



**ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH BOARD
POLICY AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE
EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE
FAMILY SUPPORT SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

A Meeting of the First Things First (FTF) - Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, Policy and Program Committee, Early Childhood Task Force, Family Support Sub-Committee was held on February 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at First Things First, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Boardroom, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Irene Burnton called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and staff. She thanked everyone for making the time and commitment to working with FTF to develop their five-year statewide program and policy strategic plan that will guide the work of First Things First. Chair Burnton reviewed the open meeting law requirements and noted that the meetings would be open to the public. The first meeting will focus on background and information sharing, and the documents provided are included in the binders. Chair Burnton encouraged everyone to be active participants and ask questions whenever needed. All members present and on the telephone were asked to introduce themselves and their organization.

Members Present:

Irene Burnton, Chair
Anne-Marie Salazar
Christine Scarpati
Darcy Dixon
Jessica Begay
Jessica Stewart
Madge Haynes
Marcia Stanton
Mayra Flores

Paula Seanez
Sue Smith
Vickie French
Wendy Resnik

Members via WebEx:

Becky Ruffner
Joanne Karolzak
Kimberly Flack

Members Absent:

Esther Turner
Irene Garza

Members of the Public:

Dawn Craft

National Content

Expert:

Amanda Szekely

First Things First Staff:

Carol Lopinski
Michelle Katona
Amy Dixon

Facilitator:

Sharon Flanagan-Hyde

Documents Provided and Publically Posted:

1. Public Notice and Agenda for February 10, 2017 Family Support Sub-Committee Meeting
2. Family Support Sub-Committee Roster
3. SFY17 Tobacco Fund for FTF Areas for Strategies by Goal Area
4. National Early Childhood Policies and Funding Priorities and Arizona’s Early Childhood System
5. Arizona’s Early Childhood Model System - Desired Outcomes, Conditions, System Roles and Opportunities
6. FTF Presentation for February 2017 Meetings
7. Goals, Areas of Focus and Measures of Success Definitions and Examples
8. 2010 and 2016 System Roles Prioritized by Task Force
9. Presentation: National Perspectives on Family Support Initiatives, Amanda Szekely, February 10, 2017

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Charge to the Sub-Committee and Guiding Principles

Chair Burnton gave a short introduction on the Board's charge to the Task Force to recommend a five-year strategic plan. She updated the Committee on the progress of the Task Force to date and then reviewed the charge of the Committee which included the following:

- Recommend a set of goals, areas of focus and measures for the prioritized system roles identified by the Task Force focusing on the family support system roles that have been prioritized;
- In developing the goals, focus areas and measures the Committee should utilize its expertise and knowledge and that of the content expert, the background materials developed for the Task Force, and the feedback from the Task Force and regional councils;
- Cross cutting themes across the committees will be identified; and
- The Committee's recommendations on measures will be presented to the National Advisory Panel for Research and Evaluation that FTF will be convening in April and May for feedback and guidance.

The Task Force also identified a set of guiding principles that FTF will use in carrying out the priority system roles. These guiding principles emerged over the course of the Task Force meetings and discussion and include the following:

- FTF will emphasize the whole child including the cognitive, physical, social and emotional health and development of young children.
- FTF will support children across diverse socio-economic, geographic, cultural, and educational backgrounds.
- FTF will prioritize serving underserved and at-risk children and their families.
- FTF will continue to foster, leverage, and promote collaboration with partners committed to child well-being.
- FTF will continue to serve in a leadership, convening, and funder capacity in advancing the early childhood system.

Group Norms

Facilitator Sharon Flanagan-Hyde reviewed group norms with the committee. Create an environment that allows all to speak freely and without concern by doing the following:

- Listen with an open mind and a collaborative mindset.
- Speak concisely and respectfully.
- Monitor yourself. Don't dominate the conversation and interrupt your colleagues. Everyone should have the opportunity to fully participate in the discussion.
- Be honest. It is okay to disagree.
- If you dissent with ideas, offer up an alternative, rather than just saying you disagree.
- When expressing agreement with other speakers, don't use up time repeating what has been said.
- Articulate hidden assumptions.
- Be respectful about cell phones: Put phones on vibrate and leave the room if you need to take or make a call.
- Be mindful of side conversations as they can disrupt group progress.
- Work towards consensus on recommendations.

Overview of the Early Childhood System

Michelle Katona, Chief Program Officer, reviewed the Model Early Childhood System and the work of FTF over the past six years using the FTF Presentation for the February Committee meetings. Two documents were also referenced and included the 2010 and 2016 System Roles Prioritized by the Task Force and the Desired Outcomes, Conditions, System Roles and Opportunities.

