



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

NORTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on September 8, 2009 at Washington Elementary School District in the Governing Board Room; 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, Arizona 85304.

Council Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. A brief welcome by Chair Adams and introduction of guests in attendance took place.

Council Members in Attendance: Bill Adams, Chair; Sally Downing, Vice Chair; Dr. Elaine Ellis, Member; James Emch, Member; Karyn Parker, Member; Connie Robinson, Member; Willette Watts, Faith Based Member; Mindy Zapata, Member. Quorum established.

Council Members Not in Attendance: Gina Montes and Jenna Goad.

Public in Attendance: Nine Members of the Public and two First Things First Staff as guests.

2. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** No Public Comments.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2009. Council Member Connie Robinson moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 11, 2009; seconded by Vice Chair Sally Downing, all in favor, motion carried.
4. **CALL TO PRESENTERS:** The following presenters addressed the Council Members on their program benefits, target population, and service numbers. The Council was given handouts for the different programs, and following their presentations, the presenters answered questions from Council Members. Presenters were thanked by the Council for their support to the North Region.
 - a. **Christina Figueroa:** In August, Southwest Human Development Home Visiting Program provided services to 46 families with children under the age of six. They are currently focusing outreach efforts in the Anthem, New River, Paradise Valley, and Cave Creek areas. The Healthy Families program provided by SWHD currently employs four staff members. SWHD is recruiting for a fifth member for the team to replace a recent resignation. Ms. Figueroa explained that the benefits of Southwest Human Development's Healthy Families Program are: SWHD works with the entire family to focus on child development for all children living in the home who are under the age of 6; and they focus on the Child/Parent Relationship, building

strong attachments, bonding and positive child/parent interactions. SWHD uses research based curriculum. Topic areas covered during home visits include: Literacy: Staff members bring books to families and encourage the parents to read with their children to improve school readiness. Health and Safety: Staff members link all families with medical and dental providers and encourage families to receive regular, preventive care for their young children to include immunizations, dental screenings and nutrition. Discipline: Staff members focus on teaching non-physical and age appropriate discipline and encourage child car seat safety. SWHD staff also help families become self sufficient by encouraging parental education and employment. Families are connected to community services through referrals to further help them achieve their long and short term goals. Target Population: Prenatal women, newborns up to 90 days old. If babies are 90 days or older SWHD is in collaboration with Healthy Steps, Parenting Arizona, and Choices for Families and they refer back and forth. Families are able to stay in the program until the child is age five, and it is a voluntary program.

- b. Rama Hermosillo: Ms. Hermosillo from Child and Family Resources conveyed to the Council that while her agency has been providing a home visitation program in other parts of Maricopa County, it is completely new in the North Phoenix area. She expressed her concern of the start up process which was delayed due to the contracting/procurement process with First Things First. Child and Family Resources is currently working with fourteen families and a total of sixteen children on a weekly basis. Child and Family Resources program staff provide parenting education, the S.T.E.P.'s curriculum, and coordinates collaboratively with Women Infant and Children, Salvation Army, and Parenting Arizona. Family service plans for the sixteen families served are updated monthly. Child and Family Resources have a goal of providing services to 220 families throughout the contract year.
 - c. Erica Mendoza: Ms. Mendoza from Parenting Arizona presented to the Council an overview of Parenting Arizona's program. She identified that program families are given a variety of family assessments in order to determine family goals that can be achieved through weekly, bi-weekly, and/or monthly home visits. Parenting Arizona offers a website, newsletter, surveys, assistance with enrollment in ACCCHS and KIDS Care. The Agency maintains a database. They focus on literacy and school readiness by providing books and reading to children, as well as appropriate parenting skills. The program targets teen parents, single parents, blended homes, grandparents raising grandchildren, pregnant mothers, and children aged 0 through 5. Parenting Arizona currently serves 15 families and a total of 21 children, and is reaching out to high schools, hospitals and churches for additional referrals. Parenting Arizona's goal for the year is to serve up to 50 families within 15 months. Erica brought a family to the meeting who is a current recipient of services. They were very thankful for the services and felt as if they were gaining valuable skills as parents and as a family.
 - d. Quality First: Brenda Tomlin, Regional Coordinator presented the Council with an overview of Quality First which included information on the current waiting list, number of enrolled applicants, and number of licensed child care facilities in the Region.
5. **DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING OF FUNDING PLAN PROCESS:** Brenda Tomlin, Regional Coordinator did an overview of the Funding Plan Timeline and Tasks. This Timeline outlines key dates in the funding plan process

prior to the State Board Meeting on December 8, 2009. At this meeting, the Board will consider, approve or reject presented Funding Plans.

6. **DISCUSSION: WHERE WE ARE NOW:** A brief overview of where we are now was presented to the Council by Brenda Tomlin, Regional Coordinator. The Council requested more information on what was funded by the Council to date this fiscal year, what other Councils are doing and how successful they are in implementing their strategies. Ideas for new strategies included looking at coordination and inclusion of special needs children in typical early care settings. The Council expressed their interest in continuing to target at risk children. Brenda explained to the Council that quarterly reports regarding performance from the current grantees will not be available until November or December.

7. **DISCUSSION: SYSTEM BUILDING:** Regional Coordinator Tomlin presented to the council an example of a system framework utilizing a triangle with 3 levels of service on top of base standards. Discussion occurred regarding the ability of currently identified strategies to provide services across the continuum/system, coordinate between goal areas, and coordinate across regional boundaries. As decisions are made for the 2011 Funding Plan, these system building considerations will need to continue to be addressed by the Council.

8. **ADJOURN:** Vice Chair Sally Downing moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Council Member Karyn Parker, all in favor, no discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

The Next meeting which will be a special meeting and will take place at Washington Elementary School District Board room on September 28, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



**Briggetta B. Hawks
Administrative Assistant**

APPROVED



**Brenda J. Tomlin, MSW, ACSW
North Phoenix Regional Coordinator**

COUNCIL APPROVAL



**Bill Adams, Chair
North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council**