



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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

Call to Order

The meeting of the First Things First – Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on **April 13, 2011** at 9:00 a.m. at the Hualapai Cultural Center, 880 Highway 66, Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

Chair Irwin called the meeting to order at 9:13a.m.

Members present:

Sandra Irwin-Chair, Rev. Pete Imus-Vice Chair, Charlene Imus, Helen J. Watahomigie, Scott Dunsmore, Lucille Watahomigie

Members Excused: Candida Hunter

Members Absent: Cheryle Beecher

Address Potential Conflicts of Interest Regarding Items on the Agenda

No Regional Council Member expressed a conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda.

Approval of March 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Member Dunsmore moved to approve the March 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Imus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by Members present.

Call to the Public

Dawn Hubbs, program manager at the Hualapai Cultural Resources Department, thanked the First Things First Regional Partnership Council for all the work they do for the community.

Regional Partnership Council Member Updates and Announcements

No announcements were made.

First Things First Grantee Updates

A. Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program – Jennifer Pope, R.N.

Nurse Pope updated the Regional Council on the recent activities of the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program (MCHP). Nurse Pope informed the Regional Council that she was able to schedule a K.I.D.S. Fair with Milemarkers Therapy for Peach Springs, Arizona, on May 14, 2011, from 8am to 2pm. Nurse Pope explained she would be talking to the Hualapai Head Start to see if that facility could be used for the K.I.D.S. Fair. Nurse Pope stated the early childhood family support planning committee would be reorganizing their meetings to a monthly format. The next meeting is on April 21, 2011. Nurse Pope stated the focus of the next meeting will be on how to start targeting newer enrollees at Head Start so screening and supports can be implemented and put in place. Nurse Pope told the Regional Council about the Proclamation for the Week of the Young Child presented to the Tribal Council by Chair Irwin, Nurse Pope, and Alyce Crook. Chair Irwin pointed out that the Tribal Council asked questions regarding services and programs involved with MCHP. Nurse Pope informed the Regional council that April is National Child Abuse Prevention month and MCHP would be incorporating this into classes this month. Nurse Pope stated she has applied and is waiting to hear about incentives from National Relief Charities as MCHP has gone through most of the supplies they had. Nurse Pope explained the different committees in which MCHP is involved including the Sobriety committee and the child care committee for plans with the new Child Care Center. Nurse Pope stated

MCHP now has access to the Indian Health Services (IHS) system. Nurse Pope told the Regional council that IHS did get a new public health nurse. Nurse Pope continues to work in the scholarship program for the Ayurvedic Mother/Baby certificate. Nurse Pope explained MCHP is still working on finishing their grant. Member L. Watahomigie asked Nurse Pope when the grant is due. Nurse Pope responded the grant is due soon. Member L. Watahomigie asked if it was too late to include a part for child care. Director Pascual clarified that the grant due is a renewal. Member L. Watahomigie then questioned if MCHP was working with IHS on the new funding for Maternal/Child Health and explained IHS has some monies available within the public health nursing.

B. T.E.A.C.H. Arizona – Rhonda Etsitty, TEACH Specialist, Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)

Ms. Etsitty announced TEACH filled two spots for the region's one participating Quality First site, the Hualapai Head Start. Ms. Etsitty explained she has been maintaining communication to help with any barriers or conflicts that may arise. Ms. Etsitty informed the Regional council the two scholarships benefit 54 students. This information is based off of information from Hualapai Head Start's first enrollment with Quality First. Ms. Etsitty further stated since the two spots have been filled, Hualapai Head Start does not have any active processing participants. Ms. Etsitty explained there are no participants waiting and there have been no withdrawn participants. Ms. Etsitty then informed the Regional council on statewide numbers for the TEACH program. Ms. Etsitty then explained her outreach and program promotion in the area. Ms. Etsitty then stated the barriers she has identified for area participation, including only one Quality First site in the area which limits the programs contacts and outreach, and a hesitation from the Hualapai Head Start teachers.

