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 April 3, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Community Center.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:07 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

Members Absent:
Cristina Solorzano; Christie Stevens

Approval of February 6, 2013 Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes
Member Soto moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2013, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Reed, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members.

Chair/Vice Chair's Report
Chair McCormick and Dr. Reed shared feedback on the Chair/Vice Chair Leadership Forum and the Board Regional Roundtable they attended during the month of February. The feedback included discussion on Discretionary Funding, Quality First Rating and Data Dashboards.

Chief Executive Officer's Report
First Things First Chief Executive Officer, Rhian Evans Allvin provided an update on the Research and Evaluation Plan, including the development of an Administrative Data Base. Chief Executive Officer Allvin also shared an update on Quality First and encouraged the Regional Council Members to provide feedback and participate in the informational webinars. A brief update was provided on the progress of the Regional Boundary Task Force recommendations, Legislative activities and the Governor's budget which includes $9 million for child care subsidy.
Chief Executive Officer Allvin also introduced Beverly Russell, Senior Director of Tribal Affairs, and Sam Leyvas, Vice President of External Affairs.
Service recognition was given to Members Weissenberg, Pampara and Stevens (not present) for service on the Regional Partnership Council.

System Building
Regional Director Ashley Pascual engaged the Regional Council engaged in a discussion on Early Childhood System Building. An action plan was discussed, which included the three main goals identified by the Regional Partnership Council: coordination of family support and health services,

supporting the achievement of a Quality First Rating of 4 stars, and developing a family service guide that would outline a pathway to access services in the community.

Dr. Reed expressed his support of the plan, and agreed with the information included.

Member Soto expressed the need to develop a tool to survey and extract data that is reflective of the needs in the community.

Member Nierenhausen expressed her support of the plan, and added that more work can be done to partner with the community and the Tribe.

2014 Needs & Assets Assessment Vendor Selection

Based on the Needs and Assets Workgroup recommendations, the Regional Council was ready to take action on the 2014 Needs and Assets Vendor. A motion was made by Dr. Reed to approve the University of Arizona, Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences as the vendor for the 2014 Needs and Assets Assessment, seconded by Member Soto, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Regional Director's Report

Regional Director Pascual referred to the written report provided to the Regional Council. The regional annual report is in the final stages and will be available at the May 2013 meeting for Regional Council approval. Ongoing efforts to fill the vacant seats, which include the Philanthropy and Early Childhood Educator, on the Regional Council continue by Regional Director Pascual. The Early Steps Specialist position is currently vacant; however, per the Tribal Administrator, applications have been received and are currently being reviewed in hopes to select a qualified applicant. A brief financial update, as well as the FY2014 Funding Plan timeline was provided to the Regional Council.

Events scheduled in April are the Cocopah Fun in the Sun Day on April 5, 2013, at the Health and Wellness Center, and the Yuma Day of the Young Child, on April 20, 2013, at the Yuma Heritage Library.

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements

Rev. Begay announced the Kwapa Music Festival is scheduled on April 13, 2013 and will be held at the Cocopah Community Center.

Next Meeting

The next Regional Partnership Council Meeting will occur May 1, 2013, at 3:00 p.m., at the Cocopah Community Center.

Adjournment

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

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