system (A-F) for school performance. Amy Corriveau said that currently state board is engaging in dialogue around this topic as they discuss the implementation of a new assessment.

Appointment of Regional Council Member Applicants

Chair Decker asked if any Board member wished to call for an executive session to consider the applicants for Regional Council appointment. With there being no request to convene an executive session, Member Lynn moved to approve the appointment of regional council member applicants as presented, with the exception of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Council applicant that withdrew their application, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

CEO Report/Update

Sam Leyvas provided the CEO Update and welcomed Regional Council members, who will be presenting over the course of today and tomorrow, as well as guest Joelle Jude Fontaine from the Kellogg Foundation.

Alliance Bank has produced a new book of lobby art from around the state. Several regional council members are employed by Alliance Bank and are champions of the work of FTF. Alliance Bank is offering this coffee table book for purchase at a cost of \$100. FTF is featured as one of the educational organizations that will be recipients of funds from the sale of the book through the Alliance for Education Fund.

FTF Executive staff had the opportunity to meet with Governor Ducey's policy team regarding FTF governance, board, and regional councils. We are looking forward to the next conversation in order to share the goals of FTF and highlight the work of the build coalition to help paint the broader picture.

Sam extended a special thank you to Member Corriveau who helped facilitate an initial conversation with new Superintendent of Public Instruction, Diane Douglas, and Chair Decker in February.

The Governor's budget presented to the Legislature deals with some anticipated shortfalls for this year, and we will see how it compares to the Legislature's budget that will be released at the end of this week. Staff is still reviewing the Governor's budget and has seen some preservation of tax cuts, as well as some reallocation of monies including some movement of funds in the Governor's Classrooms First initiative.

Governor Ducey has initiated a hiring freeze for those positions funded through general fund appropriations. The FTF Executive Team will be discussing how this might affect FTF and what our approach will be. The Board will be kept apprised of these discussions.

Board Member Report/Update

Member Cunningham, ADHS, reported that they reached all six benchmarks required for the MIECHV grant. ADHS is currently working on the Title V needs assessments for the future, as well as working to improve birth outcomes through the Coin Initiative. The Arizona Public Health Association spring conference is coming up on April 9th at the Phoenix Zoo.

Member Willis, ADES, reported that the Child Care Development Block grant has been re-authorized and they are still working through the changes. There will be a meeting next week in Washington, DC to develop a new plan for operating the Child Care Development Fund in Arizona. ADES was able to release every child off of the waiting list as of January 9th, and notices went out last week and the results should be back by February.

Member Lynn addressed the Board regarding the current board vacancy that has persisted for a few years, as well as the recently expired terms for himself and Member Patterson. Member Lynn hopes that these vacancies are given the attention they deserve and filled expeditiously, as well as Vice Chair Powell's re-confirmation. Member Lynn will not be applying for reappointment, and will continue to serve for the next few months.

Member Patterson, whose term also ended on January 19th, stated he will not be applying for re-appointment. Member Patterson expressed how grateful he is for the opportunity to serve on the FTF Board, and is very proud of the work that has been done.

Chair Decker announced that Member Saunders will be stepping into the role of Chair of the Policy and Program Committee.

FY16 Regional Funding Plan Presentations (Attachment 12)

Michelle Katona presented to the Board an overview of the new three year strategic planning process for the regions and the updates and changes that have been considered. There are 28 Regional Council FY2016 funding plans, which represent thoughtful discussion and deliberation of how best to use regional funding allocations to improve the lives of young children in local communities throughout Arizona. Regional councils developed SFY16-18 strategic plans, which include a defined set of prioritized needs, their selected school readiness indicators and a set of funded strategies and unfunded approaches to address the needs and improve outcomes for young children. The funding plans are reflective of the diverse communities in Arizona, demonstrate the level of collaboration that is occurring across the state to advance the early childhood system and reflect the impact regional councils are having since their inception in 2008, building on and improving the comprehensive foundation of the early childhood system statewide.

Meeting was recessed for a short break by Chair Decker at 11:55 and was re-convened at 12:45

Regional Funding Plans, Day One:

Council Chair, Rev. Dr. Darren Hawkins, presented the Yuma Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan to the Board for approval. Member Solomon moved to approve the Yuma Regional Funding plan, with a second from Member Burns. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Jill McCormick, presented the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan to the Board for approval. Member Patterson moved to approve the Cocopah Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Council member, Amelia Flores, presented the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan to the Board for approval. Member Mathis Basha moved to approve the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Council Vice Chair, Howard Weiske, presented the La Paz Mohave Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan to the Board for approval. Member Lynn moved to approve the La Paz Mohave Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Vice Chair Powell. Motion carried.

Council Vice Chair, Darren Hudak, and Council member, Rev. Pete Imus, presented the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan to the Board for approval. Member Lynn moved to approve the Hualapai Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Cindy Queneville, and Vice Chair, Toby Urvater, presented the Phoenix North Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for Board approval. Member Solomon moved to approve the Phoenix North Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Karen Stewart, and Vice Chair, Jessica Jarvi, presented the Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Solomon moved to approve the Phoenix South Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Vice Chair Powell. Motion carried.

At the request of Member Burns, clarification was provided regarding the cost per participant and expected outcomes and evaluation criteria for the Family, Friends and Neighbor strategy in the Phoenix South Regional Funding Plan.

