FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Policy and Program Committee
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board Program Committee was held on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4000 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:	Dr. Pam Powell, Bill Berk, Gayle Burns, Dr. Randal Christensen, Amy Corriveau, Coleen Day-Mach, Julianne Hartzell, Naomi Karp, Kenton Laffoon, Cindi Alva (Designee for Laurie Smith), Alan Taylor, Kim Van Pelt, Brad Willis
Members Absent:	Mary Ellen Cunningham, Toni Harvier, Dr. Eva Marie Shivers
Advisory Committee Members:	Dr. Michael Kelley, Co-Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Committee Jeanette Shea, Co-Chair of the Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee Pat VanMannen
FTF Staff Facilitators:	Karen Woodhouse, Dr. Amy Kemp, Sandy Foreman, Cami Ehler, Kelley Murphy, K. Vilay, Rhian Evans Allvin, Michelle Katona, Catherine Kirk

Chair Powell welcomed the Committee and reviewed the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Chair Powell called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 11th and November 18th 2011. Member Van Pelt motioned to approve the consent agenda and Member Day-Mach seconded. Motion carried.

Early Childhood Research and Evaluation National Advisory Panel Report

Dr. Kemp presented the recommendations and information on the First Things First (FTF) Logic Models and on the FTF Early Childhood Research and Evaluation National Advisory Panel Report (National Panel). FTF is a system effort involving many partners, undertakes many strategies and helps with coordination across the state. With the complexity involved in such an effort, there won't be a "one size fits all" evaluation approach. FTF needed an evaluation plan that would address this complexity and provide short and long term evaluation approaches. The National Panel made eight long term and nine short term recommendations. A copy of the National Panel Executive Summary was provided to the Committee and was reviewed.

Sub-Committee Update on FY13 Workplans

Cami Ehler gave a review of the Family, Friend and Neighbor Sub-Committee work. Meetings will continue in September.

Chair Powell provided an update on the Cultural Responsivity Sub-Committee.

Chair Powell recognized Jacqueline Power who is representing Arizona and being honored as the National Distinguished Principal of the Year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. She'll receive her award in Washington, D.C. in October 2012. In addition to that she received an award for the Blackwater Elementary School for Title I School of the Year.

Discussion and Possible Approval on Recommended State Level Benchmarks for School Readiness Indicator

Chair Powell called on Karen Woodhouse and Leslie Anderson, Facilitator who led the discussion on the development of benchmarks for the School Readiness Indicators.

DRAFT

Karen Woodhouse shared that FTF, at the request of the National Panel worked on formalizing logic models for the benchmarks. Those logic models were provided for the Committee's reference and will be included in the report of the National Panel.

Ms. Woodhouse announced that Regional Forums on the First Things First Benchmarks will begin in June across the state.

FTF defines the benchmarks as targets with the indicators being measures of progress. The 10 School Readiness Indicators are a measure of our progress by 2020. The benchmarks are the target we are striving for by 2020. Benchmarks for eight of the 10 indicators will be ready presented to the FTF Board in August 2012.

with the benchmarking work builds on the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force work Sub-Committees of the three Program Advisory Committees convened in March and April to develop and recommend state level benchmarks. .

The indicators and benchmarks will look at population level changes in our communities as a result of investments from First Things First and partners. Sub-Committees did not select any data sources for benchmarks that could not be tracked at the regional, county or community level.

Member Christensen suggested benchmarks not only be used by FTF, but to get buy in from numerous agencies, schools, providers, philanthropy, etc., so that a much broader effort is undertaken throughout the larger early childhood community and more are aware of and using the benchmarks.

Karen introduced Leslie Anderson, Facilitator and turned the floor over to Leslie.

Leslie briefed the Committee on the information and review process and asked that everyone feel free to contribute at any point during the discussion.

Program Committee Members' Comments on Indicators:

#1: This is the only indicator identified by all 31 Regional Partnership Councils as a priority indicator. The five domains are also nationally recognized. The Governor's Office, Board of Education, FTF and the Department of Education are working together through a workgroup to define "school readiness". The conversation came about through the collaboration in working on the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. The workgroup is also looking to develop an appropriate assessment at kindergarten entry. The development of benchmarks is dependent on the assessment, and although this work is moving forward, it may realistically take a few years before an assessment and benchmark is finalized and possibly longer before implementation across the state occurs. The Virginia Piper Trust Fund set aside $3 million to seed a plan for kindergarten developmental assessment. Committee members share a concern with the timeline of "three years" and ask that as much as it can be moved up, that we do so. The full scale up of a kindergarten assessment tool may take a few years to be created, approved, implemented but First Things First and partners will work diligently to complete the process as soon as possible.

#2: It was suggested there is need for considering that there will not be enough funds for every regulated program to be enrolled in the Quality First rating system and that programs may participate in the rating system without being enrolled in the full Quality First program. First Things First is looking across states to figure out how accreditation and rating scales come together and are looking at agencies like National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for a national perspective.

#3: Children with special needs are defined as those who have an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 plan. The benchmark of increasing by 1% change is expected to happen over seven years. Though not initially encouraging, it is realistic.

#4: Suggestion was made to use the Child Care Resource and Referral as a data source because the information contained is updated constantly and that data from the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) is not always reliable. Quality First can now collect data on what families pay for care but we need to consider that what families pay may not be the actual price of care or what providers charge because of subsidies families receive. Member Berk suggested that if we do a cost study on care we need to be upfront that even First Things first is not paying for the entire cost of quality.

#5: No consensus on language for this indicator, however there was suggestion to change language from identified developmental delays to screened and **eligible for intervention services**. The intent is to capture kids that are missed in the early years and to get more kids screened so kids get identified by kindergarten. Clarifying this is the "universe" of all kids screened. The Sub-Committee

identified that Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) would report on kids screened and referred to them. There is acknowledgement that screening occurs in many settings. Not sure that consistent data could be gathered from all other organizations that do screening. Home Visiting models are doing screening used the Ages and Stages questionnaire (80% or so). Maybe contract to share/capture this data. Required newborn screening and repeated until three years old is also not captured here. The Health Committee was challenged with determining which data sources to use and was aware we may not have captured them all.

#8: Will correct typo from "75-80% of children age 2-4 at a healthy weight (BMI) to receiving well child visits at age 15 months." The national standard also references 15 months.

#9: Noted that there is a 30-70% disparity between children living on or outside tribal communities.

#10: Recommend that composite indicator also include safety, health and well-being.

Next Steps and FY13 Meeting Dates and Adjournment

Chair Powell thanked everyone for their continued support, contributions and their many volunteer hours.

Chair Powell announced the tentative dates of July 19th or 26th for the next meeting. Information will be forthcoming

Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m.

DRAFT