



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## Meeting Minutes

### **#1. Call to Order/Welcome**

The Special Meeting of the First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council was held on Monday June 02, 2014 at the San Cayetano Elementary School, 1412 W. Frontage Road, Rio Rico, Arizona 85648. Chair William Kirkpatrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m. He welcomed Senior Director Erin Lyons. He thanked Ms. Berenice Rodriguez, Principal, for the meeting space. He asked each member to introduce themselves, indicating their seat

### **Members Present**

Chair William Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair Karen Woodford, David Verdugo, Danna Gallardo, Veronica Santillo, Dr. Melissa Lunderville, Karen Guilmette (2:30 pm), and Erika Garcia

### **Members Attending Telephonically**

Anna Lepa

### **Members Absent**

none

### **#2. Review of the Family Support Regional Evaluation Study Conducted by Harder+Company**

Chair Kirkpatrick asked Regional Director Francisco Padilla to lead this review. Director Padilla explained that in discussing the findings by Harder & Co. in their 2 year external evaluation report of the Family Support strategies, the Regional Council would be better prepared for the upcoming Strategic Planning sessions.

He referred to Harder & Co.'s approach to evaluating both Home Visitation and the Family Resource Center strategies as a portfolio, or bundle, of services. Both grantees fall under the First Things First category of Family Support & Literacy. The study was funded by the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council for 2 years at \$25,000 each year. The key purpose of the study was to identify how the combination of programs contributes to the success of Family Support & Literacy strategies and to understand how these strategies strengthen and support child and family well-being. 58% of the region's allocation in Fiscal Year 2013 was directed to Family Support & Literacy strategies.

The Regional Dimension Ratings available were Advanced, Established and Emerging. The overall Regional rating for the portfolio of Family Support & Literacy strategies in Santa Cruz was Established, which means that the portfolio is well-designed, has high capacity, is adequately implemented, plays a significant role in improving the lives of children and families, is positioned to make progress in contributing to the early childhood system-of-service and optimizing available resources in the region.

He suggested the guiding questions for the Regional Council:

- What are the major findings?
- How can they be used in strategic planning?
- What has occurred in the region since the study was finalized?
- What else would the Regional Council like to know/explore as a result of these findings?

The report cited that one of the large issues that faced the region's families was transportation. Home Visitation is in itself a solution because they take their services to the homes. The Family Resource Centers are also a solution because they are centrally located and are meant to be community hubs. Currently, the Rio Rico FRC is relocating to the town's main shopping center, which will improve accessibility for local residents and increase their visibility. Director Padilla went through each section of the report, providing the status attached to each segment.

The study offered the following recommendations to be implemented, where they felt there was room for growth:

- Continue to monitor regional population trends to address local needs
- Continue to provide accessible and culturally competent programs
- Investments in opportunities to further enhance the capacity of Family Support & Literacy strategies
- More in-depth study on why many families do not complete Home Visitation services
- Strengthen their program evaluations
- Seek to expand impact of programs
- Strengthen collaboration among First Things First-funded grantees across strategies
- Identify ways to strengthen the network of service providers in the region
- identify opportunities to explore for additional funds (grants or partnerships)

Since the report was created there has been more activity. The Santa Cruz Birth to Five Community Coalition has grown to a group of thirty individuals. This group will be essential in the sharing of data and increasing referrals for families requiring services. The study also revealed that the agencies were involved in referrals but that there was a lack of follow-up. The Coalition may be integral in the solution.

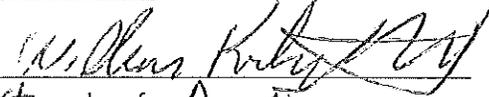
Director Padilla encouraged the Regional Council to read the entire report (copy given to each member). The attendees were advised that it would be posted to the Santa Cruz page on the aztf.gov website.

Vice Chair Woodford commented that whenever she speaks with community members she hears good things about both Home Visitation and the Family Resource Centers.

### #3. Adjourn

Chair Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for attending, Vice Chair Woodford made a motion to adjourn Member Gallardo seconded the motion, the motion carried. The time was 3:33 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Faubion

Approved by 

Dated this 4 day of August, 2014