



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on December 2 and 3, 2008 held in the First Things First Board Room, 4000 N. Central, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Day One – December 2, 2008

Chair Mathis Basha called the meeting to order at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Members Present:

Nadine Mathis Basha, Steve Lynn, Rhian Evans Allvin, Vivian Saunders, Dr. Eugene Thompson, Hon. Cecil Patterson and Dr. Pamela Powell

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Tracy Wareing, Mary Ellen Cunningham and Amy Corriveau

Absent:

Paul Luna

Consent Agenda

The items on the Consent Agenda include the Minutes of the October 28, 2008, Board meeting. A motion was made by Member Thompson to adopt the Consent Agenda, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

Board Member Reports/Updates

Member Lynn reported to the Board that he attended a meeting of the Cochise Regional Partnership Council and wanted to express his gratitude for their work.

Member Saunders reported to the Board that she and Katie Stevens are preparing a draft review of a Tribal Consultation Policy which should be coming to the Board soon.

Chair Mathis Basha reported to the Board that she attended a meeting of the Northwest Maricopa and Pinal Regional Partnership Councils and wanted to thank them for their level of commitment.

Call to the Public

Dr. Alicia Smith spoke on behalf of Katherine Daniels, Gila River Early Education and Child Care Center. The message conveyed by Ms. Smith was encouragement for increasing wages for early childhood educators in order to retain them in their child care programs. The feedback on this item was overwhelming by this community.

Ms. Pat Van Maanen, Council member of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council stressed concern that the language in the funding plan did not reflect an accurate message of the Council.

Dr. Randall Christensen, of the Phoenix Children's Hospital, advocates for health care for children through his work with the homeless children of Arizona. Dr. Christensen urged the Board and its partnering agencies to move forward and stand up for these children regarding health care.

Grant Awards

Sandy Foreman, Assistant Director of Policy presented to the Board staff recommendations for the Quality First! Assessment Award and the Quality First Coaching and Incentives Grant.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to approve staff recommendations for award of a grant for fiscal year 2009 to provide statewide assessments under Quality First! This grant is renewable for an additional two fiscal years depending on performance under the grant, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Thompson to approve staff recommendations of two grants to provide coaching and incentives support under Quality First! for the remainder of this fiscal year, with the grants being renewable for up to two additional fiscal years depending on performance, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Evaluation Plan Presentation

Dr. Amy Kemp along with Dr. Ron Marx and the University Consortium presented a recommendation to the Board for the University Consortium to 1) design and implement a longitudinal data gathering process that can assess effectiveness of early childhood initiatives across the state; 2) design and implement a cross sectional data gathering process that provides information regarding kindergarten readiness on an annual basis; and 3) provide information regarding the status of early childhood initiatives across the state of Arizona. Dr. Marx stated that the collaboration of the Universities provided the opportunity for the Universities to build capacity and develop an Arizona Early Childhood Institute.

The Board commended Dr. Kemp and the Consortium on the tri-university effort and their proposed efforts with the Arizona Early Childhood Institute in evaluating outcomes for children so effectively.

A motion was made by Member Powell that First Things First enter into an agreement with the University Consortium to conduct external evaluation of outcomes from investing in early childhood and the Board appropriate \$2,063,426 for fiscal year 2009 and modify the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2010 previously approved to be \$7,227,718 instead of \$5.5 million, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

Caregiver and Teacher Compensation and Retention

Sandy Foreman, Assistant Director of Policy presented to the Board staff recommendations to establish a caregiver and teacher compensation and retention incentive model and provide an administrative home that would be responsible for program marketing, distribution, database management, program and fiscal monitoring, and reporting activities.

A motion was made by Member Patterson that the Board approve the recommendation to allocate the amounts of \$291,670 in fiscal year 2009 and \$383,340 in fiscal year 2010 from Statewide Grant Funds to establish an administrative home to provide oversight of an early care and education compensation and retention incentives program, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Regional Administration Presentation

Member Evans Allvin gave an overview of the Program Committee meeting regarding the review of the Regional Funding Plans and discussed recommendations to the Board regarding prenatal services, paying for direct health care, and determining Needs and Assets funding. The Board came to the consensus that there will need to be further work by First Things First staff and Councils to assess prenatal services, paying for direct health care and determining Needs and Assets funding.

