



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Welcome/Introduction of Guests

The regular meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council was held on February 27, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Quartzsite Town Hall, 465 North Plymouth Avenue, Quartzsite, Arizona 85346.

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 9:43a.m. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present

Riley Frei, Jose Garcia, Terri Holloway, Lenore Knudtson, Nancy Mongeau, Vijette Saari, Debra Weger and Howard Weiske
Betsy Lewis and Catie Sondrol attended telephonically

Members Absent

Alisa Burroughs

Call to the Public

Steve Petoskey, Superintendent of Bouse Elementary School provided an update on the preschool in Bouse and noted the need for playground improvements.

Alma Quintana, Early Childhood Education Project Specialist at the Arizona Department of Education provided an update on preschool expansion and mentoring in the region.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Weiske made a motion to approve the December 5, 2013 and December 11, 2013 meeting minutes. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Possible Approval of Regional Benchmark for School Readiness Indicator #10

Dr. Amy Kemp, PhD, Dynamic Analysis, LLC provided an overview of the state level benchmarks and the school readiness indicator process. This strategic planning process required identifying and prioritizing the needs of young children, and making them specific enough to be manageable. Dr. Kemp reviewed each school readiness indicator, noting that Arizona is part of a multi-state consortium testing these indicators. Dr. Kemp explained the importance of identifying the correct data source to measure the indicators; however, there will never be a measurement source that has no drawbacks. Dr. Kemp recommended the regional partnership council not base all measurement on continuous survey sampling, but rather collaborate with partners who have existing data sets. Discussion ensued regarding data security, data sharing, randomness of sample, and other concerns with the information obtained. Member Holloway made a motion to set the regional benchmark for school readiness indicator #10 at 69%. Member Weiske seconded the motion. There was additional discussion regarding issues related to telephone surveys, the shifting pool of respondents and the margin of error. The motion passed with 7 for and 3 against (Vice Chair Frei, Member Knudtson and Member Garcia).

Chair Mongeau adjourned at 11:26 a.m. and reconvened at 11:32 a.m.

Regional Director Merritt Beckett advised there will be a public forum regarding the proposed regional benchmark for school readiness indicator #10 on March 14, 2014 at the Bullhead City Elementary School District Board Room. Regional partnership council

members may attend; however, Senior Director Gary Arnold noted that all information from the forum will be shared with the council at their April meeting, with an opportunity to reset the benchmark then if desired. Recommendations will be presented to the State Board in June.

Possible Amendment of the Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense Strategy Contract with Arizona Department of Education

Director Beckett advised that the Bouse Elementary School has requested assistance to design improvements to their playground. The La Paz/Mohave region already has an agreement in place with the Arizona Department of Education, and an amendment would not change the current cost. Member Weiske made a motion to amend the contract to include Bouse Elementary School. Member Garcia seconded the motion. There was discussion about being mindful of special needs students in the design. Member Weiske made a new motion to amend the contract to include Bouse Elementary School with the addition of special needs considerations. Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Discuss SFY 2014 Program Implementation

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2014 financial report and the SFY 2014 program data report. She noted that the council has over \$1M invested in health through developmental screening provided as part of every home visitation contract.

Regional Director's Report

Director Beckett reviewed the SFY 2015 regional funding plan which was approved by the State Board on January 22. The State Board was complimentary and expressed gratitude for the council's work.

Director Beckett shared the timeline and guidelines for contract renewals for SFY 2015. The guidelines were modified slightly this year due to the addition of quality assurance. Contracts are initially for a twelve month period, with two, one-year renewals if performing well. Director Beckett recommends sending renewal packets to all eligible grantees on March 6; however, this is the council's decision. An internal First Things First committee will make recommendations to the council at the April meeting and then forward recommendations from the regional council to the state board in June.

Director Beckett announced receipt of a \$25,000 grant from Delta Dental for an Oral Health Coalition. Maggie Wilcox, Child Care Health Consultant will provide oral health education and promotion through that grant.

Director Beckett provided an update on system coordination and the home visitation collaboration meetings. Meloney Baty, Community Coordinator for the statewide Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Visiting (MIECHV) program led a joint goal/priority setting at the last home visiting collaboration meeting in Kingman. The Mohave County Department of Public Health is the lead agency implementing the MIECHV grant in the region and recently hired a home visiting coordinator funded through MIECHV. Vice Chair Frei requested information regarding state and county plans for funding levels to return to pre-recession amounts and capacity building in La Paz and Mohave counties, so Director Beckett will invite representatives from Mohave and La Paz counties administration to attend a future meeting.

Director Beckett requested members cast their vote for the 2014 Champion for Young Children Award.

Director Beckett announced the deadline for submitting proposals for the upcoming Early Childhood Summit is February 28, 2014. Several members commented on the need for additional sessions about special needs children, and Senior Director Arnold noted that a steering committee is looking at trends now.

Director Beckett encouraged council members to attend the Infant and Toddler Mental Health Symposium March 31 – April 1. Director Beckett announced there will be another State Board/Regional Partnership Council forum on May 22, immediately following the council meeting.

Senior Director Arnold asked for volunteers from the council to serve on the nominating committee to review candidates for the five seats expiring in June, as well as a community member.

Member Weiske suggested that Director Beckett and Community Outreach Coordinator Erin Taylor speak to Mohave County about First Things First.

Member Holloway complimented the team on the crafty Christmas boxes.

Member Sondrol announced that on March 4, "Milemarkers Has Talent" children will be presenting at 6:00 p.m. at the Rodeo Grounds at SARA Park.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council will be at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Bullhead City Elementary School District Board Room located at 1004 Hancock Road, Bullhead City, Arizona 86442.

Adjourn

Member Garcia made a motion to adjourn at 12:13 p.m. Vice Chair Frei seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

Nancy Mongeau, Chair

DRAFT

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Grantee Renewal Recommendations for SFY 2015

| Family, Friends & Neighbors Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Contract Number | Grantee | Contract Period | Number of Contract Months | SFY 2014 Award | SFY 2014 Expenditures YTD | SFY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award | Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No) | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount | Staff Recommendation to Council | Council Recommendation | Recommendation to Board |
| | | | | | | | | | | Renewal Considerations | | |
| FTF-MULTI-13-0406-01-Y2 | The Association for Supportive Child Care | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | 12 | \$100,000 | \$69,072.75 | 69.1% | No | 9.1% | \$100,000.00 | Yes | | |
| Quality and Access | The Arizona Kith and Kin Project of the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC) provides support to family, friend and neighbor caregivers through weekly training/support group meetings. An average of 15 participants (per group) meet weekly for 14 weeks for a series of trainings on child development, health and safety, positive guidance and discipline, nutrition, early brain development, language and literacy, car seat safety and much more. Organized with the help of a community collaborative partner, group meeting locations are selected within the communities where family, friend and neighbor care providers live, work and play. The weekly gatherings are held in a supportive, workshop format where participants gain emotional sustenance from the other participants while learning about early childhood development, school readiness and safety. Providers receive concrete instruction and training, along with the distribution of related safety equipment. Kith and Kin groups are offered in two locations in the La Paz/Mohave Region: Bullhead City and Parker. | | | | | | | | | The Kith and Kin program provided by the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC) in the La Paz/Mohave, Yuma, Coconino and Yavapai Regions is on target to meet or exceed the contracted service units in SFY 2014. Typical issues/barriers associated with the start-up and implementation of a new program have been identified and promptly addressed. The most recent narrative report provided by the grantee in January 2014 indicates that 46 car seats were recently distributed to participating kith and kin providers at car seat safety events hosted in Bullhead City and Parker. | | |
| | Service Unit | 2014 Contracted Units | 2014 Q1 Actuals** | 2014 Q2 Actuals** | 2014 Q3 Actuals** | 2014 Q4 Actuals** | Year-to-Date Actuals** | Percent of Contracted | Within 30-60% Range | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Units | |
| | Number of home based providers served | 60 | 33 | 41 | | 41 | 68.3% | No | 8.3% | 60 | | |

