FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order
A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council took place on January 18, 2013, at the Tohono O'odham Nation Department of Health and Human Services in Sells, Arizona. Chair Louis Johnson welcomed everyone and called the Meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Members Present:
Chair Louis Johnson, Vice Chair Mildred Manuel, Ella Begay, Janine Prewitt, Kymberlii Tenario

Members Present: (via phone)
Albert Adler

Staff Present: Rhian Evans Allvin, Chief Executive Officer; Kim Syra, Special Assistant to the CEO; Karen Peifer, Senior Director, Children's Health; Beverly Russell, Senior Director, Tribal Affairs; Erin Lyons, Senior Director, Southeast Region; Travis Le Duc, Regional Director, Tohono O'odham Nation; Amanda Perino, Administrative Assistant.

Members Absent:
Joseph Mease, Dionne Ramon, Ben Standifer

Welcome/Invocation
Member Janine Prewitt offered an invocation.

Approval of November 16, 2012 Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes
Vice Chair Mildred Manuel moved that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approve the minutes of the November 16, 2012 Regional Council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by member Janine Prewitt. Chair Louis Johnson asked if there was any discussion, no discussion held. Motion carried.

Call to the Public
Kent McIlroy with Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) was introduced as the new Program Coordinator for the Community of Practice program. The main goal of his program is to provide expert, professional development presentations throughout the rest of the semester for the early childhood community in the Tohono O'odham Nation, with the ultimate goal to provide help for preschool children transitioning into Kindergarten. He hopes his program will be working with Indian Oasis School as well as the Health and Education departments to provide this service to the Nation. In conjunction with this program, the grant that funds Community of Practice will also offer college credit for its participants.

Karen McIlroy, also with TOCC, finished the presentation. She discussed the partnership with Prescott College, who assists in providing the college credits for the Early Childhood professionals involved in the Community of Practice. Ms. McIlroy stated that one person in her group has completed the credits and will be receiving her BA at the end of summer. TOCC has 4 other students also enrolled at Prescott College pursuing Bachelor's degrees. TOCC will also be exploring potential partnerships with Northern Arizona University.

Of the 19 participants who began with Community of Practice in October, 11 of them have signed up to be interns with TOCC. Professional Development credits will also be available for those who are State certified.

First Things First Updates and Discussion with CEO Rhian Evans Allvin

First Things First CEO Rhian Evans Allvin provided of systems building within the organization. Last year, FTF finished their first, complete year of operating at scale. Now Regional Councils are turning their attention to issues beyond funding - figuring out what other elements of the system can be utilized and coordinated, what barriers can be overcome, and where partnerships can be put into place. The CEO sees Regional Councils as integral to the systems-building processes. Since Regional Council members are also members of the Community that they serve, they would know best where the barriers lie and what partnerships would be the most beneficial.

The CEO then provided an update to the Tohono O'odham Research and Evaluation Plan. After pulling back from a longitudinal evaluation study with the three Arizona universities, FTF gathered a National Research and Evaluation Advisory Panel, made up of some the top early childhood education researchers in the country. The panel met for six months in 2012 and presented recommendations to the State Board in June. While many recommendations were made, two areas in particular were highlighted: data administration and recommendations based around specific studies.

In terms of data administration, it was recommended that FTF should instead focus more on data surrounding the children that they are serving and archiving that data. The data would then be shared or added to existing data collections, including those outside of FTF, to help provide a more complete picture of the children in a community and how well they are being served – resulting in a very robust data system that is meaningful and relevant. The Data Dashboards would be the tools designed to display this data to the Regional Council, the Community at large, or any other entity involved in the early childhood development of the community. Related to this, the panel also recommended the organization pay close attention to its Tribal relationships and be vigilant that it is entering into agreements that are appropriate and acceptable to Tribes. The participation of the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council will be key to ensuring these agreements are made and that the appropriate data will be collected. The CEO also provided examples of recommendations based around specific studies, such as validating the rating scale on Quality First and evaluating how well the Oral Health strategy is being implemented. The full report of the panel's recommendations is available on the FTF website. The State Board approved these recommendations in October, 2012.

Another recommendation presented by the panel revolved around the development of a state-wide Kindergarten Developmental Inventory Assessment. Discussions between FTF and the Arizona Governor's Office and the State School Superintendent on what such an inventory would look like, have moved forward. The Virginia Piper Trust, a private organization in Phoenix, has partnered with FTF and has offered $3,000,000 to provide professional development for teachers and investigating the best way to get a Kindergarten Developmental Inventory Assessment rolled out. Ongoing conversations with the State School Superintendent have resulted in putting together a Piper Trust-funded taskforce charged with developing formal recommendations on how the assessment will be given. The creation and format of the assessment and its tools is still being determined. Partnerships are also being examined with other State agencies.