Michelle Katona, Assistant Director for Regional Administration, presented an overall summary of the funding plans submitted by the Councils and a brief walk through of the process for reviewing funding plans. Ms. Katona

also recognized the Councils and staff for their hard work and dedication to making a difference in the lives of Arizona's children.

Regional Funding Plan Presentations and Motions

North Phoenix

Bill Adams, Chair of the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the North Phoenix Regional Funding Plan. Brenda Tomlin, Coordinator, supported Chair Adams' review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) Strategy 8 (warm line) be returned to the Regional Council for further development in coordination with Central Phoenix Regional Council and be submitted to the Board for reconsideration at a future date; and 2) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and Community Awareness/Communications be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Central Phoenix

Judy Gottschalk, Chair of the Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Central Phoenix Regional Funding Plan. Mary Myers, Coordinator, supported Chair Gottschalk's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) Strategy 10 (health care delivery to children in crisis) be approved for the study portion only and that the Regional Council come back to the Board with the defined strategy upon completion of the study; 2) Strategy 17 (warm line) be returned to the Regional Council for further development in coordination with North Phoenix Regional Council and submitted to the Board for reconsideration at a future date; and 3) funding set aside for Regional Needs and Assets Report and Community Awareness/Communications be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

South Phoenix

Bob Donofrio, Chair of the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the South Phoenix Regional Funding Plan. Jonathan Gonzales, Coordinator, supported Chair Donofrio's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) Strategy 10 (increasing mental health and health specialists) be returned to the Regional Council for further development and submitted to the Board for reconsideration at a future date; and 2) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report, Evaluation of Strategies, and Community Awareness/Communications be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Yavapai

Anne Babinsky, Chair of the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Yavapai Phoenix Regional Funding Plan. Marcia Jacobson, Coordinator, supported Chair Babinsky's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Thompson that the funding plan submitted by the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for Strategy 8 (public awareness) in the amount of \$25,000 and the Regional Needs and Assets Report, and unfunded discretionary money requests be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Santa Cruz

Marla Neuman, Chair of the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Santa Cruz Regional Funding Plan. Teresa Morales De Phillips, Coordinator, supported Chair Neuman's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) Strategy 6 (early childhood courses for teens) be returned to the Regional Council for further development and submitted to the board for reconsideration at a later date; and 2) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and Community Awareness/Communications be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evan Allvin. Motion approved.

LaPaz/Mohave

William Allsbrooks, Chair of the LaPaz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the LaPaz/Mohave Regional Funding Plan. Merritt Beckett, Coordinator, supported Chair Allsbrooks review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the LaPaz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding for Strategy 7 (advocacy campaign) and the set aside for Regional Needs and Assets Report be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Hualapai Tribe

Jessica Powskey, Chair of the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Hualapai Tribe Regional Funding Plan. Ashley Pascual, Coordinator, supported Chair Powskey's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the funding plan submitted by the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that discretionary fund requests be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Cocopah Tribe

Dr. Michael Reed, Vice Chair of the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Cocopah Tribe Regional Funding Plan. Ashley Pascual, Coordinator, supported Vice Chair Reed's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the funding plan submitted by the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that discretionary fund requests be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

Yuma

Madeleine Coil, Council Member of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board a request for an extension of submitting the Yuma Regional Funding Plan until January 2009. Mary Reyes-Sanford, Coordinator, supported Council Member Coil's request for an extension.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Yuma Regional Partnership Council be granted an extension until January 13, 2009 to present its fiscal year 2010 funding plan for approval by this Board, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Colorado River Indian Tribes

Veronica Homer, Chair of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Funding Plan. Lanna Flood, Coordinator, supported Chair Homer's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the funding plan submitted by the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that discretionary fund requests be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

White Mountain Apache Tribe

Aletha "Shine" Burnett, Chair of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Funding Plan. Rochelle LaCapa, Coordinator, supported Chair Burnett's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the funding plan submitted by the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

Navajo Nation

Paula Curley, Chair of the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board a request for an extension of submitting the Navajo Nation Regional Funding Plan until January 2009. Florinda Jackson, Coordinator, supported Chair Curley's request for an extension.