Council Chair, Melissa Madrid, presented the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Saunders moved to approve the Gila River Indian Community Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Burns. Motion carried.

Chair Decker recessed the meeting for a short break at 2:29 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Council Chair, Harry Martin, presented the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Lynn moved to approve the Navajo Nation Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Council Vice Chair, Dawnafe Whitesinger, presented the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Burns moved to approve the White Mountain Apache Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Paula Stefani, presented the Coconino Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Vice Chair Powell moved to approve the Coconino Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Burns. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Sherry Birch, presented the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Burns moved to approve the Yavapai Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Solomon. Motion carried.

Council Vice Chair, Leslie Meyer, presented the Navajo Apache Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Lynn moved to approve the Navajo Apache Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Vice Chair Powell. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Frank Narducci, and Vice Chair, Marie Raymond, presented the East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Lynn moved to approve the East Maricopa Regional Funding Plan, with a second by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Anna David, presented the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Burns moved to approve the Southeast Maricopa Regional Funding Plan, with a second by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Chair Decker adjourned Day One of the First Things First Board Meeting at 4:14 p.m., January 20, 2015 and announced that the board meeting would reconvene at 8:30 a.m. the following day, Wednesday, January 21, 2015 (as indicated on the meeting notice and agenda).

First Things First Board Meeting – Day Two, January 21, 2015

Chair Decker called Day Two of the First Things First Board Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at which time Melody Bozza, Board Administrator, conducted roll call and confirmed quorum.

Members Present:

Janice Decker
Dr. Pamela Powell
Nadine Mathis Basha
Gayle Burns
Steven W. Lynn
Hon. Cecil Patterson
Vivian Saunders
Ruth Solomon
Mary Ellen Cunningham (ADHS)
Amy Corriveau (ADE)

Members Absent:

Brad Willis (ADES)

Regional Funding Plans Day Two:

Council Chair, Annette Johnson, presented the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Mathis Bash moved to approve the Northwest Maricopa Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Burns. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Carlian Dawson, and Vice Chair, Kimberly Flack, presented the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Solomon moved to approve the Southwest Maricopa Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Virginia Loring, presented the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding plan for approval by the Board. Member Lynn moved to approve the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Member Lynn congratulated the SRPMIC on the robust collaboration going on in their region and the successful work that is going on in the region. Member Lynn also explained that even though the sale of tobacco on the reservation does not generate funding for FTF, the work of FTF is for all children of AZ, and the collaboration with tribal communities does make an impact.

Council Vice Chair, Scott Ingram, presented the Pima North Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Mathis Basha moved to approve the Pima North Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Connie Espinoza, and Vice Chair, Fran Driver, presented the Pima South Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Saunders moved to approve the Pima South Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Mildred Manuel, and Vice Chair, Kymberlii Tenario, presented the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Solomon moved to approve the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Cecilia Garcia, and Vice Chair, Amalia Reyes, presented the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Mathis Basha moved to approve the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Member Lynn requested information on Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Regional Council Member Hector Youtsey's radio addresses and when they would be broadcast.

Council Chair, Bill Kirkpatrick, and Vice Chair, Karen Woodford, presented the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Burns moved to approve the Santa Cruz Regional Funding Plan, with a second by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Scheduled Break: Chair Decker recessed the meeting for a short break at 10:06, and reconvened the board meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Council Chair, Fernando Shipley, presented the Gila Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Powell moved to approve the Gila Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Council Vice Chair, Pastor Shawn Buckhanan, presented the Cochise Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Lynn moved to approve the Cochise Regional Funding Plan, with a second by Member Burns. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Laurie Smith, and Council Member, Ryan Henry, presented the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Lynn moved to approve the Graham/Greenlee Regional Funding Plan, with a second by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Laurie Smith, also took this opportunity to announce a new Public Private Partnership with Freeport McMoran to fund Child Care Scholarships in their region, and the details of that partnership are currently being developed.

Council Chair, Vernon Poncho, and Vice Chair, Flora Talas, presented the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Solomon moved to approve the San Carlos Apache Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Council Chair, Stuart Fain, and Vice Chair, Kameron Bachert, presented the Pinal Regional Partnership Council's SFY16 Funding Plan for approval by the Board. Member Mathis Basha moved to approve the Pinal Regional Funding Plan, with a second from Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Chair Decker and members of the Board thanked all of the representatives from the Regional Councils for their presentations and for the work that went into developing their strategic plans. Chair Decker also thanked the regional staff for the hard work that went into working with the Councils to refine their strategic planning and the development of their funding plans through the use of their Needs and Asset Reports. The ongoing collaboration with other state and local entities and communities, as well as tribal communities is to be applauded.

Future Agenda Item Requests

Member Solomon asked that a future agenda include a discussion regarding whether Quality First is driving up the cost of child care.

Member Lynn asked for information on the overall evaluation process, to include a discussion regarding performance evaluation and impact evaluation.

Member Powell asked for time on a future agenda for additional in-depth discussion on policy and what is happening in the regions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the First Things First Early Childhood Development and Health Board will be held on April 13 – 14, 2015 in Yuma, Arizona.

Adjourn

There being no further business Chair Decker adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:13 a.m.