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Grantee Renewal Recommendations for SFY 2015

| Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Contract Number | Grantee | Contract Period | Number of Contract Months | SFY 2014 Award | SFY 2014 Expenditures YTD | SFY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award | Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No) | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount | Staff Recommendation to Council | Council Recommendation | Recommendation to Board |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Renewal Considerations | |
| FTF-RC006-13-0375-01-Y2 | The Association for Supportive Child Care | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | 12 | \$400,000 | \$194,150.03 | 48.5% | Yes | 0.0% | \$400,000.00 | Yes | | |
| Professional Development | <p>The Professional Development Program for early childhood educators provided by the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC) in the La Paz/Mohave Region provides evidence-based and best-practice community-based training for child care providers, teachers, directors, and others in the region working with children birth through five years of age. The strategy is provided region-wide and serves both La Paz and Mohave Counties. Group training sessions are provided in Lake Havasu City, Parker, Bullhead City, and Kingman, and on-site coaching/mentoring is provided at the participant's place of employment. The program includes a series of workshops offered in three tiers, coaching and mentoring, professional conferences, guest speakers, as well as incentive and reward programs for participating early childhood educators. Through the program, participants are eligible to earn college credits for coursework completed. The intent is to create stepping stones that facilitate the completion of educational milestones. Participants are eligible to apply for scholarships to attend workshops and conferences in the surrounding areas.</p> | | | | | | | | | | <p>The professional development program provided by the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC) in Mohave and La Paz counties has exceeded the contracted service units in SFY 2014. Typical issues/barriers associated with program implementation in rural communities have been identified and are being addressed. These include staff turn-over and difficulty hiring and retaining qualified staff. The most recent narrative report provided by the grantee in January 2014 indicates participants are being retained in the tier level trainings. The grantee reports that Tier One training began in September 2013 with 88 participants, of which 77 were still actively participating in January. Tier Two also began in September 2013 with 32 participants, of which 30 were still actively participating in January. The annual ASCC Early Childhood Conference is planned for June 21, 2014 at the Aquarius Conference Center in Laughlin, NV.</p> | |
| Service Unit | 2014 Contracted Units | 2014 Q1 Actuals** | 2014 Q2 Actuals** | 2014 Q3 Actuals** | 2014 Q4 Actuals** | Year-to-Date Actuals** | Percent of Contracted | Within 30-60% Range | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Units | | |
| Number of participating professionals | 200 | 251 | 318 | | | 569 | 284.5% | No | 224.5% | 200 | | |

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Grantee Renewal Recommendations for SFY 2015

| Family Support – Children with Special Needs Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Contract Number | Grantee | Contract Period | Number of Contract Months | SFY 2014 Award | SFY 2014 Expenditures YTD | SFY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award | Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No) | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount | Staff Recommendation to Council | Council Recommendation | Recommendation to Board | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Renewal Considerations | | | |
| FTF-RC006-13-0354-02-Y2 | Child and Family Resources Inc. | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | 12 | \$150,000 | \$93,234.55 | 62.2% | No | 2.2% | \$150,000.00 | Yes | | | |
| <p>The Building Bright Futures program provided by Child & Family Resources uses the Parents as Teachers (PAT) model to serve 60 families with children ages birth to five in Bullhead City and Kingman and the surrounding areas. In order to be eligible, children must first be screened and/or evaluated for early intervention services or the local developmental preschool and determined to be ineligible due to not meeting the established criteria. PAT is comprehensive, research-based and evidence-informed home visiting model that provides early childhood family support and parent education. PAT trains Parent Educators to work with families to strengthen protective factors and ensure that young children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. The goals are to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development, improve parenting practices, provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase children's school readiness and school success. Parent Educators use the PAT curriculum in culturally sensitive ways to help families identify needs, set goals, connect with community resources, and overcome barriers to accessing services. All services are strengths-based and family-centered. Parent Educators conduct an initial family assessment and provide annual health, hearing, vision, and developmental screenings for the children. Parent Educators also emphasize activities to enhance parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting, and family well-being. They share research-based information to help families develop their child's strengths, capabilities, and skills and to build protective factors as well as match their parenting to their child's level of development. Parent Educators also link families to community resources and help families overcome an increasing tendency toward isolation in our communities. Monthly Group Connections include activities for families, presentations, community events, parent cafes, and ongoing groups. Parents attend with their children to obtain information, share experiences with peers, and develop social support networks. Parents are given opportunities to share personal experiences and model what they are learning during their home visits in a group setting.</p> | | | | | | | | | | <p>The Building Bright Futures program provided by Child and Family Resources, Inc. in Bullhead City and Kingman and the surrounding areas is on track to meet or exceed the contracted service numbers in SFY 2014. Typical issues and barriers associated with the start-up of a new program have been identified and promptly addressed. The grantee has worked diligently with AzEIP to develop a memorandum of understanding that was approved in June to establish a routine process for receiving and giving referrals. A recent success reported in the narrative report provided by the grantee in January 2014 is that the number of referrals from AzEIP had increased. In addition, the grantee is actively engaged in a multi-agency coalition working to improve collaboration and service coordination among home visiting providers in the La Paz/Mohave Region.</p> | | | |
| Service Unit | | | | 2014 Contracted Units | 2014 Q1 Actuals** | 2014 Q2 Actuals** | 2014 Q3 Actuals** | 2014 Q4 Actuals** | Year-to-Date Actuals** | Percent of Contracted | Within 30-60% Range | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Units |
| Number of families served | | | | 50 | 31 | 40 | | | 40 | 80.0% | No | 20.0% | 50 |

