



**Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council  
Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2013**

**1. Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First – Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council was held on March 28, 2013 at Gila River Indian Community, Early Education Childcare Center, 280 South Ocotillo Road, Sacaton, Arizona 85147.

**Members Present**

Priscilla Foote, Chair  
Dale Enos, Vice Chair  
Melissa Madrid  
Sandra Nasewytewa  
Emily Warburton  
Mary Tatum  
Kim Franklin

**Members Absent**

Hon. Kami Hart  
Priscilla Antone  
Brooklynn Dee

Chair Foote called the meeting to order at approximately 4:37 p.m.

**2. Call to the Public**

None

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the February 21, 2013 Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council meeting. Member Warburton moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2013 Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council meeting. Member Warburton stated that the zip code listed for the address of the February 21, 2013 meeting location should be corrected from 85247 to 85147. Second by Member Madrid. The motion approving the February 21, 2013 meeting meetings, with corrections, passed.

**4. System Building: Update, Review and Discussion**

Chair Foote welcomed First Things First CEO Rhian Allvin and Sr. Director for Tribal Affairs Beverly Russell and thanked them on behalf of the Council and Community for taking the time to attend the Council meeting.

Ms. Allvin led a brief discussion regarding the partnership between the State of Arizona and the various Tribes throughout the state.

Ms. Allvin also provided updates on the First Things First Research and Evaluation Division and stated that a plan is being developed based on input from a National Advisory Panel held last year, the development of a data dashboard system, and the validation study to be conducted with the focus on the Quality First and Home Visitation programs.

Ms. Allvin also discussed the progress of the First Things First Boundary Task Force and how the process of soliciting public comment will work and addressed concerns raised by some members of the Council.

In addition, Ms. Allvin discussed the impact of reduced funding to the state's child care subsidy program and how First Things First child care funding has helped in terms of making additional federal funding available.

**5. Update on Needs and Assets Resolution Progress**

Edward Valinski, First Things First Administrative Assistant, provided an update on the filing status of the draft resolution requesting authorization to conduct the SFY 2014 Needs and Assets report.

**6. SFY 2014 Home Visitation Grantee Proposal**

Chair Foote declared a conflict of interest with this agenda item. Vice Chair Enos and Jennifer Johnson, First Things First Sr. Director, led a discussion and overview of the grant proposal submitted by Gila River Health Care.

Member Madrid stated that, although the Early Education Child Care Center (EECCC) is mentioned in the proposal as a source of program participants, the EECCC does not receive any monetary gain from the program and that she would not have a conflict of interest with this grant.

Member Nasewytewa asked to clarify if the grantee applying to this strategy is a new grantee. Ms. Johnson stated that the grantee performed under the grant during the previous state fiscal year and, although the grant is being reissued, the grantee has performed for First Things First in the past.

Member Nasewytewa moved to direct First Things First staff to finalize the Home Visitation Grant Agreement with Gila River Health Care. Second by Member Franklin. The motion passed.

**7. Update on SFY 2013 Grants (Q2 data and financial reports)**

Ms. Johnson reviewed the grantee service unit, data, and financial reports for SFY 2013 Q2. Member Franklin asked from where in the community are participants in the Family, Friend and Neighbor strategy recruited. The Association for Supportive Child Care representative stated that the participants are primarily recruited from District 6. Member Nasewytewa asked for clarification on the length of the contract for the Pre-k strategy and how the program generally works. Ms. Johnson explained the length of the contract and gave a basic explanation of the strategy. Ms. Johnson also stated that the Transition to Pre-k strategy will be transitioning to the Quality First program.

**8. Chair's and Vice Chair's Report**

Chair Foote reported that a meeting with the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education office is still pending. The purpose of the meeting is to determine the next steps in implementing the 50/50 funding match for the Pre-k strategy.

Ms. Johnson stated that the First Things First Summit will be held in August 2013 and registration will be open to the general public in May 2013. She also stated that First Things First staff will facilitate registration for Council members.

Ms. Russell provided an overview of the Tribal track that will be held at the Summit.

Member Nasewytewa suggested that the Gila River Indian Community Council members be formally invited to the Summit. Vice Chair Enos stated that it would be good to invite the Community Council members and, specifically, the Education and Health/Social Standing Committee members. Ms. Russell stated that those committee members have been invited in the past and will be invited again to this year's Summit.

**9. Council Member Updates and General Discussion**

Member Madrid stated that the Early Education Child Care Center will be having their Quality First assessment during April 8, 2013 to April 26, 2013. She also stated that she will be attending the 2013 Smart Start Conference. Member Madrid also stated that the Early Education Child Care Center will be highlighted in the next issue of Exchange magazine.

Ms. Johnson provided a brief update on the Board/Council Roundtable that was held in March 2013.

**10. Regional Council Meeting Schedule**

The next Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council meetings will be held on April 25, 2013, May 16, 2013, and June 27, 2013.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m.

**Submitted By:**



Edward Valinski, Administrative Assistant  
First Things First

**Council Approval:**

Priscilla Foote, Chair  
Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

Jennifer Johnson, Sr. Regional Director