CEO Evans Allvin moved on to discuss State-level topics. The First Things First State Board has created a committee on Public and Private Partnerships committee, with Nadine Basha chairing. The goal will be to examine how available FTF funding can be leveraged to develop additional partnerships. The recommendations of the Committee will be presented to the State Board in June.

The CEO provided a State Legislature and budget update. During the State of the State Address, Governor Jan Brewer outlined her priorities moving forward in 2013. Her first priority will be centered on the expansion of Medicaid and providing much needed care for families with young children, with the second priority focused on providing additional case workers for Child Protective Services. First Things First has also been continuously working with the Governor's office on refreshing Childcare subsidies for children on the wait list, though it is unlikely that will be placed on this year's budget.

Update on First Things First School Readiness Indicators and Benchmarks

Regional Director Le Duc provided an update on First Things First School Readiness Indicators and Benchmarks and referred the Regional Council to his Indicators and Benchmarks handout. Based on Regional Council discussion, the benchmarks for indicators 2

and 3 were adjusted based on their investment in Quality First. The Regional Director also stated that First Things First is looking for volunteers from the Regional Council to participate in a taskforce focused on further developing the benchmarks. The volunteer would then report back to the Regional Council on the benchmarking progress. Member Prewitt agreed to be that volunteer.

Senior Regional Director Erin Lyons added that originally the Taskforce was conceived among the 3 Pima regions during the Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting in October. However, it was decided to extend that collaboration opportunity across all 6 Southeast regions. The 3 Pima regions will have slightly different benchmark goals than Tohono O'odham, Pascua Yaqui, and Santa Cruz, but the regions will benefit greatly from the shared conversation as the process progresses. The first meeting is expected to convene in late February with 3 to 4 meetings over the next 6 to 9 months.

Update and Discussion on First Things First National Research and Evaluation Advisory Panel

Regional Director Le Duc moved onto the recommendations from the National Research and Evaluation Advisory Panel that he had emailed to the Regional Council earlier that week. The implementation will go on to be a large part of the continuing work of the Benchmark Taskforce. The Regional Director had also sent out the Research Plan to the Regional Council and suggested that each member study it, especially member Prewitt who would be participating in the Benchmarks discussions going forward.

Regional Director Le Duc opened the topic of Data Dashboards. The Dashboards are in the process of being built and will provide the Regional Council with a Community "snapshot" of data centered around the children that are being served in the Tohono O'odham Nation while providing that data for the Regional Council. Member Prewitt asked for a clarification of what the Data Dashboards define. CEO Evans Allvin explained how both static and dynamic data that was housed in the system could be pulled and examined for the work for the Regional Council. More sophisticated applications of the Data Dashboard could include data manipulation and comparisons across different levels of data – such as examining correlations and trends between kindergarten reading scores and community health data. Member Prewitt asked when the Regional Council would expect to see the Dashboards implemented. The CEO stated that the Evaluation Plan is slated to take place over the next 5 years, but the first levels of the mapping component will be implemented next spring. The more sophisticated layers will come in waves over the course of the implementation, with static components moving in first. Member Albert Adler asked the CEO if these would be Data Dashboards that they would have access to on the First Things First website. The CEO confirmed that they would. Member Adler asked about who would have permission to use the Dashboards. CEO Evans Allvin stated that all end users would have access to that functionality. Member Adler pointed to the confidentiality of the Quality First rating system within the Tribal Community and asked if that data would be made available to the end user. The CEO responded that it is part of ongoing conversations FTF is having with individual Tribal leaders and that she did not have a definitive yes or no answer. However, she was emphatic that the only data that would be displayed is the data that was explicitly approved by the Tribal leadership.

Beverly Russell, the Senior Director for Tribal Affairs added that FTF is in a continuing dialog with Tribal leadership and are looking at hiring a Tribal Data Coordinator specifically to discuss issues around handling Tribal-sensitive data. Regional Director Le Duc stressed that there is a lot data and that it is incumbent on the Regional Council to decide what data they need to see and that the Data Dashboard component would be moving in unison with the Benchmarks. To start, the published 2010 and 2012 Needs and Assets data will be uploaded by end of April or beginning of May after the FTF State Board-level approval process.

Regional Directors Report

Regional Director Le Duc provided an overview of the Contract Detail for FY 2013 – pointing out where funds are being expended. Member Prewitt asked about expenditure data related to areas and if that would be provided. The Regional Director replied that there is that level of detail in the reporting system, but in this instance he had only provided a general overview of expenditures. Member Prewitt asked if the Data Dashboards would allow them to look at past expenditures in individual areas (such as San Lucy – a district within the Tohono O'odham Nation). Senior Director Lyons stated that the FTF internal templates being used do allow for looking at past data and should the Regional Council choose to have that as a parameter, it could be provided. Currently, FTF does not have the ability to pull based on geographical area. The way to get at that data would be to pull the expenditures based on strategies being targeted in a particular area. In the meantime, any member of the FTF staff can pull those numbers.