Family Support

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Grantee Renewal Recommendations for SFY 2015

| Home Visitation Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Contract Number | Grantee | Contract Period | Number of Contract Months | SFY 2014 Award | SFY 2014 Expenditures YTD | SFY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award | Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No) | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount | Staff Recommendation to Council | Council Recommendation | Recommendation to Board | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Renewal Considerations | | | |
| FTF-RC006-13-0356-01-Y2 | Learning Center for Families | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | 12 | \$286,011 | \$153,927.38 | 53.8% | Yes | 0.0% | \$286,011 | Yes | | | |
| The Learning Center for Families provides a comprehensive home-based Early Head Start program in Mohave County North of the Grand Canyon (including Colorado City and Beaver Dam/Littlefield). The program promotes optimal health and development for vulnerable, at-risk, low-income pregnant women, infants and toddlers. Weekly home visits focus on coaching parents in child development, health, parental resilience, social connections, and accessing formal and informal supports in the community. Program ensures children meet health requirements including regular child development assessments. Program engages parents in developing goals for self-sufficiency and assistance in meeting those goals through service coordination and referral to formal and informal community supports to build on assets. | | | | | | | | | | The Learning Center for Families has exceeded the contracted service units in SFY 2014. Typical issues/barriers associated with program implementation in rural communities, such as lack of transportation, have been identified and promptly addressed. The grantee is working with the Arizona Department of Child Safety and Family Services (previously CPS) on an MOU for giving and receiving referrals. | | | |
| Family Support | Service Unit | | | 2014 Contracted Units | 2014 Q1 Actuals** | 2014 Q2 Actuals** | 2014 Q3 Actuals** | 2014 Q4 Actuals** | Year-to-Date Actuals** | Percent of Contracted | Within 30-60% Range | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Units |
| | Number of families served | | | | 36 | 36 | 39 | | 39 | 108.3% | No | 48.3% | 36 |
| FTF-RC006-13-0356-04-Y2 | Child and Family Resources Inc. | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | 12 | \$389,492 | \$218,545.97 | 56.1% | Yes | 0.0% | \$389,863.25 | Yes | | | |
| The Healthy Families program provided by Child and Family Resources serves Bullhead City and Kingman. The model is evidence-based, nationally accredited and offers free, voluntary in-home services. Program goals are to prevent child abuse and neglect, foster child health and development, promote positive parent-child interaction, and enhance family health and functioning. In-home services include information on child health and development and activities to encourage positive parent-child interaction. Families develop goals and are supported in reaching them through their relationship with the home visitor, parent groups, and engagement in community resources. | | | | | | | | | | Grantee is on target to meet the contracted service units in SFY 2014. Typical issues associated with program implementation in rural communities have been identified and promptly addressed. In addition, the grantee is actively engaged in a multi-agency coalition working to improve collaboration and service coordination among home visiting providers in the La Paz/Mohave Region. | | | |
| Family Support | Service Unit | | | 2014 Contracted Units | 2014 Q1 Actuals** | 2014 Q2 Actuals** | 2014 Q3 Actuals** | 2014 Q4 Actuals** | Year-to-Date Actuals** | Percent of Contracted | Within 30-60% Range | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Units |
| | Number of families served | | | | 122 | 91 | 76 | | 76 | 62.3% | No | 2.3% | 140 |

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Grantee Renewal Recommendations for SFY 2015

FTF-RC006-13-0356-08-Y2 **Arizona's Children Association** 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$420,589.40 \$223,760.02 53.2% Yes 0.0% **\$420,589.40**

Yes

The Parents As Teachers (PAT) program provided by Arizona's Children Association in the La Paz/Mohave Region serves families with children age birth to three in both Mohave and La Paz counties. Parents as Teachers is an international, evidence-based, best-practice model for early childhood parent education and family support with effective curricula. The vision of Parents as Teachers (PAT) is that all children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential, with the mission of providing the information, support, and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life. PAT is based on the principle that parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

The Parents as Teachers program provided by Arizona's Children Association in Mohave and La Paz Counties is on track to meet or exceed the contracted service units in SFY 2014. Typical issues/barriers associated with program implementation in rural communities have been identified and promptly addressed. These include hiring and retaining qualified staff. The renewal application provided by the grantee indicates that staff have made consistent progress toward professional development goals. In addition, the grantee is actively engaged in a multi-agency coalition working to improve collaboration and service coordination among home visiting providers in the La Paz/Mohave Region.

| Service Unit | 2014 Contracted Units | 2014 Q1 Actuals** | 2014 Q2 Actuals** | 2014 Q3 Actuals** | 2014 Q4 Actuals** | Year-to-Date Actuals** | Percent of Contracted | Within 30-60% Range | Out of Range Percentage | SFY 2015 Proposed Units |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Number of families served | 140 | 86 | 79 | | | 79 | 56.4% | Yes | 0.0% | 140 |

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Grantee Renewal Recommendations for SFY 2015

| Court Teams Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Contract Number | Grantee | Contract Period | Number of Contract Months | FY 2014 Award | FY 2014 Expenditures YTD | FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award | Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No) | Out of Range Percentage | FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount | Staff Recommendation to Council | Council Recommendation | Recommendation to Board | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Renewal Considerations | | | |
| GRA-RC006-13-0537-01-Y2 | Mohave County Superior Court | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | 12 | \$400,000 | \$200,000.00 | 50.0% | Yes | 0.0% | \$400,000 | Yes | | | |
| Coordination | <p>Under the judicial leadership of the Mohave County Presiding Juvenile Judge, the Court Team provided by the Mohave County Superior Court raises awareness in the region of the large number of maltreated and abandoned infants and toddlers with the accompanying need for community support. The team also convenes a monthly Steering Committee meeting with directors of community agencies to ensure case plans, visitation, and court proceedings are functioning in a timely and evidence-based manner to lessen the trauma of the targeted population. The team also provides training for foster parents on the specific behavioral and emotional needs of these children. The Court Team focuses on professional development for all professionals working in the birth through five population. These trainings bring the latest strategies and proven methods to our rural area where agencies can implement, change and improve the existing procedures. The Court Team has developed a child checklist which is completed for every child entering the child welfare system and this is given to the presiding judge. The team continues to use and improve the checklist as they learn more strategies and recognize areas for improvement. The goal of the team continues to be collaboration and cooperation among all organizations in the area. Team members meet at least twice monthly, professionals attend conferences which are relevant to their area of expertise, and expert presenters come to the region and reach large numbers of providers. Through analysis of data from regional, state, and national sources, areas of need are identified and necessary adjustments to the program are made in order to best meet the needs of the team and the vulnerable population they serve.</p> | | | | | | | | | | <p>The Infant and Toddler Mental Health Court Team provided by the Mohave County Superior Court in Mohave and La Paz counties is on target to meet or exceed the contracted service units in SFY 2014. Typical issues/barriers associated with program implementation in rural communities have been identified and promptly addressed. For example, staff turn-over in partner agencies is an ongoing issue that requires them to repeat training topics so that new workers have the tools they need to handle difficult cases. Recent successes include hosting the 3rd Annual Northwest Arizona Infant and Toddler Mental Health Symposium in Laughlin, NV on March 31st and April 1st and offering the first Best for Babies Court Team Training in La Paz County on April 24th in Parker.</p> | | |
| Service Unit | | | | 2014 Contracted Units | 2014 Q1 Actuals** | 2014 Q2 Actuals** | 2014 Q3 Actuals** | 2014 Q4 Actuals** | Year-to-Date Actuals** | Percent of Contracted | Within 30-60% Range | Out of Range Percentage | FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units |
| Number of children served | | | | 200 | 152 | 196 | | | 196 | 98.0% | No | 38.0% | 200 |
| Number of participants attended | | | | 525 | 61 | 112 | | | 173 | 33.0% | Yes | 0.0% | 525 |