A motion was made by Member Saunders that the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council be granted an extension until January 13, 2009 to present its fiscal year 2010 funding plan for approval by this Board, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Navajo/Apache

Melissa Webb, Chair of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Navajo/Apache Regional Funding Plan. Kate Dobler-Allen, Coordinator, supported Chair Webb's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) Strategy 1 (learning lab/model school) and Strategy 5 (home childcare assessment study) be approved for the study portions only and that the Regional Council come back to the Board with the defined strategy upon completion of the study; and 2) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and community Awareness/Communications and the discretionary request for strategy 6 (expansion of existing or new high quality child care openings) be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

Coconino

Julianne Hartzell, Chair and Josh Allen, Vice Chair of the Coconino Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Coconino Regional Funding Plan. Trudy Rogers, Coordinator, supported Chair Hartzell's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Powell that the funding plan submitted by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exception; strategy 2 (Havasupai home visitation), Strategy 3 (Hope Lavayi early childhood model), and strategy 8 (family child care study) be approved for the study portions only and that the Regional Council come back to the Board with the defined strategies upon completion of the studies, seconded by Member Lynn. Motion approved.

Northeast Maricopa

De Ann Davies, Vice Chair of the Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Northeast Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Hazel Chandler, Coordinator, supported Vice Chair Davies review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and Community Awareness/Communications (strategy 10) and requests for discretionary funding be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

Southwest Maricopa

Colleen Day, Chair of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Eric Santiago, Coordinator, supported Chair Day's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exception; 1) strategy 5 (coordination of services) be returned to the Regional Partnership Council for further development in coordination with Central and Northwest Maricopa Regional Councils and submitted to the Board for reconsideration; and 2) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assts Report and Community Awareness/Communications be held pending further work by the Regional Council and Fist things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Northwest Maricopa

Dr. Luz Sanchez, Chair and Patrick Contrades, Council Member of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Christina Lyons, Coordinator, supported Chair Sanchez's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) strategy 7 (coordination of services) be returned to the Regional Council for further development in coordination with Central and Southwest Maricopa Regional Councils and submitted to the Board for reconsideration; and 2) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report, evaluation of strategies and Community Awareness/Communications be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Session recessed at approximately 4:25 p.m. on December 2, 2008

Day Two – December 3, 2008

Chair Mathis Basha resumed the meeting at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Members Present:

Nadine Mathis Basha, Steve Lynn, Rhian Evans Allvin, Vivian Saunders, Dr. Eugene Thompson, Hon. Cecil Patterson and Dr. Pamela Powell

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Tracy Wareing, Mary Ellen Cunningham and Amy Corriveau

Absent:

Paul Luna

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public.

Regional Funding Plan Presentations (continued)

Central Maricopa

Jackie Garner, Chair of the Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Central Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Joanne Floth, Coordinator, supported Chair Garner's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) strategy 3 (access to medical home) be approved for the study portion only and that the Regional Council come back to the Board with the defined strategy upon completion of the study, 2) strategy 11 (coordination of services) be returned to the Regional Council for further development in coordination with Northwest and Southwest Maricopa Regional Councils and submitted to the Board for reconsideration; and 3) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and strategy 9 (Community Awareness/Communications) be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Southeast Maricopa

Beth Coons, Chair of the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Southeast Maricopa Regional Funding Plan. Terri Duhart, Coordinator, supported Chair Coon's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) strategy 9 (comprehensive family supports model) be returned to the Regional Council for further development and resubmitted to the Board for consideration; and 2) funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report, evaluation of strategies, and Strategy 10 (Community Awareness/Communication) be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Cochise

Ana Bae-Limb, Vice Chair and Evelyn Whitmer, Council Member of the Cochise Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Cochise Regional Funding Plan. Melissa Avant, Coordinator, supported Council Member Whitmer's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Cochise Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report, evaluation of strategies, and Strategy 9 (communication) be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

North Pima

Naomi Karp, Chair of the North Pima Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the North Pima Regional Funding Plan. Erin Lyons, Coordinator, supported Chair Karp's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the North Pima Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report, evaluation of strategies, and Community Awareness and Communications be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Central Pima

