



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First - Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at First Things First, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Chair Decker called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Janice Decker, Dr. Pamela Powell, Vivian Saunders, and Steve Lynn

Members Present: (via phone)

Nadine Mathis Basha and Ruth Solomon

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Irene Burnton

Members Absent:

Cecil Patterson, Gayle Burns

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Brad Willis and Amy Corriveau

Telephone Procedures

The Board Room telephone was used for members participating by telephone. Speakers physically present at the meeting spoke into microphones to ensure that members on the telephone could hear. Members on the telephone were identified when they spoke for the benefit of those physically present at the meeting.

Conflict of Interest

Chair Decker asked the Board members if there were conflicts of interest regarding items on this agenda. There were none at this time.

Call to the Public

There were no members of the public who requested to speak at this time.

Chair Decker noted that Children's Action Alliance submitted a letter regarding items 6 & 7 on the agenda. Copies of the letter were distributed to board members prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Member Solomon to approve the matters on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Regional Council Applicants

A motion was made by Member Lynn to approve the Regional Council Applicants that had been recommended for appointment, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

Fiscal Policy Direction and FY16 Allocations

Josh Allen, Chief Financial/Operations Officer, presented to the Board the recommendations from the Finance Advisory Committee:

- CEO Recommendation: Adopt the Finance Committee’s recommendation to allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending beginning in FY16, and to keep this amount constant for successive years.

Mr. Allen stated that the Finance Committee recommends the Board accept the \$126.6 million to sustain the programs for a long term, projecting 9 – 15 years. The Finance Committee has received an updated financial report from ASU which will be presented to the Board at the August meeting regarding the tobacco tax collections.

Chair Decker commented that she is aware this item would be reviewed on an annual basis.

A motion was made by Member Lynn to accept the recommendation as presented, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

- CEO Recommendation: Adopt the Finance Committee’s recommendation that in FY16, total financing available to support regional allotments should be adjusted so that each region’s projected fund balance is part of that allotment level as opposed to being in addition to.

Mr. Allen reported that historically, the Board has not considered regional carry forward as part of the pool of dollars allotted for individual regions. Therefore, this allowed regional carry forward dollars to be available for spending above and beyond a region’s annual allocation. Regional carry forward fund balances are expected to be fully expended by FY17 with some exceptions. Mr. Allen stated the Finance Committee recommends that remaining regional carry forward balances be factored in as part of the available revenues available to meet targeted spending beginning in FY16.

A motion was made by Member Basha to accept the recommendation as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

- CEO Recommendation: Set a minimum regional allocation amount of \$100k.

Mr. Allen recommended to the board that regional allocations should not fall below \$100k regardless of population.

A motion was made by Member Solomon to accept the recommendation as presented, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion carried.

- CEO Recommendation: Continue the distribution of Discretionary dollars using the three-part methodology described above; with part one being modified if necessary to align with action the Board may take regarding setting a minimum allocation amount.

A motion to adopt with provision for modification was made by Member Basha, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.

- CEO Recommendation: For population estimates required under FTF statute for FY16-18, utilize the same data as those used for the setting of the FY15 allocations – 2010 census data and the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS).

Mr. Allen indicated that continuing to utilize the same data source regarding population as has been used in previous years will provide consistency, stability and predictability.

A motion was made by Member Powell to accept the recommendation as presented, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Policy & Program Committee Report and Recommendations

- CEO Recommendation: Adopt the policy recommendations and guidance as presented by the Policy and Program Committee.

Karen Woodhouse, Chief Program Officer presented the recommendations from the Program Committee in response to the request from the board regarding: Construction of Funding Plans, Quality First Model and Other Program Costs.

Ms. Woodhouse advised the three recommendations are as follows:

1. The First Things First Regional Councils construct strategic funding plans based on an examination of available data to determine local needs; prioritization of needs that also align with the Regional Council's identified School Readiness Indicators; and, selection and development of evidence-based or evidence-informed funded and non-funded approaches that reflect system building to address those needs.
2. First Things First separate Quality First improvement model costs from scholarship costs, provide no further guidance on number of regional scholarships funded, see no reduction to the number of providers and provide incentives to 3-5 star Quality First programs with First Things First staff to determine the exact amount of those incentives.
3. First Things First continue to identify approaches that are evidence-based or evidence-informed; realize possible and appropriate cost efficiencies; and, utilize data for continuous quality improvement of programs and strategies.

Ms. Woodhouse stated that the KDI (Kindergarten Development Inventory) tool would be ready for use in 2017. This will be helpful to determine how well prepared for Kindergarten children are after receiving care from 3-5 star programs.

A motion was made by Member Saunders to accept the recommendations as presented, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.

Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Department of Economic Security

Sam Leyvas, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the IGA. Mr. Leyvas reviewed the purpose of the document and indicated an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between DES and First Things First would allow the transfer of CCDF Targeted Funds set aside for Infant & Toddler activities to be transferred to First Things First. Mr. Leyvas advised that FTF is in conversation with DES to ensure that proper procedure is taken and that the funds are allocated appropriately.

A motion was made by Member Lynn to accept the recommendation as presented, seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

Board Member Report/Update

Member Saunders informed the Board that the process had begun to find a Sr. Director, Tribal Affairs. A date for interviews has been chosen and she is impressed with the caliber of the applicants.

Member Solomon has been invited to attend the Arizona School Board Association Law Conference. She will provide an update regarding the conference.

Ms. Burnton stated that the 20th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference was held past week. It was a great conference that facilitated great discussion. Also, in regard to the MIECHV Grant, Vision for Home Visiting, ADHS will be working collaboratively with FTF to update the document. ADHS has recently hired a Native American Home Coordinator, whose role is to work on Home Visiting and other issues related to Maternal and Child Health.

Member Basha thanked the I.T. Team (Rick and Melinda) for their assistance in helping her connect to the meeting. She also thanked the Finance Committee for their continued work and gave a thank you to Paul Velaski for his work as he leaves for another position in California. Lastly, she gave a thank you to Kim Syra, the former Board Administrator, who has moved on from FTF.

CEO Report/Update

Sam Leyvas, Chief Executive Officer, provided the Board with an update of the Summit which will be held August 18th and 19th at the Phoenix Convention Center; currently registration is at 1100 participants. The fund raising goal for this year event has been met. Helios Foundation has offered to sponsor a luncheon with the keynote speaker, Sharon Lynn Kagan. More details to follow. There will also be a Chair & Vice Chair reception on Monday night.

A new public awareness campaign has started; please provide feedback. They will appear on television and in movie theaters.

New Regional Council Member Orientations have been occurring; they have been successful and informative.

The Sr. Director of Government Affairs position has been posted; we look forward to filling the position.

Liz Barker Alvarez has been promoted to Vice President, Communications & Public Affairs. A thank you to Liz for accepting the role.

Recognition of Outgoing Chair

Chair Decker presented Member Lynn with a plaque and gavel. Chair Decker thanked Member Lynn for his continued service and commitment to the children of Arizona. Member Lynn thanked the Board and FTF Staff for the recognition and applauded the staff for their commitment to serving young children.

Future Agenda Item Requests

There were no requests at this time.

Next Meeting

August 19, 2014 at the FTF Summit, Phoenix, Arizona

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:27 a.m.