



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order/ Welcome

The meeting of the First Things First – Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on **March 13, 2013** at 9:00 a.m. at the Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Center, at 488 Hualapai Way, in Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

Chair Imus called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

### Members Present

Reverend Pete Imus, Chair; Candida Hunter, Vice Chair; Joyce Holgate; Charlene Imus; Sandra Irwin; Bella Miller

### Members Absent

Madelena Cesspooch; Lucille Watahomigie

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Hunter made a motion to approve the January 9, 2013 meeting minutes. Member Irwin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### Call to the Public

There were no responses to the Call to the Public.

### Regional Partnership Council Member Updates and Announcements

Member Irwin announced an upcoming ASIS meeting on March 18 from 1-4 p.m. about the effects of alcohol; Vice Chair Hunter asked about transportation if parents were interested and Member Holgate said it was possible.

Member Miller announced she is transferring back to the Boys & Girls Club in Scottsdale, but is willing to try working with the regional partnership council until another member is appointed (possibly her replacement) – perhaps telephonically; she will still be involved in the community.

Director Pascual announced Member Querta has also resigned, and would appreciate the members' assistance in recruiting new members.

### Parents as Teachers Program Presentation

Shelley Fischer, Program Coordinator, and Jackie Kaser-Ruano, Parent Educator at Arizona's Children Association presented the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. This evidence-based home visitation program for pregnant women or families with a child under three originated in Missouri twenty-eight years ago, but is new in the regional area. The program's vision is that all children will learn, grow and develop through parental support; and the goal is to increase school readiness and success through early detection of delays and health issues. PAT's service components include biweekly personal visits, group meetings, screenings and a resource network. It is a comprehensive program – all children/adults in the home are included. Activities are part of the proven curriculum and families are shown how they can use inexpensive household items for these activities. Involvement/engagement is key to the program, as expressive language is the beginning of literacy. Parent interaction is the key to children's success, encouraging a stronger bond for a healthier, stronger brain. PAT also publishes monthly newsletters. The difference between discipline and punishment is stressed at each visit. Group meetings are open to

the community, and can include child care providers. Ms. Fischer advised PAT is now available in Peach Springs, and provided flyers and referral forms along with her contact information.

### **2014 Needs and Assets Vendor Selection**

Director Pascual reviewed the possible vendors for consideration, and advised that the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council has chosen the University of Arizona. Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to approve the University of Arizona as the 2014 Needs and Assets vendor. Member Irwin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Hualapai Early Childhood Health and Development**

Director Pascual discussed the regional council's desire to be more intentional and meaningful in collaboration, aligning with other west region and tribal regional partnership councils to get the system working better for children. The Hualapai medicine wheel illustrates serving the whole community; First Things First is a major part of this system and in its leadership role puts together the pieces of the puzzle. The regional council made suggestions for the partners and "missing puzzle pieces," including the personal growth and development for parents and providers, a clear focus of vision/commitments and continuous training. Member Hunter mentioned there may be a need for an education ordinance in addition to current truancy laws to protect children. Discussion revealed a need to collaborate and build rapport between Human Services, Head Start, WIC, IHS, Parents as Teachers, the Maternal Child Health Program and others.

Director Pascual reviewed the three school readiness indicators chosen by the regional council and asked whether they align with the community and the Tribal priorities. The regional council wants to discuss these indicators with the different tribal departments who are serving children, so it was suggested the other departments and the Tribal leaders be invited to the next regional partnership council meeting.

Member Holgate stated the need for a resource guide for parents and providers. Member Hunter stated the updated resource list currently awaiting Tribal Council approval will be a good tool. Identifying a baseline and benchmarks was also discussed. Director Pascual went over a matrix of the school readiness indicators chosen by all the regional partnership councils of the western region, and there are common areas of focus.

### **Community Outreach and Awareness Update**

Erin Taylor, the new Community Outreach Coordinator outlined her plans to get information out to parents about services and programs provided by FTF, while increasing general awareness of the importance of early childhood through presentations to community groups. She will also be writing stories about grantees' successes, and brought an example that was published in last week's Standard Newspaper that will also be going in the Mohave County Economic Development Journal. Coordinator Taylor wants to get as many articles in local publications as possible, and is currently working on a newsletter that will be inserted into area publications, and will include information about the Hualapai Tribe, La Paz/Mohave and Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Councils. Coordinator Taylor is working with the Hualapai Tribe Youth Council to prepare a proclamation for the Hualapai Tribal Council in conjunction with Week of the Young Child, April 14-20, 2013.

### **Regional Director's Report**

Director Pascual announced that Vice Chair Hunter was chosen to serve on the National Evaluation Panel.

Director Pascual noted that the recent board member session that was held in Lake Havasu City did not have a Hualapai Tribe representative in attendance; however, there may be more sessions of this type scheduled in the future. Director Pascual advised that attendees at the Chair/Vice Chair Leadership Forum discussed discretionary funding suggestions and possible next steps, and this information will be further discussed through a subcommittee and go to the State Board in June. This discussion will go further at the upcoming Summit in August. They also discussed system building and efforts of the various regional partnership councils to bring partners together in a system for early childhood.

Director Pascual reviewed the financial expenditures report, noting that the TEACH grantee has been paid since the report was printed. The expansion strategy shows funds that are on hold for the new child care center. The Maternal Child Health program is working with finance staff to get needed documents for financial reimbursement. The Cultural Resources Department will be providing an update on the native language strategy at the next meeting, and have identified a publisher for the books.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grantee data report was not included in its entirety in the meeting packets, so Director Pascual presented the information and will email the full report.

St. Mary's Food Bank has submitted their grant application for Fiscal Year 2014. The grant renewal application has been sent to the Hualapai Maternal Child Health program, and they have a few weeks to respond.

Lastly, Director Pascual reminded the regional council that First Things First CEO Rhian Allvin will be at the May 8 regional council meeting, so a tour of the new child care center construction site may be arranged, as well as a presentation at the Cultural Center to view the artwork for the Native Language Preservation books.

**Next Meeting**

Director Pascual made a suggestion to cancel the April 2013 meeting. There was no objection; however, Vice Chair Hunter expressed that the regional council should set a goal not to have any cancelled meetings (due to lack of quorum) next year. The next meeting will be May 8, 2013.

**Adjourn**

Chair Imus adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

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**Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant II**

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**Reverend Pete Imus, Chair**

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