It was highlighted that in 2010 FTF convened the first Early Childhood Task Force which spent a considerable amount of time mapping out the system and creating the Model Early Childhood System and how it serves young children and families in Arizona. The 2016 Task Force used the Model System to carry out their charge to prioritize a set of system roles for FTF to focus on over the next five years. The six desired outcomes and the 20 system roles related to the desired outcomes were reviewed. Also noted was the work of the Governor's office, Education Matters Arizona, and the recognition that the education continuum begins with the early childhood years. Statistics of children in Arizona under the age of six, including those by ethnic breakdown and the employment status of parents with young children were highlighted. With FTF serving as a critical partner, initiated by Arizona voters, focused on children birth to age five, driven by local communities and respect for tribal sovereignty, its work and impact over the past six years was then reviewed across the six desired outcomes. To close the presentation, the system roles prioritized by the 2016 Early Childhood Task Force compared to those prioritized in 2010 were reviewed, highlighting the system roles that are the focus for the Committee.

A question was raised regarding First Things First providing the \$30M in match for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and whether that money is used for Quality First programs. Furthermore, it was asked if this be in perpetuity or has there been any discussion with the Governor's office about that looking differently, coming from the General Fund or being prioritized differently. Chief Program Officer Katona responded by noting that FTF has been in partnership with Department of Economic Security (DES) for the \$30M match for four or five years now and when you look at the 2009 budget, before the recession, there were General Fund dollars for Child Care subsidy. When the recession hit, there were significant cuts to programs and services for children and minimal dollars that went to the Child Care subsidy from the General Fund which put at risk being able to draw down the full federal funding available. The \$30M used for the state match are FTF funds that are used for the Quality First system.

It was asked if the number of children served by programs at levels of quality included all programs at any star level or only 3-5 star programs. It was clarified that the 51,000 children served reflected children in 3-5 star programs.

At the conclusion of the presentation Chair Burnton asked if there were any questions and thanked the staff for the informative documents.

It was commented that it was good to see that the 2016 Task Force included the system role on information and education for families as a priority. It was expressed that there is a real gap in parent education and support, particularly prenatally until children start a preschool experience. This area needs far greater articulation since the first thousand days are all about parents.

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It was also shared that from working with the Court Team Strategy, there is a mythical belief that if children do not assess into AzEIP they are not delayed. Therefore, everything is fine. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Remediation at that age is far more effective and less costly. The AzEIP system is depended on for full intervention. Much work is needed in this area.

It was noted that one of the supporting documents of data showed that people recognize the importance of the early years. While we can agree there is a gap, the survey indicates respondents understand the value and importance of the early years. It was further noted that there are challenges when trying to move forward in raising standards for early care and education. Standards can sometimes scare families.

It was also noted from the survey that people do not have reasonable expectations of how a 15 month old should be able to monitor their own behavior. In focusing on Information and Education for Families and Supports and Services for Families, what if we recommend things that might be more in public awareness and support? There is overlap with some of the other system roles. How will that be communicated across all of the committees? Chief Program Officer Katona responded that this was anticipated and so any recommendations related to the other system roles will be shared.

Other comments shared included concern that children are going into unlicensed Kinship homes and that rural areas do not have the same resources as all areas.

Facilitator Flanagan-Hyde moved the discussion on and introduced Carol Lopinski, FTF Senior Director for Family Support and Literacy.

Overview of the FTF Roles and Opportunities

Carol Lopinski went through the Family Support Strategies and Budget handout. She provided an overview of both the Statewide (2) and Regional (8) strategies and discussed in length the Roles, Opportunities and Efforts document. She made note that infants are the largest group of children in the child welfare system.

A question was raised regarding First Things First's flexibility to disseminate information. It was asked if FTF disseminates information in multiple languages. Chief Program Officer Katona shared that it depends on the type of information that is being provided and parent information can be in multiple languages so they can access services. The Parent Kit is in Spanish, for example. Another member asked if a home visitation program could be in multiple languages. It was shared that yes the home visitor can carry out the visit in the parent/caregiver's language.

National Perspectives on Family Support Initiatives

Facilitator Flanagan-Hyde introduced Amanda Szekely, Senior State Technical Assistance Specialist from Zero to Three. Ms. Szekely made a presentation and reviewed data and slides on the following:

- Family Support initiatives: Topics to Consider
 - Universal vs. targeted services
 - Coordinated intake and referral to comprehensive supports
 - Professional development for family support professionals
 - Medicaid financing for home visitation
 - Strengthening role of family support programs in promoting coordinated system of developmental screening and referral and continuum of infant-early childhood mental health

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It was commented that there needs to be coordination in those efforts. There are a lot of programs and resources and agencies that are trying to speak to the same people.