The Regional Director moved onto discussion centering around discretionary funding – part of a continuing conversation about how to handle discretionary dollars. In the past the state-board has issued funds, based on a formula, that have traditionally been used as "stabilizing dollars" for individual regions. The Tohono O'odham Regional Partnership Council in particular has received discretionary dollars 2011 through 2013 and the current amount of $200,000 will remain in place. The State Board is determining how to continue

the distribution of discretionary dollars and is considering applying a Frontier Adjustment to offset the costs of providing services in rural populations. The Regional Director asked for input on if this current model is the most effective one. Member Prewitt asked if FTF had a time on when these decisions would be made. The Regional Director replied that they would be considered during the next 3 year funding cycle, with changes being put in place in late 2014. Member Adler followed up by asking if there had been some unhappiness with the current system of allocating discretionary funding. CEO Evans Allvin responded that no, there had not been issues, but that the flexibility to fund beyond the "formula funding" was built into the ballot that created FTF. Member Prewitt expressed the importance of exploring private and public partnerships, especially when the discretionary funding runs out and asked what the Directors are examining regarding capacity building. Regional Director Le Duc provided the example of the early education and child care space and how the Regional Partnership Council expanded it – leading to the creation of the San Lucy center, its subsequent renovations, and its enrollment. Member Prewitt asked if capacity building was going to occur locally or at a State-level. The Regional Director replied that it could happen at both, especially since some services are being provided from several entities – some at the Tohono O'odham Nation level, others at the State level. It is part of the function of systems-building to eliminate these redundancies and put in place more efficient models. Vice Chair Manuel concurred, stating that the Tribal communities have their own programs to provide services. The Regional Council needs to work on pulling them together and better coordinate collaborative efforts between the many groups, while becoming more efficient and eliminating waste. Member Adler agreed, but stated that she did not want to overlook private partnerships to provide more funding, especially with companies like the Desert Diamond Casino. Member Prewitt agreed. Chair Johnson agreed and also stressed the importance of directly involving the Tohono O'odham Tribal leadership in these decisions and feels now is the time to more actively engage them. He pointed to Director Hobbs and her ability to act as a liaison between the Regional Council and the Executive Office of Tribal leadership.

* Senior Director Erin Lyons left the meeting at approximately 9:35am *
* Chair Louis Johnson called for a break. The meeting resumed at approximately 9:45am*

Regional Director Le Duc closed the topic of discretionary funding by relaying his experience with the Public Private Partnership workgroup for FTF. He stated that he is finally seeing major financial groups interested in funding systems work revolving around early childhood education – pointing to Goldman-Sachs in particular who is beginning to look into social impact activities.

The Regional Director then provided a Quality Assurance Framework update. He discussed the Performance and Programmatic Monitoring mechanisms and how it was important to have them in place to assist FTF's grant partners and ensure that they are successful in their implementation of services and in accordance with the decisions of the Regional Council. In the first part of FY 2014, the regional-specific work of the Quality Assurance team will be applied.

Systems-Building Discussion

The topic of Systems-Building was deferred to the February 16, 2013 Regional Partnership Council Meeting. The Regional Director asked the Regional Council to review the material in preparation of a deeper Systems-Building discussion, which will be the first agenda item at the next Regular Meeting.

General Discussion

Member Adler discussed working on the Tele-therapy program – a program designed to provide long distance therapy to children. Member Adler has been compiling a list of trial patients and getting the phone systems operational. She hoped to have the program running soon.

Vice Chair Manuel then introduced Jasper Kinsley, Jr., the new Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program Manager for the Tohono O'odham Nation Department of Health and Human Services. Currently he is working on coordinating a children's fun day, which will also serve as an opportunity for screening the Tribal children, with more screenings taking place through April 2013.

Vice Chair Manuel mentioned that her advocates are moving fast in order to keep up with the demand of the Nation. Currently they are receiving 5 to 10 new referrals every day – meaning that the advocates have been very successful with getting the word out about FTF. Vice Chair Manuel requested that they be added to the agenda for the next meeting so that they could introduce themselves to the Regional Council and discuss their work with them.

Regional Director Le Duc mentioned that the 11 member group involved in Quality First and TEACH have completed their CDA's and will become certified.

Tania Hinojosa, the Quality First coach with the Tohono O'odham Nation closed out the meeting with a Quality First update, stating that the Sells, AZ center had reached a 3-star rating.

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public at this time.

Chair Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by member Ella Begay. Motion was seconded by member Adler. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.

Submitted By _____
Amanda Perino, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Louis Johnson, Chair

Dated this 13 day of March, 2013.