Presentation and Discussion on First Things First External Evaluation Projects

Dr. Mary McLellan, a professor from Northern Arizona University, presented an overview of the First Things First External Evaluation projects. Dr. McLellan explained that First Things First contracted with the three universities in Arizona who formed a consortium to conduct an external evaluation of First Things First and the progress they are making with children. Dr. McLellan explained there are four studies, two of which are longitudinal. Northern Arizona University is assigned the northern region of Arizona which includes the Hualapai Tribe Regional area. Dr. McLellan explained that approval for the studies to be conducted on the Tribe was granted by the Tribal Council in December of 2010. Dr. McLellan then informed the Regional Council the logistics of the four studies to be conducted. Dr. McLellan also informed the Regional Council that the external evaluation process will continue to take place every other year as long as the project has funding. Dr. McLellan also introduced Erica Hans and Judy Bippus who would be the main face to face contact personnel. Dr. McLellan suggested hiring a part-time person from the community to help facilitate the evaluations. Ms. Bippus informed the Regional Council of the specific demographics, such as age of children and number of families, and the necessary timelines for the evaluation process. Ms. Bippus expressed hope that the Regional Council could help direct the External Evaluation team to the families who could participate in the study. Chair Irwin replied that Nurse Pope and the individuals working at the WIC program could help. Ms. Bippus then explained the timeline is really short – only a month. Nurse Pope stated the group could come to the K.I.D.S. Fair on May 14, 2011, and meet parents and families there. Ms. Hans then gave the details for the studies she will be conducting. Ms. Hans explained her studies can be done to fit the families' schedules. Ms. Hans expressed an interest in also attending the K.I.D.S. Fair. Ms. Hans expressed an interest in also speaking with the director of the Hualapai Head Start to inform her of the incentives parents will get for participating in the studies. Dr. McLellan asked again if the Regional Council thinks it would be good to hire a person part-time to help with the studies. Chair Irwin replied she thought it would be good to have a community member to go with them so community members would know the evaluators were legitimate. Dr. McLellan asked for suggestions of possible candidates for the part-time position. Vice Chair Imus replied the Regional Council could come up with a pool of names. Director Pascual suggested passing the names on to her and she would make sure the evaluators received them.

First Things First Regional Division Update

Michelle Katona, Chief Regional Officer, addressed the Regional Council and expressed her pleasure at reading about First Things First in the Hualapai Newsletter, *Gamyu*. Ms. Katona also congratulated three Regional Council members on reaching their three year anniversary as a Regional Partnership Council Member with First Things First: Chair Sandra Irwin, Member Lucille Watahomigie, and Member Helen Watahomigie. Ms. Katona also informed the Regional Council that Chief Executive Officer Rhian Evans Allvin will be visiting all the Regional councils beginning in May and will do formal recognition of anniversaries at that time. Chair Irwin asked if CEO Allvin could talk to the Tribal Council during her visit. Ms. Katona replied it is a great idea and will follow up with it. Ms. Katona also highlighted the efforts of different members, specifically the attendance of Chair Irwin at the Chair/Vice Chair Forum in Phoenix, Arizona, and the attendance of Vice Chair Imus at the West Region Community Outreach Forum in Parker, Arizona. Ms. Katona informed the Regional Council that a review of regional boundaries is coming up in August 2011. Ms. Katona explained the opportunity for Tribes to decide if they would like to remain separate regions or join the region the tribal lands are located in. Chair

Irwin asked by what date a decision had to be made. Tribes have until March 1, 2012 to inform the FTF State Board of their decision. Ms. Katona also explained that if no official response is voiced, then the most current response would stand.

Review and Discussion on the Native Language Enrichment Strategy

Director Pascual updated the Regional Council on the progress of the new strategy-Native Language Enrichment. Director Pascual pointed out Dawn Hubbs is the lead on the Native Language Enrichment program for the Cultural Resources department. Director Pascual shared with the Regional Council the Standards of Practice set forth by First Things First. Director Pascual also shared the worksheet outlining the Native Language Enrichment strategy. Director Pascual informed the Regional Council she would be meeting with Ms. Hubbs in May. Director Pascual also informed the Regional Council she would be on the agenda to present to the Tribal Council at their meeting May 7, 2011. Director Pascual explained she would be using her time before the Tribal Council to ensure the Tribal Council is still supportive of the three grants approved by the Regional Council. Chair Irwin expressed that she would like Director Pascual to have a resolution approved on the grant renewals by the May Regional Council meeting. Director Pascual also reminded the Regional Council it is a one-time funding opportunity. Ms. Hubbs addressed the Regional Council and informed them the Cultural Resources department had received a generous donation of two computers from the Yuma Computers for Kids program. Ms. Hubbs explained that the two computers will help the Cultural Resources department complete the materials for this strategy. Ms. Hubbs also explained the non-profit organization that donated the computers will also work closely with the Cultural Resources department on IT maintenance for the computers at no cost. Vice Chair Imus asked if the Regional Council will be able to view the content before it is made available to the public. Director Pascual explained that option can be written into the grant if the Regional Council would like. Ms. Hubbs suggested a separate committee that could work closely with the Cultural Resources department, so that the content is reviewed by the Regional Council and the community. Member Dunsmore asked for clarification on the funding source. Director Pascual explained it came from the carry forward monies from FY 2010 that were made available during FY2011, and the Regional Council decided to hold those monies specifically for this strategy in the FY2012 Funding Plan.