It was asked if FTF already cross trains professionals in some ways now. It was shared that there are some examples of this occurring mainly in home visiting and through MIECHV (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting). There has been some emphasis and some key topic areas that allow for cross training. For example, it was shared that there were not trainers in Arizona for the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) which is the main developmental screening tool used across family support programs. There also seems to be a barrier to access training on the tool. FTF and DES (Department of Economic Security) partnered to bring a train the trainer training to Arizona and 40 individuals from across the state are now trainers for the ASQ. This included both family support and health care professionals. They were then required to provide three trainings throughout their communities. It was very well done. Initially, those being trained were skeptical that they likely didn't have much to learn. Afterwards, they admitted they learned much. It was very helpful to do this across the sectors; hopefully we can retain those trainers.

It was shared that when looking at Medicaid for home visiting and what other states are doing, the cost of reimbursement did not cover the cost of the work. Amanda was asked if she has more information on how other states implement reimbursement of home visits. Amanda responded, "Yes," and agreed to provide additional information. There are other states that have found it worthwhile. Chair Burnton responded that in rural areas it might work, but not so much in urban areas.

Discussion

Facilitator Flanagan-Hyde opened the floor for discussion and asked if there was anything about the Early Childhood System and Family Support missing in what was discussed today or the materials provided?

A question was asked about whether prenatal is considered in any support programs or is the focus only birth to five? It was shared that yes services and programs can support families prenatally and that it is predominantly through the Home Visitation strategy where prenatal families are served and the Parent Kit can also be provided to expectant parents.

Facilitator Flanagan-Hyde continued by asking if anything was missing? Additionally, are there additional opportunities not identified by the Task Force? Members were encouraged to send an email to Michelle Katona or Carol Lopinski to incorporate into future meetings.

It was asked when looking at the Opportunities document and how to move forward, and the current efforts underway, is the conversation to look at the integration of those two things? Chief Program Officer Katona responded that the opportunities listed in the documents are from the Task Force meetings and Regional Partnership Councils' feedback; it's a high level of what is occurring, whether it's an opportunity or it's underway. When developing the Goal Statements, not all areas need to be addressed, and that is what the Committee needs to determine.

It was also noted that First Things First probably isn't going to have more money, it is always good to be open and have conversation of what is going on and what can be enhanced so we have a balanced recommendation.

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Facilitator Flanagan-Hyde asked the Committee in order to meet our charge during the next two meetings, what are the Committee's thoughts on approach? What have you found helpful or not helpful in doing this kind of work? She then summarized the Goals, Areas of Focus and Measures of Success Definitions and Examples document. Thinking about where we want to be by the end of April, think back to other efforts similar to this that one has experienced and talk about approaches, or things that weren't helpful.

It was asked how the March meeting will be structured. Facilitator Flanagan-Hyde talked about the survey that will be sent to the Committee. Input will be taken and synthesized and used for drafting goal statements for the next meeting. It was also asked what the desired system outcome is and the Committee was directed to the information outlined in the Desired Outcomes, Conditions and System Roles document.

It was shared that the Committee needs to keep in mind that we have some amazing ideas and if we had endless money we could really do some amazing things. We have to make sure we focus.

Facilitator Flanagan-Hyde mentioned that once we identify the goals and areas of focus, how to get it done will come later in the process.

It was asked if there were 2010 Goals and Measures of Success. Chief Program Officer Katona said the 2010 Task Force identified goals, but they weren't necessarily utilized, however, they do exist. A set of measures were also identified, some of which turned into the 10 School Readiness Indicators that FTF has focused on. But of those 10, not all of them have a data source and we weren't able to develop benchmarks for all of them. Through this process, we will be using the National Advisory Panel to help develop measures. We may very well stay with the School Readiness Indicators already established or these may change through this process. All of this can be shared if the Committee would like this information.

It was asked what the areas of focus are for the state agencies. It was asked if the state agencies' strategic plans could be sent to Carol Lopinski.

Adjourn

Chair Burnton noted there was a lot of discussion and there is a lot to do in a short amount of time. She said we are off to a great start and thanked everyone for a great first meeting. She looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting in March. Please take the time to complete the survey, your feedback is important and will get us ready for goal setting.

There being no further discussion, Chair Burnton adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:49 a.m.

Next Meeting

To be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at First Things First, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Board Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Telephone Procedures

First Things First provided a teleconference line to allow for any members of the public to hear the Family Support Sub-Committee meeting. Speakers physically present at the meeting spoke into



microphones to ensure that members on the telephone could hear. All callers were muted upon connection.

Respectfully submitted on this 27th day of February, 2017.



Amy L. Dixon, Executive Staff Assistant