

MINUTES
Regional Partnership Council Meeting
March 11, 2014

Welcome and Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on March 11, 2014 at the St. Patrick's Catholic Community Administration Building, 10815 North 84th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85260.

Chair VanMaanen called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Members Present

Chair Patricia VanMaanen, Vice Chair Marie Raymond and Council Members Bill Myhr, Mary Permoda, Jenny Stahl, Stu Turgel and Dana Vela.

Member Absent

Council Member Joanne Meehan.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2014

Council Member Vela moved to approve the January 14, 2014 regular meeting minutes. Council Member Myhr seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 7-0.

Presentation by Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Andrea LeBeau and Leila Williams, Home School Liaisons with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, provided information about the Early Steps to School Success program which is a home visiting, early literacy model that incorporates home visiting for 0-3 and early literacy for 0-5 with a 3-5 component. Goals include children entering school with the skills and knowledge to be successful and parents having the knowledge to support their children throughout their school experience. Services provided include biweekly home visits for ages birth to three and a monthly parent-child support and education group as well as parent-teacher meetings and child visits in a classroom. They also have a Raising a Reader book exchange program for ages birth to three. They have served 80 families in the community since 2009. They collaborate with New Directions Institute for an early brain development workshop. They have also seen great results from the book bag exchange. Parents have reported they have read to their children a total of 24,436 times for birth to three, and 16,781 times for those ages three to five. Ms. LeBeau and Ms. Williams have spent 2,019 hours in home visitation since the program began. They collaborate with the Scottsdale Public Library with the Knowing and Growing workshops. They stated that due to additional funding received from the region, they have been able to continue to keep 13 families in the program who had moved out of the community.

Presentation by Southwest Human Development

Rose Phillips, Senior Program Manager, and Yvette Alvarez-Rooney, Regional Supervisor, of Smart Support went over their PowerPoint presentation on the program and stated that their goals are to improve the overall quality of the early care and education environment in the classroom and increase the capacity of early childhood providers to address mental health needs and challenging behaviors in a classroom setting. Since first being funded in 2009, they have served a total of 42 centers in the Northeast Maricopa Region, with 16 centers currently being served. They stated their goal is to be able to teach the employees at the center the skills to handle the issues themselves so that they will no longer need the services of Smart Support. In response to a question from Senior Director Sabatini, Ms. Phillips replied that they work closely with the Quality First staff if the center is in the program, and everyone sits down together for a discussion so that the roles of each are defined.

Benchmarking Committee Update

Council Member Stahl provided information about the committee meetings and how they determined their recommendations for benchmarks for Indicators #2 and #10. It was discussed that the 72% rate of children enrolled in Quality First in a three to five-star center as to Indicator #2 is not really an increase of 50%, because the current 22% rate includes those centers that are one to two stars which will be disenrolled from Quality First in future years.

Senior Director Sabatini explained that the approval today would be to move the recommendations forward for public vetting, with the public's feedback from forums and online survey going back to the committee, with the Council then reviewing the final recommendations in May to forward it to the First Things First Board for approval in June.

Council Member Myhr moved to proceed with the benchmark committee's recommendations to move them forward for public vetting. Council Member Stahl seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0, with Council Member Vela abstaining due to a conflict of interest because of her employment.

Quarter 2 Grantee Data/Narrative Reports

Senior Director Sabatini reviewed the narrative reports and expenditures with the Council members as well as the data reports. Discussion ensued regarding the space requirements for the oral health grantee for a permanent location to provide screenings and varnishings. Senior Director Sabatini also reported on the Quality First ratings for the region. There are presently 14 centers which are at a two-star rating. It was noted that the ratings for the region are essentially identical to the rest of the state. Council Member Vela asked how many Quality First centers have gone out of business, and Senior Director Sabatini said she would obtain that number.

Community Outreach Report

Community Outreach Coordinator Tina Oluyi stated that a site tour is being planned on March 26 at the Scottsdale United Methodist Church from 9:30 to 10:20. She has not received a lot of responses from the community for individuals to participate in the site tour and asked the Council members to let her know of any other individuals for her to reach out to and invite. Community Outreach Coordinator Oluyi reviewed her Community Outreach summary report.



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Senior Director Updates

- Senior Director Sabatini reported that the Northeast Maricopa grantee meeting was well attended and that Vice Chair Raymond and Council Members Myhr and Turgel were also present.
- Senior Director Sabatini stated the renewal packets went out to the grantees, and the renewals will be voted on at the May meeting. The benchmarks will also be voted on at the May meeting.
- Senior Director Sabatini stated that the National Evaluation Panel meetings will be held this week, and the information is on the website.
- Senior Director Sabatini stated that the draft needs and assets report will be available on April 10, with the final report being presented to the new East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council for approval.
- Senior Director Sabatini encouraged everyone to apply for the East Maricopa Council if interested and to also let other people know who might be interested in serving on the new council.
- Senior Director Sabatini stated that discretionary funding may be voted on at the June State Board meeting.
- Everyone discussed how to celebrate the accomplishments of the Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council at the next and final meeting. Everyone agreed to have a celebration and to invite former Council members, grantees, etc. and to thank St. Patrick's for hosting the meetings over the years.

Regional Council Member Updates

- Vice Chair Raymond stated that the Ultimate Play Date will be on March 29.
- Chair VanMaanen stated she received a letter from the First Things First Board Vice Chair thanking the Council for their work with the Central Maricopa Council over the consolidation process and for participating in the Board/Regional Council forum.
- Chair VanMaanen stated that she will bring a cake for the celebration at the next meeting. Senior Director Sabatini said Caitlyn will send out an email to everyone asking them to let her know what kind of appetizers they would be able to bring for the celebration.

Call to the Public

No forms were submitted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair VanMaanen adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III
Maricopa Region



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Approved by:

Patricia VanMaanen, Chair
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Council