



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 2nd 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Community Center, County 15th and Avenue G, in Somerton, Arizona, 85350.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Members Present: H. Jill McCormick, Dr. Michael Reed, J. Deal Begay, Gina Nierenhausen, Cristina Solorzano, Paul Soto, Patricia R. Weissenberg

Members Excused: Monica Torres

Members Absent: LaDonna Crabb

Conflict of Interest

Chair McCormick provided the Regional Council with the opportunity to declare a conflict of interest regarding any items on the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

Approval of December 1st, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Reed moved to approve the minutes of the December 1st, 2010, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Soto. The motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Grantee Update: Comprehensive Family Support

Early Steps Specialist, Heather Acosta, provided a brief update of the Early Steps Program. Ms. Acosta stated there are presently nine participants enrolled. Collaborating efforts with Cocopah Head Start, Fort Yuma, Cocopah Day Care, and Community Intervention Associates (CIA) have been established, and Ms. Acosta has attended the Child & Family Resources, Inc. and Cimpatico collaboration group sessions. A total of five office visits, fifteen home/work visits have been accomplished and contact has been made with 37 potential resources that are available to assist families in the community. Ms. Acosta added that training for CPR, Parenting and Car Safety will soon be available.

Ms. Acosta answered the Regional Council's questions regarding the services and methods used for data collection in her outreach efforts.

Yuma Community Food Bank Grant Agreement

Coordinator Ashley Pascual shared a brief update with the Regional Council in reference to the Yuma Community Food Bank Grant Agreement. Further stating the final agreement has been endorsed. The grant agreement includes the continuance of the food voucher program (total of 80 vouchers available to the community) as well as availability of emergency baby kits (20 in total, accessible twice a year).

Head Start Renovation Strategy Development

The Regional Council proposed a workgroup to assist in the research and further development of the strategy. Member Nierenhausen and Member Soto volunteered to serve in the workgroup.

Meeting Schedule

The attendance policy and the meeting schedule were items discussed by the Regional Council. The Regional Council agreed to continue with the present meeting schedule of the first Wednesday of every month, at 3:00 p.m.

2011 Cocopah Community Events

Community Outreach Liaison, Nena Garcia, shared ongoing efforts to raise community awareness of First Things First and asked the Regional Council to provide a list of upcoming community events in hope of attending and furthering outreach efforts.

Coordinator's Update

It was reported the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council 2012 Funding Plan was approved by the State Board on January 25, 2011. An exception to the approval and request by the State Board was that the Community Awareness Strategy funds be fully detailed in a budget and approved by the First Things First Executive Director before the Regional Council moves forward with the strategy. Coordinator Pascual further stated that the intent of the carry forward monies is to go toward the Head Start Renovation Strategy which is still in development.

A review of the timelines for the upcoming fiscal year was also included in the update. Grantee renewal packets for FY 2012 will be due in April 2011, and then recommendations will be presented to and considered by the Regional Council at the May 2011 meeting, with final Board approval at the June 2011 Board meeting.

Announcements

No announcements were made by Regional Council Members.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 2nd, 2011, at 3:00p.m., at the Cocopah Housing and Development Office, located at 10488 Steamboat Street, Somerton, AZ 85350.

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

H. Jill McCormick, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council Chair