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Grantee Renewal Recommendations for SFY 2015

Attachment 02



La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Overview

In January of 2012, the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board approved the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council selection of the following three School Readiness Indicators (SRIs) as their top priorities:

Indicator #1 - School Readiness - #/% of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the developmental domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical

Indicator #5 - Early Identification - % of children with newly identified developmental delays during the kindergarten year

Indicator #10- Confident Families - % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being

In Phase 1 of the School Readiness Indicators benchmarking 2013-2014, the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council set benchmarks for the following SRI:

Indicator #10- Confident Families

- % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being

To discuss, set, and finalize benchmarks for their chosen Indicator of Confident Families, the Regional Partnership Council met in February 2014 and conducted a public input forum in March 2014. First, the Regional Partnership Council discussed and set benchmarks for the one SRI. Then, public input was gathered through an in-person public forum, as well as an online survey. After compilation of public comments, the Regional Partnership Council again met to finalize the recommended benchmarks.

Confident Families Indicator Regional Council Benchmarking Discussion and Decision

Initial Discussion 2/27/14

The data source, survey methodology and calculation of the overall Confident Families Indicator from nine key measures, and the baseline data for the region were reviewed with the Regional Partnership Council.

The Confident Families Indicator is measured by the Family and Community Survey. This survey is conducted every three years by a sub-contractor of First Things First and designed to provide information for Regional Partnership Councils on parent knowledge, skills, and behaviors related to their young children.

The survey contains over sixty questions, some of which were drawn from the national survey, *What Grown-Ups Understand About Child Development*¹. Survey items explore multiple facets of parenting. There are questions on overall knowledge of the importance of early childhood, questions which gauge parent knowledge of specific ages and stages, parent behaviors with their children, as well as parent practices related to utilization of services for their families.

The Family and Community Survey is conducted, for non-tribal Regions, over the phone. Over 3700 Arizona parents with children 0-5 participated in the 2012 Family and Community Survey. In the La Paz/Mohave region, 150 parents completed the survey. Parents were reached randomly via land-line as well as cell phone. Interviews began with demographic questions and based on information provided by parents on family income, ethnicity, and geography, the sample of parents was carefully balanced to ensure that respondents reflected the diversity of Arizona and the La Paz/Mohave area in particular.

For the Confident Families Indicator composite score, a sub-set of nine items from the survey were selected. The nine items include parent knowledge, parent self-report of competency and confidence in the parenting of their young children, and parent behaviors, all of which are of key importance to support a young child's safety, health and well-being. Five of the items selected are knowledge-based questions that directly assess a parent's level of knowledge of key developmental areas. Two of the items selected specifically ask parents to rate their level of competency and confidence in their ability to support their child's learning, cognitive development, safety, health and overall well-being. Lastly, two items inquire about parent behaviors around the key early literacy activities of reading, telling stories and singing songs with their children. Six or more responses (out of nine) meeting the cut point comprised the composite score criteria. The scoring was determined based on the national survey key and on early childhood development research and best practice.

¹ CIVITAS Initiative, ZERO TO THREE, and BRIO Corporation, Researched by DYG, Inc. 2000. *What Grown-ups Understand About Child Development: A National Benchmark Survey*.

Discussion and Decision – Confident Families 2/27/14

The Regional Council discussed the fact that the Family and Community survey is self-report. They agreed that questions 6 and 7, which ask parents to report their competence and confidence directly, were likely to be positively skewed due to reporting bias.

The Regional Council had intensive discussion about the Family and Community survey sample. They reviewed the ethnic, socio-economic and educational background of respondents before and after statistical weighting procedures. There was extensive discussion about the phone numbers that were likely to have been included in the phone sample. There was concern that out of area code and pre-pay-cell phones (track plans) were unlikely to be included in cell phone number lists available for survey administration. There was discussion amongst Council members that utilization of this type of cell phone is widespread in the region – one with extensive patterns of migration and irregular shift work - especially among at-risk populations. It was agreed that the constantly changing phone usage patterns of the community impacts phone survey methodology.

Some Council members believed that the baseline data for La Paz/Mohave Region of 59% confident families was inflated due to these unpredictable phone usage patterns and their impact on the sample. There was discussion of whether this trend in phone usage would increase between 2012 and 2020. Most Council members agreed that if the Confident Families Indicator is influenced by phone usage trends currently, it is likely to continue having an influence in 2020. Despite the Council's concerns about a lack of reliable data from the survey due to regularly shifting community phone usage patterns, the Council chose to set a benchmark based on anticipated progress in parent confidence.

The Council discussed the estimated number of parents who would need to be supported to attain competence and confidence by 2020 to attain a benchmark of 69%: 913.

The La Paz/Mohave baseline is 59% of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being. Some Council members reiterated the concern that the baseline data for La Paz/Mohave Region of 59% confident families was inflated. It was noted that La Paz and Mohave counties tend to be lower in measures such as 3rd grade reading scores. Based on this information, they had also anticipated lower than average trends on data related to the Confident Families Indicator.

The Council discussed a benchmark goal of 69% Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being. This 69% goal and 10 percentage point improvement by 2020 is similar to the state benchmark. Council members noted their continuing concern about the baseline data and Indicator measurement, but the majority agreed that the benchmark planning should be based on aspirations (one Council member noted the need to set the bar high and try to reach it) and challenges for Council and community efforts to support children and families, rather than solely on data considerations.

A minority of Council members (two) would have voted for a higher and more aspirational benchmark than 69% and therefore voted no. One member believed that because of concerns with the baseline data and ongoing data and methodology concerns, the benchmark should be lower than 69% and voted no. The majority of the Council agreed that 69% was an attainable and aspirational goal for La Paz/Mohave Region.

Supporting materials can be found in the La Paz/Mohave appendix.

Proposed Benchmark for Confident Families Indicator

69% of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being by 2020.

Public Input on Initial Benchmark Targets for Indicators

Public comment was solicited in two ways: in-person community forums and an online survey.

Public Input Forum:

On 3/14/14, an SRI benchmark public forum was held in Bullhead City to gather community input on initial benchmark targets set by the La Paz/Mohave Regional Council. The agenda was as follows:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of Process to Recommend Regional Benchmarks
3. How and Why Benchmarks Are Used
4. Review and Discuss Proposed Regional Benchmarks for Priority School Readiness Indicators
5. Process and Timeline for Finalizing Recommended Regional Level Benchmarks
6. Questions

There were six attendees: two members of the public (Adonica Johnson and Matilde Andrade), the La Paz/Mohave regional director, Merritt Beckett, West Region Senior Director, Gary Arnold, Sandy Smith, First Things First staff, and the facilitator, Amy Kemp.

