



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

September 4, 2014 Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on September 4, 2014 at Mesa Community College, Room LB 145, 1833 West Southern Avenue, Mesa, Arizona 85202. Chair David welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Members Present

Chair Anna David, Vice Chair Detza Van Bogaert, Council Members Abigail Conley, Jack Dillenberg, Sherreis Moreland, Chris Scarpati, and Dee Tamminen.

Members Absent

Council Members Jamie Breaux and Maggie Pfaffenberger

Council Member Introductions

Regional Director Cynthia Melde asked Council members to introduce themselves describing their strengths and expertise as well as why they serve on behalf of children.

Let the record reflect that Vice Chair Van Bogaert arrived at 9:18 a.m.

Introductions by Council members continued.

Call to the Public

Barbara Tot Wallace with Mesa Public Schools thanked the Council for providing Pre-k scholarships.

Presentation on Early Childhood System Building

Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona presented information about the strategic planning process as well as the fiscal policy directive of the First Things First Board which is resulting in a decrease in the allotment of funds to each region. She also answered questions posed by Council members.

Let the record reflect that Council Member Dillenberg is no longer present at 10:25 a.m.

Chief Regional Officer Katona continued to answer questions from the Council members.

10:32 a.m. Chair David announced a ten-minute break in the meeting.

10:43 a.m. The meeting reconvened.

Strategic Planning

Regional Director stated that today's goal is to identify and prioritize the needs for the region.

Council Member Dillenberg rejoined the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

a. Visioning

Regional Director Melde led the Council members through an exercise in identifying a specific vision for the region. Following are those words and phrases which are used by Council members on their own cards which other Council members found to also be very important as to a vision.



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- * Resource for all
- * Collaborations
- * More business involved
- * Integrated services
- * Families report high satisfaction
- * Decrease turnover in profession
- * Work together
- * Program quality
- * Increase in non-traditional partners
- * Increased health knowledge
- * Child care centers majority 3 plus stars
- * Developmental needs
- * Outcome based
- * Evaluated based on best practices

The overall theme was as follows: In three years, the region will have a high-quality, evidence-based, outcome-driven early childhood system that has a high level of collaboration and partnerships resulting in a high level of satisfaction and retention amongst providers and families they serve.

b. Prioritizing Needs

Regional Director Melde reviewed the needs as previously identified by the Council and then had the Council members break down into smaller groups according to their expertise: Health, Family Support, and Early Learning. The Council members identified two prioritized needs and any target populations that are particularly impacted by the needs. Additionally, Regional Director Melde gave Council members three colored dots each and asked them to place their dots by the need which they felt was the highest priority. Those needs are identified as follows, in order of prioritization.

1. Increase access to healthcare providers, especially for under- and uninsured children and children with special health needs (including overweight/obesity and other special health care needs). **(5 dots)**
2. Provide support for grandparents raising 0-5 children – holistically looking at connecting families to resources and focus on areas of high poverty. **(4 dots)**

The below needs were all ranked the same level of priority. (3 dots)

3. Support teen parents – increase the connection to resources; i.e., health insurance and focus in high poverty areas.
4. Increase oral health knowledge of parents to increase demand for providers and educate providers.
5. Access to affordable, quality early care and education focusing on addressing the gap between cost and income levels in high poverty areas.
6. Increase support and retention for early childhood providers with a large emphasis on retention in the field.

Council members also identified the following items which they would like more information about in order to make help them continue with the strategic planning process to decide on what strategies to fund and at what level. They are as follows:

- * Cellphone provider information and access to cell phones in our region
- * Quality First map vs. need with ratings



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- * Impact of healthcare changes to region
- * Data on well child visits
- * Data on Quality First teacher retention

c. Future Planning

Regional Director Melde stated that at the next meeting in October, strategies will then be decided based on the above prioritized needs. Council Member Scarpati stated that she will provide grandparent information for that meeting. Due to schedule conflicts, the Council members decided to not meet on October 28. Regional Director Melde stated that she will send out a Doodle poll to find the best date for everyone. Regional Director Melde stated that there is a cross-regional collaboration with family resource centers in Maricopa County. Council Member Scarpati noted that there are also family resource centers which are not funded by First Things First and not part of the collaboration. Regional Director Melde stated she will also send out the link to the Strategy toolkit to everyone.

Council Member Updates

None

Adjourn

Chair David adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Submitted by:

**Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III
Maricopa Regions**

Approved:

Anna David, Regional Council Chair