



# 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/ Welcome**

The meeting of the First Things First – Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on May 2, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Community Center, 14251 S. Centre Avenue, Somerton, Arizona, 85350.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Members Present: H. Jill McCormick, Chair; Dr. Michael Reed, Vice Chair; Christie Stevens; Cristina Solorzano; Paul Soto; Ines Pampara; Rev. Deal Begay

Members Excused: Gina Nierenhausen and Patricia R. Weissenberg

### **Declarations of 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 March 7, 2012 Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Reed moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2012, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Soto, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

### **Recommendations for FY2013 Grant Agreements**

The Regional Council discussed the FY2013 Grant Agreements which included the Home Visitation Early Steps Program agreement and renewal for the Food Security agreement with Yuma Community Food Bank. The Regional Council expressed concerns that the 3-5 year old population might eventually be dropped from the program and had several inquiries on the agreement. Regional Director Ashley Pascual and Sr. Director Gary Arnold answered the Regional Council's questions regarding the agreement. A motion was made by Dr. Reed to accept the new grant agreement recommendation for FY 2013 pertaining to home visitation with the exception under the brief program description to eliminate the dependent clause "but focusing more on pregnancy to 3 years of age." The motion was seconded by Member Soto, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present. Director Pascual provided a brief update on the Food Security Grant. A motion was made by Member Soto to approve the renewal of the Food Security Grant for FY2013. The motion was seconded by Member Begay, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

### **Election of FY2013 Officers**

The Regional Council discussed the election of officers for FY2013. A motion was made by Member Soto to retain the current Chair and Vice Chair in their leadership role in the Council. The motion was seconded by Member Solorzano, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

### **FY2013 Council Meeting Schedule**

The Regional Council reviewed the FY2013 meeting calendar. A motion was made by Member Soto to approve the FY2013 meeting calendar. The motion was seconded by Dr. Reed, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

### **Early Steps Program Update**

Early Steps Specialist, Heather Acosta, engaged the Regional Council in a discussion of the Early Steps Program. Ms. Acosta added that she continues to attend trainings available to her and stated her goal was to reach 15 families by July 2012.

### **Regional Update**

Regional Director Pascual reviewed the School Readiness indicators and Benchmark Timelines. Director Pascual stated a forum is scheduled to take place on June 6, 2012, at 1:30pm, at the Cocopah Community Center. The forum is combined with the Yuma Regional Partnership Council.

Regional Director Pascual announced that a draft of the Needs & Assets Assessment will be made available to the Regional Council for their June 2012 meeting.

Ongoing efforts to fill the vacant seats in the Regional Council continue by Regional Director Pascual. Presently, the Philanthropy and Educator seat are vacant on the Regional Council.

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

A brief update on Community Outreach and Awareness was provided to the Regional Council by Community Outreach Coordinator Magdalena Garcia.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Reed announced the Cocopah Indian Housing and Development was the recipient of \$605,000 to start the Home Ownership Renovation Program. The award was provided by HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

### **Next Meeting**

The next Regional Partnership Council Meeting will occur June 6, 2012 at 3:30 p.m., at the Cocopah Community Center, directly following the regional forum.

### **Adjournment**

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

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Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

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H. Jill McCormick, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council Chair