



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**  
*The right systems for bright futures*

**Date:** February 17, 2009  
**To:** San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council Members  
**From:** Beverly Russell, Regional Coordinator-San Carlos  
**Subject:** Staff Report for the month of January & February  
**Cc:** file

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**REGIONAL COUNCIL VACANCIES**

- Effective, Monday, January 26, Regional Partnership Council Members Sara Pinson (Health Services Provider) and Sylvia Gomez (Parent Representative) have resigned as members of this council. Their resignations are a result of their recent relocations out of the San Carlos Apache Region. As a result the positions of Health Services Provider and Parent Representative will become vacant.
- On Monday, January 12, a panel of two First Things First staff members (excluding the San Carlos Apache Regional Coordinator) and one current RPC member interviewed six members of the community to fill the five vacancies on the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council.

The vacant positions are as follows: Public School Administrator, Philanthropic, Business Community Member, Parent, and Health Services Provider.

The following is a list the applicants that are being recommended to the state board for appointment:

1. William Belvado, Business Community Member
2. Mitch Hoffman, Philanthropic Rep.
3. LaToya Tewawina, Health Services Provider
4. Delphine Rodriguez, Public School Administrator
5. Angelina Burgett, Parent Rep.

The State Board convened on January 27. During this meeting they took official action to appoint all the recommended individuals for appointment. All seats on the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council are now filled.

## **REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The SCAT RPC originally scheduled for January 19, was rescheduled to January 23, in light of the Civil Rights Day Holiday. The January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. The meeting was rescheduled for Friday, February 20.

## **SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBAL RELATIONS**

February 4—The Regional Coordinator attended the San Carlos Apache Education Committee Meeting. During this meeting the coordinator presented a status report on the work of the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council and the final draft of the Needs and Assets Report. The Education Committee made a motion to forward the San Carlos Apache Needs and Assets Report to the Tribal Council for comment. It was also recommended that this report be presented to the Tribal Council during the March regular meeting.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT /PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES**

- Prepared a press release on the work, funding and strategies of the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council. This information was published in the Moccasin.
- Posted a public invitation in the Moccasin for the First Things First RFGA (Request for Grant Application) meeting that took place at the Apache Gold Casino on January 13.
- Distributed an email invitation and made personal visits to local services providers to invite them to attend the January 13<sup>th</sup> RFGA meeting.

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST INFORMATION**

### ***Quality First:***

First Things First is pleased to announce the upcoming implementation of Quality First. Quality First is Arizona's statewide quality improvement and rating system for providers of center- or home-based early care and education. Quality First is an exciting opportunity for centers and homes to improve the quality of care provided to children with the support of financial incentives, coaching, child care health consultation and scholarships for program personnel. For more information or to apply for this opportunity, please visit [www.azftf.gov](http://www.azftf.gov). San Carlos has one slot available for center-based early care and education and one slot for home based early care and education.

### ***Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting:***

FTF will host a meeting for the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Regional Partnership Council on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Details are forthcoming.

### ***Tribal Consultation Policy:***

First Things First is committed to meeting responsibilities under the First Things First Initiative and Governor Napolitano's Executive Order on Tribal Consultation. This policy will act as a guide for the agency. Attached to this report are the letters that were sent to the tribal leaders and RPCs Chairpersons along with the draft policy.

Additional information including a Fact Sheet and FAQs will be available soon. Next week, the draft policy will be on our website. FTF plans to finalize the policy in late February. If you have any comments on this draft, please submit to me as soon as possible.

***FTF External Communications Committee:***

As FTF forges ahead with the development of a comprehensive communications plan, an external committee will be formed to assist in process. The external committee is to be made up of our early childhood partners and Regional Partnership Council Members who have experience or a strong interest to participate.

The external committee will be presented with the FTF brand and messaging and asked for their feedback and reaction. Secondly, the committee will help shape the overall communications effort which has two main objectives—increasing the political and financial investment in early childhood and early childhood education and awareness. San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council Member, David Reede, has agreed to participate in the work of this committee. Their first meeting took place on January 30 in Phoenix, AZ.

***FTF Summit:***

The 2009 Arizona Early Childhood Summit will be held at the Mesa Convention Center on April 27th & 28th. The first day is 8:30-5:00 and the second day will go until 3:00pm. An evening reception will be held on April 26th. More information will be available just as soon as everything has been finalized. FTF will cover all travel and hotel costs for all Regional Partnership Council members.

***FTF and the State Budget:***

In 2006 a majority of Arizona voters supported First Things First (FTF), a ballot initiative that created a new, dedicated revenue stream for children birth to five. The dollars were directed to ensuring that all children have the tools they need to be ready to succeed. As the legislature and Governor contemplate a budget shortfall, using FTF fund balances may be considered an easy way to address the state's multi-billion dollar deficit. Though FTF statutory language prohibits supplanting with its funds, the legislature can access FTF accumulated funds in 2009 in one of two ways:

1. At least 45 members of the House, 23 members of the Senate and the governor vote to take the funds; or
2. A referendum is referred by the legislature for public vote in a special election and receives a majority of the votes cast.

UPDATE (February 2, 2009):

The Arizona Legislature passed and Governor Brewer signed the Senate Engrossed version of the budget bills SB 1001 –SB 1006. The general appropriations bill that affects most agency programs is SB 1001 – Budget Reductions and Transfers: 2008-2009. \*\*\*The \$7 million in Interest Income was taken from the First Things First account and put in the General Fund; it is part of SB 1001– Budget Reductions and Transfers; 2008-2009.

In response to this economic and budgetary crisis FTF is taking the following actions:

- 1) Preparing an early childhood emergency response plan that will immediately target the bulk of discretionary funds to services and programs which are desperately needed for families with young children. This plan will be presented to the Board at its February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 2) Pursuing emergency authorization for the Board, working with Regional Partnership Councils, to award regional funds immediately, rather than as of July 1, 2009, for those services and programs that are determined to be critical health, welfare and safety needs of young children.

### **JANUARY & FEBRUARY MEETINGS/EVENTS**

January 7---FTF Coordinator's Meeting (Quality First/State Budget), Phoenix, AZ  
January 12—Interviews for San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council Applicants.  
January 13—FTF Central East Region Request for Grant Applications Session, Apache Gold Casino  
January 21—FTF Central East Region Request for Grant Applications Session, Payson, AZ  
January 22—FTF Tribal Workgroup Committee Meeting  
January 30---FTF External Communications Committee Meeting, Phoenix, AZ  
February 4---San Carlos Apache Education Committee  
February 4—New RPC Member Orientation Session  
February 5—FTF Chair and Vice Chair's Meeting, Phoenix, AZ  
February 6—FTF Regional Coordinator's Meeting, Phoenix, AZ

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

February 26—FTF Gila Regional Partnership Council Community Forum, Pine, AZ

### **TO DO LIST**

- Schedule a photo shoot with San Carlos Head Start and the Apache Kid Child Care Center to get photos for San Carlos FTF Brochure.