After introductions, the forum began with an overview of the purpose of SRIs and the statewide and regional processes of setting benchmarks, including the 9 priority roles of First Things First and their relation to the 10 SRIs. There was discussion on the SRI process and additional clarification that SRIs are tools to monitor changes in statewide and regional populations of children and not evaluation tools. Attendees were informed that SRIs are used to measure progress in the early childhood system overall and help identify priorities.

There was a brief review of the status of all Indicators, identification of the three Indicators prioritized by the La Paz/Mohave Regional Council as well as the one benchmark that the

Council had set. Utilizing the baseline and benchmark data for La Paz/Mohave Regional Council, the group reviewed the considerations, discussions and decisions of the La Paz/Mohave Council on the following prioritized Indicator:

Indicator #10 - Confident Families

- % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being

There was group discussion about the importance of gathering community and partner input on the benchmarks. All agreed that the work of First Things First – or any partner alone – will not achieve our goals for children. Rather, all ten of the School Readiness Indicators are a tool for strategic collaborative planning.

The group also discussed many topics related to the early childhood system in general and early childhood in Bullhead City in particular including:

- Participants asked whether First Things First supports bachelor's degrees for teachers. It was noted that many Head Start teachers in Bullhead City were current T. E.A.C.H scholars who anticipate need for support to attain a B.A. First Things First staff noted that there is currently a small pilot program to support bachelor's degrees but it is not anticipated that this will be available statewide in the near future.
- The group discussed the critical importance of quality early learning and the tremendous advantages it provides to children when they enter kindergarten. It was also noted that the SRIs are very similar to Head Start outcomes and goals, including oral health.
- The group also noted the crucial nature of early language skills. Children who hear fewer words before kindergarten are behind at the beginning of kindergarten and often fall progressively further behind. Additionally, it was noted that for some communities, there is no tradition of reading with children and it is a challenge to educate parents on the importance of an activity they were not provided as a child. All agreed, though this is a challenge, it is necessary to support all children in these efforts.
- The short supply of quality early care and education in Mohave County was discussed as well as the fact that many parents ask if they can pay for quality care in Head Start or school district preschool. However, currently, those providers cannot accommodate the demand.

After review of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Council's discussion and decisions, no changes were suggested.

Online Survey:

An online survey for the La Paz/Mohave Region was launched on March 14th and was open for 14 days. Utilizing email contact lists for La Paz/Mohave, the survey was sent to community and Regional Council members. The survey provided the La Paz/Mohave benchmark target for the Confident Families Indicator. Respondents were asked two questions related to each benchmark:

How much do you agree that the proposed benchmark for this priority School Readiness Indicator in your community/region is ambitious enough to positively impact outcomes for children in Arizona?

How much do you agree that the proposed benchmark for this priority School Readiness Indicator is realistic and achievable?

There was also the option to provide additional comments for each benchmark.

For the La Paz/Mohave online survey:

- 6 respondents viewed the survey
- 3 respondents started the survey
- 2 respondents completed the survey

For Confident Families Benchmark: 69% of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being by 2020.

- 100% of respondents (2 of 2) agreed that the benchmark is ambitious enough.
- 50% of respondents (1 of 2) highly agreed that the benchmark is realistic and achievable.
- 50% of respondents (1 of 2) neither agreed nor disagreed that the benchmark is realistic and achievable.

There was one additional comment for this benchmark. The respondent expressed concern that there are not enough resources, especially in outlying areas of Mohave County, to meet this fantastic goal.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN: SFY 2015

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council



Goals of Community Outreach

1. To educate the La Paz/Mohave Region on the importance of early childhood development.
2. To motivate all Arizonans to be informed about early childhood education and health; to be informed how First Things helps parents; to get involved and take action to get all children ready for school.
3. To increase the number of early childhood Supporters/Champions in the La Paz/Mohave Region.

Target Audiences for Community Outreach in the La Paz and Mohave County

Statewide Priority Target Audiences

- Preschool-12 schools
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Parents and Caregivers

Other Target Audiences:

- Women's Organizations
- Business
- First Things First Grantees
- Public and Elected Officials

Community Outreach Tools and Measures

Tactic: Presentations/Outreach Events

Target: At least four (4) per month

Community Outreach Coordinator

The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will secure group presentation opportunities, one-on-one meetings with members of the community, and attend outreach events to represent First Things First and speak about the importance of early childhood health and development.

First Things First Staff and First Things First La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

- La Paz/Mohave Regional **First Things First staff** will work together to plan FTF-directed or FTF-supported community events, including:
 - Site Visits
 - Grantee Meetings
 - Community Events

- **First Things First staff and First Things First La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council** members may be asked to attend outreach events and presentations to represent First Things First, such as radio, newspaper or television interviews. The **Community Outreach Coordinator** is responsible for coordinating with the Regional Director in preparing First Things First staff and La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council members for these opportunities.

First Things First supporting materials will be provided, such as talking points and fact sheets, educational material and sign-up sheets.

Tactic: Success Stories

Target: At least one (1) per month

Community Outreach Coordinator

- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will collect and write stories about the success of both First Things First-funded programs and other impactful early childhood programs for newsletter use, media submission, and for distribution by grantees and supporters.
 - Stories will be collected by visiting grantee sites and attendance at events and/or meeting with individual program participants.
 - These stories will be offered to the Regional Council and partner collaboration meeting for their distribution.

Tactic: Site Visits

Target: Two (2) per quarter

Community Outreach Coordinator

- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will coordinate site visits to FTF-funded programs, inviting elected officials, members of the media, and key community leaders. The **Community Outreach Coordinator** and Regional Director will work with **FTF grantees'** and community partner sites to develop an agenda, prepare staff with talking points, and prepare families/others participating in the program to speak to site visit guests. The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will work with **FTF External Affairs staff** to plan the site visit.
- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will take pictures during the site visit. These will be sent with cut lines to the **FTF Director of Brand Advancement** to place on social media platforms.

Tactic: Media

Target: At least one (1) per month

Community Outreach Coordinator

- **Radio and Television-** The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will secure media opportunities on radio and/or television to speak about the importance of early childhood and FTF and to provide relevant FTF updates.
 - **Regional Partnership Council members** or Regional Director may be asked to work with the **Community Outreach Coordinator** to represent First Things First on the radio and/or television, or join the **Community Outreach Coordinator** for radio/TV opportunities.

- **Press Releases**- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will write press releases concerning early childhood and FTF updates/events, to be distributed to local community partners and media contacts. The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will work with **External Affairs Staff** for the development and dissemination of press releases. The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will offer assistance to **FTF grantees** with the development of press releases concerning **FTF** early childhood program updates or events.

First Things First Grantees

- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will connect **FTF grantees** to media opportunities when appropriate.
- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** may offer training on successfully preparing for media opportunities to **FTF grantees** and community partners interested in speaking about early childhood for any earned media opportunity.

