



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

**Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board
Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on September 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Peach Springs Unified School District in Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

Members Present

Darren Hudak, Vice Chair; Zavier Benson; Omaovensi Coochwytewa; Reverend Pete Imus; Sandra Irwin; Dr. Anthony Perkins; Barbara Tinhorn and Lucille Watahomigie

Member Absent

Charlene Imus

Vice Chair Hudak called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Possible Approval of August 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Reverend Imus made a motion to approve the August 13, 2014 meeting minutes. Dr. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Call to the Public

There were no responses to the call to the public.

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements

Member Tinhorn announced that the Grand Canyon area was featured on the children's educational show Reading Rainbow.

Summit Debrief

Gary P. Arnold, Senior Regional Director announced the 2014 Summit had the highest attendance ever, and over 350 attended the Tribal Gathering. The entire Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council attended the Summit.

Vice Chair Hudak attended the *High School Graduation and Kindergarten* session, and noted that studies show 88% of students who dropped out last year struggled with reading between kindergarten and 3rd grade, which he has seen in the tutoring classes at the Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Perkins added that the same 3rd grade data is used to build prisons, emphasizing the importance of early childhood education.

Reverend Imus presented at the *Engaging the Faith-Based Community* session and mentioned he was pleased that First Things First is focusing on working with faith communities, with plans for additional involvement.

Regional Director's Report

Regional Director Ashley Pascual thanked regional council members for their service, and recognized Reverend Imus and Member Charlene Imus for their longevity. Director Pascual provided updates, and noted Candida Hunter started her new position as Senior Director of Tribal Affairs for First Things First. Director Pascual announced that the regional allocations will be set at the next Board Meeting. Director Pascual presented the Needs and Assets Assessment to the Hualapai Tribal Council, which was approved. Upcoming events include the September 24 Hualapai Days Cradleboard Contest and the October 7 Tribal Consultation in Phoenix.

School Nutrition Presentation

Connie Hunter, School Secretary for the Peach Springs Unified School District described the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program, which is sponsored and monitored by the state. The goal is to enhance children's understanding and perception of food. The information is presented in health class twice weekly, and parents are encouraged to learn too. Unused food items are sent to the Boys & Girls Club, and Dr. Perkins is promoting a gardening club as well.

Cross-Regional Presentations on Strategies and Priorities

Ellen Majure, Regional Director for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council presented the current priorities of that region, noting the priorities could change during the upcoming strategic planning process. Director Majure reviewed the Coconino Region's School Readiness Indicators and corresponding strategies, noting the region includes 3 tribes and 10,500 children. Members engaged in discussion about Arizona Kith & Kin, Reach Out and Read, and the importance of early literacy and service coordination.

Merritt Beckett, Regional Director for the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council reported that region has also expressed a desire to promote cross-regional coordination. The region includes the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, but not the Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Paiute Tribe or Colorado River Indian Tribes. Director Beckett reviewed the La Paz/Mohave Region's School Readiness Indicators, which are the same as the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council's, and the corresponding priorities of early learning, access and family support. The La Paz/Mohave focus is on the most vulnerable and most underserved populations, which are mainly in the rural areas. Members engaged in discussion about Quality First, Arizona Kith & Kin and unfunded approaches. Members also discussed a proposed integration of oral health into other services.

SFY2016-2018 Strategic Planning Discussion

Director Pascual led a discussion about strategic planning that built on the other regions' presentations. The Regional Council identified three priorities: increasing community awareness of infant/child development, increasing family confidence and involvement, and promoting high quality early learning environments. Dr. Perkins shared that a new partnership between the school district and Indian Health Services will provide dental cleanings for all students – with vision and hearing screenings planned in the future – and a new strategy to stage a Head Start Transition to Kinder to enroll children for kindergarten earlier. Members discussed barriers children must overcome before they can benefit from available resources. Director Pascual noted the importance of focusing funding to make the biggest difference. Discussion ensued around cross-regional efforts and system-building approaches, and Director Pascual noted regional council members' suggestions that included a focus on community awareness of infant/child development; increasing families' confidence; advocacy and involvement in child's education; and continuing the developmental screening priority. Additional discussion explored the Hualapai Journey and aligning priorities with strategies. Director Pascual requested members continue to review priorities and narrow the focus before the next regional council meeting to continue the strategic planning discussion.

Nominations and Election of Chairperson

Vice Chair Hudak opened nominations for a new chair to replace Candida Hunter and Dr. Perkins nominated himself. Member Irwin seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Dr. Perkins abstained, and the motion passed unanimously among the voting members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2014 at the Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources. Members engaged in discussion about alternate meeting times, but the consensus was to continue meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Hudak adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant II

Darren Hudak, Vice Chair