



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the First Things First – Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on February 6, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Community Center.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Members Present: H. Jill McCormick, Chair; Dr. Michael Reed, Vice Chair; Ines Pampara; Paul Soto; Patricia R. Weissenberg; Gina Nierenhausen; Rev. Deal Begay; Cristina Solorzano; Christie Stevens

Members Absent:

There were no members absent.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair McCormick provided the Regional Council with the opportunity to declare a conflict of interest regarding any items on the agenda. Member Nierenhausen declared a conflict of interest with agenda item #6 FY2014 Funding Mechanisms.

Approval of December 5, 2012 Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Member Soto moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2012, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Rev. Begay, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members.

Quality First

Quality First Coach Supervisor, Erica Jimenez, with Child and Family Resources, provided a brief update on the Quality First Rating System and the progress of the region's "rating only" participating Quality First site. Ms. Jimenez answered the Regional Council's questions regarding the rating system, providing examples of high quality interactions and learning environments.

Cocopah Early Steps Program

Cocopah Early Steps Program Specialist, Sandra Chavez, introduced herself to the Regional Council, stating she has been active in the role as of January 2013. Ms. Chavez stated her initial efforts have been to acquaint herself with the services on the Cocopah Reservation and introducing herself to the members of the community as well as collaborating with agencies such as Kith and Kin and First Smiles in the Yuma region. Currently Ms. Chavez is providing services to ten families and is implementing the Ages and Stages Assessment tool (ASQ). The next goal for Ms. Chavez is to complete the required training to become certified in the Parents As Teachers Program.

FY2014 Funding Plan Mechanisms

Chair McCormick engaged the Regional Council in a discussion on the funding of the Food Security and Parent Outreach and Awareness Strategies.

Recommendations:

- 1) The Regional Director recommends continuing the funding of the Food Security strategy through the procurement process.
- 2) The Regional Director recommends continuing the Parent Outreach and Awareness strategy with FTF-Directed implementation.

Dr. Reed moved to approve the funding for the Food Security Strategy and Parent Outreach and Awareness Strategy as recommended by Regional Director Ashley Pascual. The motion was seconded by Member Soto. Member Nierenhausen recused herself from participation during this segment of the discussion due to her role as member on the Yuma Community Food Bank Board. The motion carried by all other members.

Member Soto stated the need to collect data to monitor if the Food Security Strategy is addressing the needs in the community.

Early Childhood System

Regional Director Pascual engaged the Regional Council in a continued discussion on the Early Childhood System. The presentation included key points addressed in the 2012 Needs and Assets Report for the Cocopah Region. The Regional Council discussed the need for more education to occur during service provision, such as providing information on nutrition and health when distributing food boxes. The Regional Council stated the need for a coordinated referral system that would make more of the services/resources accessible to the community. The Regional Council requested a plan that would include the development of a family scenario flowchart for access to services– which would be more useful to parents rather than a list of resources.

Sr. Director's Report

Regional Director Pascual will transition to Regional Director for the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council while continuing her work with the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council. A new Regional Director will be hired for the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council; however Regional Director Pascual will continue to support Sr. Director Gary Arnold during the transition with possible advertising of the position in May 2013.

Director's Report

The Regional Director's Report included discussion of the following upcoming events:

- a) Chairs/Vice-Chairs Leadership Forum-February 7, 2013
- b) Grantee Collaboration Meeting-February 12, 2013
- c) Meeting w/Board Members-February 25
- d) Week of the Young Child-April 2013

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements

Rev. Begay announced the Music Festival is scheduled on April 12-13, and will be held at the Cocopah Community Center with meals provided. Cocopah Family Fun Day will occur during Spring Break, and Member Nierenhausen will be the main contact for the even. Member Nierenhausen announced that Volunteer Coaches are needed for tee-ball.

Next Meeting

The Regional Council agreed to not hold a meeting in March. The next Regional Partnership Council Meeting will occur April 3, 2013, at 3:00 p.m., at the Cocopah Community Center.

Adjournment

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

H. Jill McCormick, Chair, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council

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