Tactic: Speaker's Trainings

Target: One (1) per month

Community Outreach Coordinator

- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will offer speaker's trainings to any interested individual or group wishing to receive instructions and practice consistent messaging to help spread the word about early childhood and FTF.
- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will offer the following speaker's trainings:
 - Basic Speaker's Training
 - Early Childhood, Every Day- *simple ways to spread the word about early childhood and First Things First in your community.*

Tactic: Community Awareness

Target: Distributed as appropriate

Community Outreach Coordinator

- Educational Reinforcement items, such as Born Learning Materials, will be distributed by the **Community Outreach Coordinator**. The distribution of Educational Reinforcement items will be determined based on the demographic, and knowledge of each audience.
- **FTF supporters and community partners** who have attended a speaker's training will also be eligible to distribute educational reinforcements, and will work with the **Community Outreach Coordinator** to determine where and how these items will be used.
- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will work with the **Regional Director** to develop and implement the Community Awareness Budget, including event participation, sponsorships and the purchasing of Educational Reinforcement items and equipment needed to support the role of the Community Outreach Coordinator.

Tactic: Community Engagement**Target: 15 friends to supporters each quarter**

- The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will work to move friends, supporters and champions through the four major phases of FTF's **Community Engagement Model**, which include: awareness, recruitment, engagement, and renewal, based on the **Calls-to-Action** for each level.
- Supporters and Champions will be encouraged to work with the **Community Outreach Coordinator** to represent FTF at events in the community.

Tactic: Working with the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council and Staff**Community Outreach Coordinator**

- **Regional Partnership Council Meetings-** The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will provide monthly updates during **La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Meetings**. Updates will include the number and nature of recent presentations, media opportunities, stories, and other community outreach updates. **La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Members** can provide feedback, recommendations, and direction during this portion of the meeting.
- **Grantee Meetings-** The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will work with **La Paz/Mohave FTF staff** to provide speaker's trainings, communications guidance, and updates to **FTF grantees** at quarterly grantee meetings. **Grantees** can provide feedback, recommendations, and direction during this portion of the meeting.
- **Staff-Directed Projects, Meetings, and Strategies-** The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will work with **La Paz/Mohave Regional Staff** to support Regional Partnership Council recruitment, staff projects, meetings and events. The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will provide support based on the defined roles of a Community Outreach Coordinator.

Community Outreach: Requests of La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Members

1. Provide input and expertise in the development of the community outreach plan.
2. Works with **Regional Director** and **Community Outreach Coordinator** to voluntarily attend and/or present at local events, media opportunities, etc.
3. Provide ongoing feedback and guidance to both the **Regional Director** and **Community Outreach Coordinator** for leads, next steps, and recommendations for the successful implementation of the Community Outreach Strategy.

Community Outreach: Requests of First Things First Grantees

1. **Stories- FTF grantees** are asked to work with the **Community Outreach Coordinator** to invite program participants to be interviewed for a story.
 - **FTF grantees** are requested to communicate good story opportunities in person, through email and phone to the **Community Outreach Coordinator** or through the on-line storybank at www.azftf.gov.
2. **Outreach Opportunities - FTF grantees** are encouraged to recommend presentation/outreach opportunities to the **Community Outreach Coordinator**, to receive FTF speaker's trainings, and to engage in the conversation about early childhood on their personal social media platforms.
 - The **Community Outreach Coordinator** will communicate outreach opportunities, such as tabling events, to **FTF grantees** so that they can consider raising awareness of their services at the event either in conjunction with FTF or on their own.
 - **FTF Grantees** are expected to follow grantee protocol as it pertains to FTF branding. As a reminder, FTF must be mentioned as a funder within every press release, on grantee collateral material and at grantee events.

|  FIRST THINGS FIRST | La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| | SFY 2015 Community Awareness Budget | |
| | FTF Staff-Directed Strategy | |
| | | |
| Budget Category | Description of Line Item | Total Cost |
| Educational Reinforcement Items | FTF branded educational reinforcement items | 10,000.00 |
| Children's Books | Children's books | 7,000.00 |
| Born Learning Materials | Education materials for parents (The Playbook, KidBasics, Your child @Series, etc...) | 4,500.00 |
| Printing of Collateral Materials | Flyers, newsletters, other projects, Champion for Young Children Award | 1,500.00 |
| Event Participation | Information table fees/event registration fee | 1,000.00 |
| Event Sponsorships | Red Ribbon Week, Havasu Stick'em and Week of the Young Child | 2,000.00 |
| FTF-led outreach events | FTF led outreach events with an early education component, such as Enrique Feldman or the Science Lady, etc. | 2,000.00 |
| Community Awareness Supplies | Craft supplies for appropriate activities for young children at events \$100 per event | 1,000.00 |
| Community Awareness Equipment | dolly, portable storage, table cloth, banners | 1,000.00 |
| Total | | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Budget Narrative | | |
| Educational Reinforcement Items at \$10,000: | FTF branded educational reinforcement items will be purchased throughout the year to distribute during community events such as children's health and/or safety fairs, presentations, speaker bureau trainings, coordination meetings, and Week of the Young Child events. | |
| Children's Books at \$7,000: | Books will be purchased throughout the year for distribution by grantees and staff at community events and early childhood events. | |
| Born Learning Materials at \$4,500: | Born Learning Materials will be purchased throughout the year to be distributed by grantees and staff at early childhood events. | |
| Printing of Collateral Materials at \$1,500: | Estimated cost of printing collateral materials for event participation, sponsorships, regional newsletters, family events and Week of the Young Child. | |
| Event Participation at \$1,000: | This is an estimated cost for registration and vendor fees throughout the year. | |
| Event Sponsorship at \$2,000: | This will include event sponsorships. | |
| FTF-led outreach events at \$2,000: | FTF led outreach events with an early education component, such as Enrique Feldman or the Science Lady, amount to include speaker fees, travel, honorarium, and facility rental fees. | |
| Community Awareness Supplies at \$1,000 | Craft supplies for appropriate activities for young children estimated at \$100 per event for 10 events. | |
| Community Awareness Equipment at \$1,000 | Estimated costs for dolly, portable storage, table cloth and banners. | |



Sustaining Arizona's Commitment to Young Kids

Finance Committee Recommendation to the Board - Summary

Tobacco taxes are a declining source of revenue; in fact, funding for First Things First has decreased from almost \$171 million in fiscal year 2008 to \$132 million in FY2013, a 23% drop in five years. By statute, the Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that FTF funds are used as Arizona voters intended. Therefore, one of the Board's primary responsibilities is to set a fiscal policy that allows FTF to: sustain program funding for the longest term possible; maximize current and future revenues; and, promote thoughtful and proactive planning for future funding reductions so as to minimize the impact to children and families statewide.

In setting a fiscal policy direction, the Board has focused specifically on trends in tobacco tax collections – which led to revenue projection models researched by Arizona State University – and analysis of expenditures. The initiative that created FTF was written so that an organizational fund balance would accrue for a period of time before expenditures began. This was an intentional, strategic move on the part of the initiative's authors to ensure that funds would be available to sustain FTF's efforts over a longer period of time.

What were not anticipated were sizeable regional carry-forward balances. The Board noted the reasons for and monitored the regional carry-forward balances in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. In 2012, when the total regional carry-forward balance exceeded \$90 million – the Board looked more closely at the regional carry-forward balance and set fiscal policy that focused on spending down that balance.

