FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council took place on April 12, 2014 at the Tohono O'odham Cultural Center, South of State Hwy 86, East of Indian Route 19, Topawa, Arizona 85634. Chair Louis Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Members Present:
Chair Louis Johnson, Vice Chair Mildred Manuel, Janine Prewitt, Dr. Albert Adler, Joseph Mease, Cheryl Conde

Members Absent:
Ella Begay, Dionne Ramon, Kymberlii Tenario

Invocation

Member Prewitt provided the invocation.

Approval of February 8, 2014 Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Manuel that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approve the minutes of the February 8, 2014 Regional Council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Conde. Motion carried.

Call to the Public

None at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action: Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Grant Agreement GRA-RC026-14-0674-01 Quality First Child Care Scholarships with the Tohono O'odham Nation

Chair Johnson turned the floor over to Mr. Le Duc who informed the council that the Tohono O'odham Nation Education Department budget agreements went to legislative council this past Tuesday, but the Quality First Child Care Scholarships grant agreement was not among them. It was our understanding that the agreement was to be considered, and there has been no update since Tuesday. As of last update the grant agreement is at the Attorney General's office, and ready for Legislative Council consideration. Vice Chair Manuel asked what this means in regards to timeframe. Mr. Le Duc informed the group that it may not be possible to have the grant agreement in place by July 1, and they may wish to consider shifting funds in order to enable employment in SFY2015. Members commented on the widely positive view of early childhood classrooms on the Nation and that the school district's support of Early Childhood expansion. Mr. Le Duc stated this is the perfect time to have these conversations regarding the roles of the regional council in supporting children on the nation.

Discussion and Possible Approval: Renewal Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2015

Mr. Le Duc informed the regional council that though the renewals came in early and were excellent, the documents were not quite ready yet as more time was needed for clarifications and processing. Members determined they would have a telephonic meeting April 30th at 10:00 a.m. to address this agenda item.

Discussion: Fiscal Policy Recommendations to the First Things First Board.

Mr. Le Duc presented the recommendations that were made to the First Things First Board regarding fiscal policy and outlined how it would affect the Tohono O'odham Regional Partnership Council. A handout was provided with more detail. These recommendations are based on reasonable revenue projections and will allow FTF to maintain its program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9-15 years. Mr. Le Duc stated that the changes were intended to extend sustainability and to work with declining revenues, as expected. He added that the main difference was that regional councils would be budgeting to allocations for the next three year cycle, rather than including carry over as had been done in the past. Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council members commented on the need for other system partners to examine their role is in the Early Childhood system. Members reviewed the fiscal policy that is being proposed and provided additional comments and opinions on the need for all system partners to focus on quality education for children in our communities.

Regional Directors Report

Mr. Le Duc provided an overview of the regional expenditure report and quarterly data reports, highlighting the great success of the community based professional development (as shown on page 3 of attachment 4) and gave recognition to Kit Mc Ilroy for his contributions. He provided a quick overview of the narrative reports, commending grant partners for their implementation on the nation. Finally, he provided an update on the Needs and Assets report, namely that a first draft had been received Friday. Vice Chair Manuel asked for an update on regional council recruitment, which Senior Director Erin Lyons provided and encouraged members to reach out to anyone they believed might be interested.

General Discussion

Member Mease asked if a regional council member had been found for the Smart Start conference. Ms. Lyons confirmed yes, and encouraged regional council members to inform her of interest in the conference next May.

Member Adler encouraged everyone to tour the current art exhibit before leaving the building today.

Call to the Public

Sara Mae Williams, Baboquivari Unified School District Board Member- Ms. Williams thanked the members for allowing her to speak and stated she wished to provide an update for BUSD and her legislative lobbying. She stated a number of efforts were occurring in addressing getting Early Childhood awareness out there: a full page article on the National American Indian Education Network on ECE and Dr. Siqueiros was invited to speak by the Senate Committee on Indian Services and had a great 80 minute conversation on Early Childhood, including mentioning First Things First. Members commented and asked Mr. Le Duc to draft a letter of thanks to Dr. Siqueiros. Mr. Le Duc acknowledged the regional council's request and stated he desired to watch Dr. Siqueiros testimonies prior to drafting a letter on behalf of the council.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Chair Johnson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Vice Chair Manuel to adjourn the meeting, seconded by member Adler. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 11:51 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Louis Johnson, Chair

Dated this 1 day of May, 2014.