



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

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 March 3, 2010, at 3:00p.m. at the Cocopah Community Center, County 15 & Avenue G, Somerton, Arizona, 85350.

Members Present: Jill McCormick, Dr. Michael Reed, Gina Nierenhausen, Cristina Solórzano, Betty Ekstrom, Paul Soto, Rebecca Leach

Members Excused: Monica Torres

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:08p.m. and welcomed new Member, Rebecca Leach.

Approval of February 3, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Member Soto moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2010. Member Solórzano seconded the motion, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

2010 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment

Regional Council Members reviewed the process for obtaining Tribal approval to collect the data for the Needs and Assets Assessment. Susan Brutschy, with Applied Survey Research, presented the proposed list of indicators to include the Assessment, and added that official data collection was “on pause” pending the approval. Ms. Brutschy also shared a sample of an assessment that Applied Survey Research conducted for First 5 in California. Ms. Brutschy then invited questions and feedback from the Regional Council.

Chair McCormick requested that the indicator item “linguistically isolated households” be reworded, as there was general consensus that it was not a positively-framed indicator.

Dr. Reed asked about the appropriateness of requesting what type of data would not be available by the Tribe. Ms. Brutschy responded that census data is available; a better story of the community and the Tribe could be presented if the approval was received to collect data beyond what is available from the census. Regional Coordinator Ashley Pascual and Ms. Brutschy reviewed the purpose and timeline for the 2010 Needs and Assets Assessment.

Member Leach asked about how prenatal care would be separated and reflected in the assessment. Ms. Brutschy stated that their approach to reports is to build five year trends.

Dr. Reed called for a Point of Order, which Chair McCormick sustained and reminded the audience member that comments are not to be interjected unless called upon by the Regional Council during discussion pertaining to a specific agenda item.

Ms. Brutschy finished her presentation and thanked the Regional Partnership Council.

Regional Partnership Council Member Application Process for 2-year Term Vacancies

Chair McCormick discussed the application process and procedures for appointing Regional Council Members. Regional Manager, Gary Arnold, further explained the process, described his role, and discussed the timeline. Coordinator Pascual added that a public outreach campaign will be conducted statewide. Coordinator Pascual offered assistance to the Regional Council Members who will be reapplying as well.

Regional Funding Plan and Implementation

The Grantee Financial Update was discussed with Regional Council Members. Chair McCormick commented on her experience on the interview panel for hiring the staff person for the grant program. Chair McCormick also added that another set of interviews were scheduled for the coming Friday. Member Solórzano announced that she has applied for the position, so she has a conflict of interest with the discussion. The Human Resources protocols and hiring procedures were discussed.

Coordinator Pascual informed the Regional Council that the Amendment to the Family Support Grant has not been executed, therefore that balance of \$7,769 is currently remaining as FY2010 Unexpended Funds. The Regional Council discussed the unfunded strategies that have been approved by the First Things First Board, focusing on the communications strategies. The Regional Council Members discussed two specific community events that were coming up in FY2010, the Wellness/Family Fun Day on March 31st and the Community Expo on April 24th. Dr. Reed made a motion to establish a standing events committee to utilize funding for special fairs and events, and to allocate \$7,000 to the approved strategy. Member Nierenhausen provided the second for the motion, and the motion carried. The members assigned to the events committee are: Members Ekstrom, Nierenhausen, Solórzano, and Chair McCormick.

The Regional Council discussed what the appropriate funding mechanism would be for the approved FY2011 Food Assistance and Nutrition Strategy. Member Leach made a motion to go through a RFP (Request for Proposals) process for the Food Assistance and Nutrition Strategy. Dr. Reed seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Coordinator Report

Coordinator Pascual called attention to the Board Wrap-Up and Statewide Initiatives Update documents that were included in the Regional Council Meeting packets. Coordinator Pascual also provided copies of an email with the latest Legislative Update provided by Sandy Carpenter, the First Things First Government Affairs Specialist.

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements

No announcements were made by the Regional Council Members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2010, at 3:00p.m.

Adjourn

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:46p.m.

Ashley Pascual, Regional Coordinator

H. Jill McCormick, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council Chair