While fiscal year 2013 was the first year in which the regional fund balance did not grow, the reduction was minimal. As regions complete the last year in the current funding cycle (FY13-15) and begin planning for the next three years (FY16-18), it was a logical next step for the Board – through its Finance Committee and with support from FTF staff – to undertake a deeper review of revenue, organizational fund balance and regional carry forward and to establish the fiscal policy direction that regional councils can use as a basis for discussion of the next three-year strategic direction and budgeting.

Recommendation of the Finance Committee

To expand the discussion and ensure a diverse set of views on the matter, the Chair of the Finance Committee, member Nadine Mathis Basha, invited special guests to both meetings to participate in the conversations. The additional participants represented both Board and regional council members.

Over the course of two meetings the Finance Committee reviewed how allocations are set; discussed the variables involved in the allocation process; examined how future allocations would support current spending budgets; looked at how regional fund balance is related to and impacts spending; reviewed how the organizational fund balance can be used to support a targeted spending level; and, developed recommendations for the Board on future program spending budgets and how the regional fund balance should be used.

Two formal recommendations have been made to the Board. These will be discussed at the April 2014 Board meeting and voted on at the June 2014 Board meeting. They include:

- 1) Beginning in FY16, the start of the new three-year Funding Plan Cycle, allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending (statewide and regional combined), and keep this amount constant for successive years.
- 2) In FY16, the total means of financing available to support regional allotments should equal the targeted \$126.6 million level, and so regional allocations should be adjusted such that each region's projected fund balance (regional carry forward) is part of the allocation level rather than being in addition to.

These recommendations are based on reasonable (neither overly optimistic nor pessimistic) revenue projections and will allow FTF to maintain its program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9-15 years.

The alternatives reviewed included the following:

1. Allow regional councils to spend down their carry forward, hitting fiscal cliffs at varying points between fiscal years 2015 to 2018. Under this proposal, regional councils would need to initiate a round of cuts because – even with their carry forward balance spread out over the next several years – their total revenue would be less than their projected FY15 allotments. Then, regional councils would need to initiate another round of cuts when their carry forward is fully exhausted and only the base-level allocation (based on the \$126.6 million recommended amount) is available.
2. Using large-scale draw-downs of organizational fund balance to maintain spending levels that have been set using regional carry-forward balances. The organizational fund balance would be exhausted within three years and, therefore, resulting in radical reductions in services at that point.

The Finance Committee acknowledged that moving to the recommended allocation methodology will raise questions from regional councils as it will mean an almost 30% reduction in total regional funds available for spending in FY16 (impact to individual regions will vary around this average amount). While this will be a challenge for regional councils to absorb initially, the following points were discussed by the Committee and include:

1. All regions are looking at significant funding reductions in the near future (as a result of spending down carry-forward), and in most cases, would need to make those cuts in FY16 or shortly thereafter.
2. Updating the fiscal policy at the beginning of a three-year planning cycle gives regional councils time to thoughtfully and proactively plan spending that reflects available revenues at the onset of a strategic planning process.
3. The funding available for each region will be very stable over time (with population and/or regional boundary changes being the only real drivers for change).
4. The recommendation sets a targeted spending level and, in FY16, uses regional carry forward in combination with new Board-allocated revenues to achieve that targeted spending level. Therefore, regions will be spending their regional carry-forward balances. In futures years, the targeted spending level will be fully achieved with new Board-allocated revenues.
5. Regions may still experience carry-forward balances, but these will be significantly lower and much more easily managed.

In addition, the Finance Committee discussed whether guidance should come from the Board on how regional councils plan to align programming to available revenues – for example, Board strategy or indicator priorities.

In the first of two meetings, the Board's Policy and Program Committee reviewed this issue at its April 3 meeting. Outlined below are questions the Committee was asked to consider and provide feedback on by the next meeting on May 15. In addition, feedback will be solicited from the regional Chairs and Vice Chairs at their

May 1 meeting. All of the feedback obtained will be summarized and presented to the Board for consideration at its June 2014 meeting, so that complete guidance can be provided to the regional councils as they begin their three-year planning cycle.

Items the Program Committee members have been asked to provide feedback on include:

- Should guidance come from the Board on how regional councils plan to align funded programming to available revenues – for example, Board preferred strategy(ies) or School Readiness Indicator priorities?
- Currently, regional funding plans are developed by regional councils and are submitted for Board approval. If and when the Board has concerns with a funding plan presented for approval, they address these concerns on an individual basis and final approval is held until both Board and regional council concerns are resolved. As such,
 - Should this practice continue?
 - Should all regional councils be allowed to prioritize independent of each other, and/or Board priorities?
- Should the Board provide parameters for how a funding plan should be constructed? For example:
 - Should the number of strategies be limited?
 - Are there School Readiness Indicators which should be prioritized?
 - Should X% of funding have to be committed to the Board’s signature Quality First strategy?
 - Should only Y% of funding be committed to strategies for which other state agencies have primary or statutory responsibility?
- The Quality First program and Quality First Scholarships collectively comprise the largest funding investment of FTF. Should FTF research whether the QF model can be adjusted in ways that lower the cost but still preserve the overall design and policy intent?
 - One such example would be reducing the number of scholarships made available to providers receiving them by some amount. If that amount were 1/3, a potential savings of \$15.7 million could be yielded.
 - Another example is considering a decision made by regional councils to fund additional scholarships, which is a significant investment of resources beyond that “required” under the Quality First model. As regional councils make choices to fund additional scholarships, it increases the total investment and in many cases, these additional scholarships are under-utilized.
- Are there other FTF program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered while still preserving the design and policy intent?

SFY 2014 Financial Report La Paz/Mohave Region

Attachment 06

| Grantee Name | Contract Number | Contract Period | Allotment | | YTD Expense | Expense Variance | Award Expended | Allotment Expended | Reimbursement Activity | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | Total Allotment | Awarded | | | % of Award Expended | % of Allotment Expended | Pending | Paid (Last 30 Days) | |
| Community Awareness | Community Awareness | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$9,568 | \$20,432 | 31.9% | 31.9% | | |
| | First Things First (FTF-Directed) | PSC-STATE-14-0651-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$30,000 | \$9,568 | \$20,432 | 31.9% | | | |
| | Community Outreach | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$83,000 | \$83,000 | \$49,461 | \$33,539 | 59.6% | 59.6% | | |
| | First Things First (FTF-Directed) | PSC-STATE-14-0652-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$83,000 | \$49,461 | \$33,539 | 59.6% | | | |
| | Goal Area Subtotal: | | | \$113,000 | \$113,000 | \$59,029 | \$53,971 | 52.2% | 52.2% | | |
| Coordination | Court Teams | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$400,000 | \$400,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | 50.0% | 50.0% | | |
| | Mohave County Superior Court | GRA-RC006-13-0537-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$400,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | 50.0% | | | |
| | Goal Area Subtotal: | | | \$400,000 | \$400,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | 50.0% | 50.0% | | |
| Evaluation | Needs and Assets | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$42,000 | \$33,075 | \$11,068 | \$22,007 | 33.5% | 26.4% | | - |
| | University of Arizona | ISA-STATE-14-0643-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$33,075 | \$14,270 | \$18,805 | 43.1% | | | - |
| | First Things First (FTF-Directed) | PSC-STATE-14-0662-01 | To Be Determined | | - | (\$3,202) | \$3,202 | 0.0% | | | |