Bill Berk, Council Member of the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Central Pima Regional Funding Plan. Jessica Bisson, Coordinator, supported Council Member Berk's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council be approved with the following exception; 1) hold Strategy 1 and Strategy 11 to allow the Council to revisit and resubmit the allocation to this Board in January 2009, and 2) Regional Needs and Assets Report, evaluation of strategies and Strategy 12 (cross regional communication) be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

South Pima

Anthony “Tony” Bruno, Chair and Jane Kroesen, Vice Chair of the South Pima Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the South Pima Regional Funding Plan. Eleanor Droegemeier, Coordinator, supported Chair Bruno’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the South Pima Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report, and Strategy 9 (communication) be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Tohono O’odham Nation

Louis Johnson, Chair and Mildred Manuel, Vice Chair of the Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Funding Plan. Eleanor Droegemeier, Acting Coordinator, supported Chair Johnson’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Reports be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Evans Allvin. Motion approved.

Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Shanna Ioane Tautolo, Chair of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Funding Plan. Tiburcia Youcpicio-Chambers, Coordinator, supported Chair Tautolo’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that discretionary fund requests shall be put on hold pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Saunders. Motion approved.

Gila River Indian Community

Priscilla Foote, Chair and Duane Johns, Vice Chair, of the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Gila River Indian Community Regional Funding Plan. Cathy Thornton, Coordinator, supported Chair Priscilla Foote’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council be approved with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and Community Awareness/Communications be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

San Carlos Apache Tribe

David Reed, Vice Chair, of the San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council and also acknowledged Mr. Reed is the Vice Chair of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, presented to the Board an overview of the San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Funding Plan. Beverly Russell, Coordinator, supported Vice Chair Reed’s review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for Strategy 4 (Awareness and Career Recruitment Campaign) and the Regional Needs and Assets Report be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Thompson. Motion approved.

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

Lori Calderon, Chair, of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Funding Plan. Yolanda Adams, Coordinator, supported Chair Calderon's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council be approved with the exception that funding set aside for Strategy 7 (Communication) and the Regional Needs and Assets Reports be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Powell. Motion approved.

Graham/Greenlee

Shari Elkins, Chair, of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Funding Plan. Jennifer Johnson, Acting Coordinator, supported Chair Elkins review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and the evaluation of strategies be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Gila

Alexis Rivera, Chair, and Robert Kortman, Vice Chair, of the Gila Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Gila Regional Funding Plan. Eva Cook, Coordinator, supported Chair Rivera's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Gila Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the exception that funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report and the evaluation of strategies be held pending further work by the Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Pinal

Barbara Mezzio, Chair, and Kai Gerkey, Vice Chair, of the Pinal Regional Partnership Council, presented to the Board an overview of the Pinal Regional Funding Plan. Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Coordinator, supported Chair Mezzio's review of the funding plan.

A motion was made by Member Lynn that the funding plan submitted by the Pinal Regional Partnership Council be approved, with the following exceptions; 1) strategy 8 (coordination of family support services) and strategy 10 (expanding early care and education training and professional development) be returned to the Regional Council for further development and resubmission to the Board in the future; and 2) approval of funding set aside for the Regional Needs and Assets Report, evaluation of strategies, and Strategy 13 (Awareness/Communications) be held pending further work by the Regional Council and First Things First staff, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion approved.

Introductions and Recognition of Special Guests

Chair Mathis Basha recognized Leslie Anderson and Gerry Cobb from the National Technical Assistance Center of Smart Start in North Carolina. First Things First was awarded a grant from NTAC that enabled First Things First to receive assistance from Ms. Anderson and Ms. Cobb, which provided a foundation on which to build. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Cobb lent support, expertise and traveled many miles to provide the expert coaching that has guided First Things First to where we are today.

Chair Mathis Basha also recognized Abbe Hensley, Executive Director, of Best Beginnings-Alaska's Early Childhood Investment, from Anchorage, Alaska. Ms. Hensley will be visiting First Things First with Ms. Anderson for a few days.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2008 to be held in Yuma, Arizona

Adjourn

There being no other business, Chair Mathis Basha adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m.