



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 6th 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Housing and Development Office, 10488 Steamboat Street, in Somerton, Arizona, 85350.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

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

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 February 2nd, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Member Soto moved to approve the minutes of the February 2nd, 2011, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Begay. The motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Community Outreach Coordinator's Update

Community Outreach Coordinator, Nena Garcia, reported the Cocopah Family Fun Day was a success and she was pleased to see family participation in the event. Ms. Garcia continues to enlist community champions for First Things First and is looking forward to the upcoming community event on April 30th, 2011.

Arizona Kith & Kin Project

Association for Supportive Child Care Project Specialist, Rosa Taylor, shared the objectives and services available through this program. Improving the quality of childcare and school readiness for children birth through age 5 is a main objective of the program and is achieved by providing various training (14 weeks, 2 hours per week) to family caregivers on topics such as child development, discipline, environmental safety, CPR and first aid. Ms. Taylor further stated income is not a criterion to be eligible for the program. Ms. Taylor answered the Regional Council's questions regarding the program.

Grantee Update: Comprehensive Family Support

Early Steps Specialist, Heather Acosta, provided the Regional Council with a brief update of the Early Steps Program. Parenting classes, collaboration with various agencies, home visitation, and potential resource contacts in the community were among the items included in the report.

Ms. Acosta has attended several trainings in the community and has hosted a car seat installation training and a parenting class, organized a dental program presentation for Head Start, and has purchased updated educational material for home visitations and a parenting class curriculum. It is the intent of Ms. Acosta to attend additional trainings that will enable her to conduct quality home visits.

Barriers reported by Ms. Acosta:

- Transportation for clients
- Personal Vehicle Maintenance/Mileage

The Regional Council congratulated Ms. Acosta's efforts and accomplishments with the program. Ms. Acosta discussed with the Regional Council the possibility of a budget modification to help cover travel expenses to continue serving clients.

Community Outreach

Regional Director Ashley Pascual informed the Regional Council of the efforts of First Things First to complete a Standards of Practice (SOP) related to Community Outreach and Awareness. A summary of the SOP will be provided to the Regional Council when it is available.

Dr. Reed announced that he attended the Chair/Vice Chair Leadership Forum, on March 31, 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona and the Regional Forum, on April 4, 2011, in Parker, Arizona. Dr. Reed shared his thoughts regarding the forums with the Regional Council.

Dr. Reed stated the Chair/Vice Chair Leadership Forum included information on First Things First, capacity building, regional boundaries and funding. Dr. Reed said that the forum was very informative and made regional councils aware of the accomplishments statewide as well as by regional councils.

In reference to the Community Outreach Regional Forum, Dr. Reed, stated the objective of the forum was how to best raise awareness of First Things First in an effective manner and to set a process in place to help achieve the communication goal.

2012 Needs and Assets

Regional Director Pascual provided the Regional Council with the timelines for the FY13 Needs and Assets Report and asked for the Regional Councils' direction as to how to proceed with vendor selection.

The Regional Council directed Regional Director Pascual, to bring a group together for the purpose of reviewing the vendor list and present recommendations to the Regional Council at the May 4th, 2011, meeting. At which time the Regional Council will make a decision on the vendor.

First Reading of Possible Amendment to Governance Policy: Attendance Policy 1-113

Dr. Reed reviewed the attendance policy with the Regional Council. He then went through the draft notice letters addressing procedures for attendance issues for the Regional Council to review and consider. The agenda item will be placed on the May 4th, 2011 Regional Council meeting for a second reading at which time the Regional Council may direct staff to make further changes or may vote its adoption.

Director's Update

Special recognition was given to members who celebrated their three year anniversary mark as members of the First Things First Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

Grantee renewal recommendations (Cocopah Early Steps Program and the Yuma Community Food Bank) for FY2012 will be made available to the Regional Council at the May 2011 meeting.

A financial report was provided to the Regional Council. Among the items included in the report were the amount of monies allotted, awarded, YTD expenses for each grantee and strategy.

Regional Director Pascual reviewed the First Things First Function Mapping with the Regional Council.

Regional Director Pascual announced the next Grantee Coordination meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2011 at the Yuma Main Library.

The vacant seats on the Regional Council are the Philanthropic Representative and Health Service Provider seats.

Announcements

Member Nierenhausen announced that Cocopah Patent Day is April 15, 2011, at 4:00 p.m., Cocopah Community Center, Somerton, Arizona. The Cocopah Patent Day gathering is to provide information on what Patent Day means to the Cocopah People.

Member Begay announced that a Music Festival will be held April 30th, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., Cocopah Community Center, Somerton, Arizona. He invited Community Outreach Coordinator Garcia to hold an informational booth for First Things First at the festival.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 4th, 2011, at 3:00p.m., at the Cocopah Housing and Development Office, located at 10488 Steamboat Street, in Somerton, AZ 85350.

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

H. Jill McCormick, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council Chair