Discussion and Possible Action on 2010 Needs & Assets Vendor Selection

Chair Irwin informed the Regional Council three vendors applied including Applied Survey Research which did the last Needs and Assets report. Chair Irwin asked Director Pascual if the other tribal Regional Councils who used MGT were happy with the results. Director Pascual replied the responses were mixed. Chair Irwin mentioned that all three vendors have worked with tribes before. Director Pascual informed the Regional Council the proposals from the vendors and some write-ups from Regional Councils that used the vendors previously were available to read and there is time to do so before a decision was due. Member L. Watahomigie expressed her favorable opinion of the government to government agreement with University of Arizona. Senior Director Arnold informed the Regional council about the options for decision available to them, including making a decision at the current meeting or forming an informal workgroup to review the proposals that would then bring a recommendation back to the next Regional Council meeting. Member L. Watahomigie made a motion that the Regional council accepts University of Arizona as the vendor. Chair Irwin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by all Members present.

Discussion on Community Outreach

Vice Chair Imus announced his satisfaction in attending the West Regional Community Outreach Forum. Vice Chair Imus explained he and Director Pascual would work together to compile the information from the Forum, so the Regional Council can focus on finding a target audience for the region. Vice Chair Imus explained that some of the activities the Regional Council was already accomplishing for community outreach included publications in the *Gamyu*. Director Pascual informed the Regional Council that a brainstorming session on the next agenda would be beneficial for broadening community outreach strategies. Member L. Watahomigie stated a once a month child care training occurs but has poor turnout. Member L. Watahomigie wondered if there was any way to partner with First Things First to increase awareness. Nurse Pope suggested a meeting with Jessica Powskey, the Hualapai Child Care Program Coordinator, and others to improve communication, and she also invited any Regional council members to attend the April 21, 2011, Early Childhood committee meeting discussed previously. Member L. Watahomigie explained a conflict with the date. Nurse Pope offered to share minutes from the meeting with the Regional Council. Vice Chair Imus asked the Regional Council for their input on putting a brainstorming session on the May agenda. Senior Director Arnold pointed out that Member L. Watahomigie's statements were in-line with what the Community Forum was addressing. Member Dunsmore asked where the Regional Council finds the information on the target audience. Member L. Watahomigie responded that WIC, Social Services, and IHS could help with that information. Member Dunsmore explained Peach Springs Elementary school runs into communication issues as well, so employees take information door to door. Member Dunsmore expressed that the school could be an avenue to get information to the community for birth to 5 as well since older siblings attend the school.

Regional Director's Update

Regional Director's Report: Director Pascual thanked Chair Irwin, Member L. Watahomigie, and Member H. Watahomigie for their three years of volunteer service on the Regional Council. Director Pascual informed the Regional council that Shelly Bachison resigned from the Regional Council, so now there are three seats vacant: the parent seat, the philanthropic seat, and the child care provider seat. Director Pascual asked the Regional Council for assistance in filling these seats. Director Pascual informed the Regional Council she will be sending in a letter to be on the Tribal Council agenda for May 7, 2011. Director Pascual explained a Tribal Affairs update will be provided for each FTF Board meeting, and the latest Tribal Affairs Report was attached to the Director's Report. Member L. Watahomigie asked why it is called Tribal Affairs. Director Pascual explained there is a specific Government Affairs department for First Things First of which Tribal Affairs is an important part. Director Pascual further explained Beverly Russell serves in that capacity as a tribal liaison for FTF. Director Pascual informed the Regional Council there will be a pre-institute opportunity for all tribal Regional Councils to meet before the First Things First Summit August 28-30, 2011. Director Pascual updated the Regional council on the Week of the Young Child activities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 9:00 a.m. on May 11, 2011, at the Hualapai Education and Training Center, 460 Hualapai Way, in Peach Springs, AZ 86434.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Imus made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Member Dunsmore. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

Chair Irwin adjourned the meeting at 10:35a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Approved by:

Julia Cosmano, Administrative Assistant II

Sandra Irwin, Chair