SFY 2014 Financial Report La Paz/Mohave Region

Attachment 06

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | Statewide Evaluation | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$193,948 | \$193,948 | \$193,948 | - | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| | First Things First (FTF-Directed) | PSC-STATE-14-0669-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$193,948 | \$193,948 | | - | 100.0% | | |
| | Goal Area Subtotal: | | | | \$235,948 | \$227,023 | \$205,016 | \$22,007 | 90.3% | 86.9% | - |
| Family Support | Family Support for Children with Special Needs | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$93,235 | \$56,765 | 62.2% | 62.2% | \$2,522 |
| | Child and Family Resources Inc. | FTF-RC006-13-0354-02-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$150,000 | \$93,235 | \$56,765 | | 62.2% | | \$2,522 |
| | Home Visitation | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$1,200,000 | \$1,114,006 | \$609,875 | \$504,132 | 54.7% | 50.8% | \$31,272 |
| | Arizona Department of Economic Security | ISA-MULTI-14-0636-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$17,914 | \$13,641 | \$4,273 | | 76.1% | | \$4,478 |
| | Arizona's Children Association | FTF-RC006-13-0356-08-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$420,589 | \$223,760 | \$196,829 | | 53.2% | | \$26,795 |
| | Child and Family Resources Inc. | FTF-RC006-13-0356-04-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$389,492 | \$218,546 | \$170,946 | | 56.1% | | |
| | The Learning Center for Families | FTF-RC006-13-0356-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$286,011 | \$153,927 | \$132,084 | | 53.8% | | |
| | Goal Area Subtotal: | | | | \$1,350,000 | \$1,264,006 | \$703,109 | \$560,897 | 55.6% | 52.1% | \$33,794 |
| Health | Child Care Health Consultation | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$51,926 | \$51,926 | \$17,993 | \$33,934 | 34.7% | 34.7% | \$155 |
| | First Things First (FTF-Directed) | PSC-STATE-14-0649-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$3,188 | \$3,188 | | - | 100.0% | | |
| | Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health | GRA-STATE-14-0631-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$1,093 | \$202 | \$892 | | 18.4% | | |
| | Pima County Health Department | GRA-STATE-13-0525-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$1,988 | \$1,257 | \$730 | | 63.3% | | \$155 |
| | U of A, Mohave Cooperative Extension | GRA-STATE-14-0632-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$45,657 | \$13,345 | \$32,312 | | 29.2% | | |
| Goal Area Subtotal: | | | | \$51,926 | \$51,926 | \$17,993 | \$33,934 | 34.7% | 34.7% | \$155 | |

SFY 2014 Financial Report La Paz/Mohave Region

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Professional Development | Professional Development for ECE | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$400,000 | \$400,000 | \$194,150 | \$205,850 | 48.5% | 48.5% | \$23,643 |
| | Association for Supportive Child Care | FTF-RC006-13-0375-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$400,000 | \$194,150 | \$205,850 | 48.5% | | | \$23,643 |
| | Goal Area Subtotal: | | | | \$400,000 | \$400,000 | \$194,150 | \$205,850 | 48.5% | 48.5% | \$23,643 |
| Quality and Access | Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$264,300 | \$264,300 | \$132,150 | \$132,150 | 50.0% | 50.0% | \$66,075 |
| | Arizona Department of Education | ISA-RC006-13-0625-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$264,300 | \$132,150 | \$132,150 | 50.0% | | | \$66,075 |
| | Family, Friends & Neighbors | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$69,073 | \$30,927 | 69.1% | 69.1% | |
| | Association for Supportive Child Care | FTF-MULTI-13-0406-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$100,000 | \$69,073 | \$30,927 | 69.1% | | | |
| | Quality First Academy | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$21,817 | \$18,125 | \$8,774 | \$9,351 | 48.4% | 40.2% | \$946 |
| | Southwest Human Development | FTF-STATE-14-0431-03 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$18,125 | \$8,774 | \$9,351 | 48.4% | | | \$946 |
| | Quality First Child Care Health Consultation Warmline | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$994 | \$994 | \$320 | \$674 | 32.2% | 32.2% | |
| | University of Arizona Cooperative Extension | GRA-STATE-14-0629-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$994 | \$320 | \$674 | 32.2% | | | |
| | Quality First Coaching & Incentives | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$326,082 | \$326,082 | \$244,399 | \$81,684 | 74.9% | 74.9% | |
| | Valley of the Sun United Way | FTF-STATE-14-0427-02 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$326,082 | \$244,399 | \$81,684 | 74.9% | | | |
| | Quality First Inclusion Warmline | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$4,852 | \$4,852 | \$2,235 | \$2,616 | 46.1% | 46.1% | \$262 |
| Southwest Human Development | FTF-STATE-13-0426-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$4,852 | \$2,235 | \$2,616 | 46.1% | | | \$262 | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Quality First Mental Health Consultation Warmline | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$4,990 | \$4,990 | \$2,921 | \$2,070 | 58.5% | 58.5% | |
| Southwest Human Development | FTF-STATE-13-0344-02-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$4,990 | \$2,921 | \$2,070 | | 58.5% | | |
| Quality First Pre-K Mentoring | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$78,507 | \$78,507 | \$78,507 | - | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| Arizona Department of Education | ISA-MULTI-13-0487-01-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$78,507 | \$78,507 | - | | 100.0% | | |
| Quality First Pre-K Scholarships | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$1,365,583 | \$1,245,242 | \$934,125 | \$311,117 | 75.0% | 68.4% | |
| Valley of the Sun United Way | FTF-STATE-14-0440-02 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$1,245,242 | \$934,125 | \$311,117 | | 75.0% | | |
| Quality First Scholarships | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$450,948 | \$450,948 | \$287,311 | \$163,637 | 63.7% | 63.7% | - |
| Valley of the Sun United Way | FTF-STATE-14-0440-01 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$450,948 | \$287,311 | \$163,637 | | 63.7% | | - |
| Quality First Warmline Triage | | | Strategy Subtotal: | \$1,941 | \$1,941 | \$1,301 | \$640 | 67.0% | 67.0% | \$149 |
| Southwest Human Development | FTF-STATE-13-0351-02-Y2 | 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 | | \$1,941 | \$1,301 | \$640 | | 67.0% | | \$149 |
| Goal Area Subtotal: | | | | \$2,620,014 | \$2,495,981 | \$1,761,116 | \$734,865 | 70.6% | 67.2% | - \$67,432 |
| Overall Total: | | | | \$5,170,888 | \$4,951,937 | \$3,140,412 | \$1,811,525 | 63.4% | 60.7% | - \$125,024 |

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