



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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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 May 8, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources, at 880 West Route 66, in Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

Chair Imus called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Members Present

Reverend Pete Imus, Chair; Candida Hunter, Vice Chair; Joyce Holgate; Darren Hudak; Charlene Imus; Dr. Anthony Perkins; Lucille Watahomigie

Members Absent

Sandra Irwin

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Hunter made a motion to approve the March 13, 2013 meeting minutes. Member Holgate seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Call to the Public

There were no responses to the Call to the Public.

Announcements and General Discussion

The Regional Partnership Council members engaged in general discussion regarding collaboration of resources. The members will send dates they would be available to meet to Regional Director Pascual. Director Pascual will then facilitate a meeting with primary service providers that may include Indian Health Services, Women and Infant Children, Maternal Child Health, Head Start, Child Care, Social Services, Peach Springs Unified School District, Tribal Council members and Regional Partnership Council members, among others. Chair Imus welcomed new members Darren Hudak and Dr. Anthony Perkins. Chair Imus welcomed Rhian Evans Allvin.

CEO Update

Rhian Evans Allvin, First Things First Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on things going on at the state level, including the research and evaluation plan, and work on the kindergarten developmental inventory. She discussed the importance of accountability for First Things First funds, and explained the work occurring to build an administrative database to that end.

CEO Allvin announced the Arizona Department of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a pilot program to compare First Things First's child level data with theirs, and she hopes to obtain those same types of agreements with other state departments. There will be targeted studies to accompany this database, and the first is a validation of the quality improvement and rating system for Quality First. The kindergarten developmental inventory will probably be a combination of work sampling and observation to help understand where children are tracking in their development. CEO Allvin explained that the Virginia Piper Trust has agreed to spend \$3M on professional development for the school districts that are interested in participating in getting kindergarten teachers up to speed, and then hopefully administer this inventory. The vision is that the kindergarten developmental inventory will align with the common core, with consideration to what is relevant to the

child. CEO Allvin added that it is important that to continue to maintain the respectful relationships created with tribes and their sovereignty.

CEO Allvin provided an update on the regional boundary task force, which was formed by the State Board to review the boundaries as required by statute every two years. She advised that the recommended consolidations do not affect the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

CEO Allvin referred to the significant model changes proposed for fiscal year 2015. She reported that over 60% of the Quality First preschool sites assessed for the first time this year were rated at 3 stars.

CEO Allvin provided a legislative update, explaining that First Things First was founded at the same time the economy crashed and budgets disappeared for many services. Even with First Things First assistance, there are currently 6,000 children on the child care subsidy waiting list at the Department of Economic Security.

Tribal Affairs Update

Beverly Russell, Senior Director, Tribal Affairs spoke about the tribal gathering planned for the upcoming Summit, which is scheduled August 26 – 27, 2013. The tribal gathering event has been integrated into the first day of the Summit, with a keynote by Dr. Eduardo Duran who will focus on system building as well as the impact of historic trauma for children. The gathering will include two panels; the first panel will be comprised of tribal regional partnership council members sharing successes/challenges/visions for the future, and the second panel will consist of experts on systems building. Senior Director Russell announced that the annual Lanna L. Flood Memorial Address will be part of the tribal gathering to honor our fallen colleague.

Senior Director Russell noted that First Things First will host its fourth tribal consultation session August 15, 2013, and welcomes tribes to talk about any issues with First Things First.

Native Language Program Update

Carrie Cannon, Ethnobotanist/ Biologist for the Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources previewed a project created with funding from First Things First. A set of five audio books has been created in-house to promote literacy and the Hualapai language. Five elders are making recordings for the books in English and Hualapai, and Hualapai Cultural Resources staff has illustrated the book with artists from the community. Ms. Cannon played sample recordings and displayed sample artwork. The initial production is planned for twenty-five books, and the project must be completed by June 30, 2013.

Possible Action on the Expansion Strategy Allotment for FY2013 and FY2014

Director Pascual discussed the child care expansion strategy allotment that was put in place to purchase the materials needed for the infant/toddler room at the new child care facility. This was initially part of the FY2013 funding plan, but since the building is not scheduled for completion until May 30, 2013, Director Pascual recommends moving the funding allotment into FY2014. The proposed timeline could possibly be moved up some within FY2014.

Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to approve moving the child care expansion strategy allotment to FY2014. Member Perkins seconded. The vote was 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Member Holgate) and 1 abstention (Member Watahomigie declared conflict of interest). Motion passed with a majority of the quorum in favor.

FY2014 New Grant Agreement Recommendation

Director Pascual discussed the food security strategy with St. Mary's Food Alliance which requires a new grant agreement. Director Pascual explained that the proposal maintains the current program that is delivered through a partnership between St. Mary's and the Hualapai Department of Human Services. Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to approve the new grant agreement. Member Hudak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FY2014 Grant Agreement Renewal Recommendation

Director Pascual discussed the implementation of the home visitation strategy which requires a renewal of the grant agreement with the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program, as First Things First grants are renewal up to two years. Director Pascual presented points for the Regional Council's consideration, including the proposal to increase the target service units from 25 to 30 families, and adding one part time staff member. Another consideration was of the program's current performance which is on track, and technical support from First Things First will continue to be offered next year in light of the program's struggles with data reporting timelines. The program will also be required to follow an evidence-based model. Director Pascual stated the grant is ready, so pending approval today it will go to the State Board for funding effective July 1, 2013. The members engaged in discussion about the grant application process and how strategies are determined. Member Holgate requested to view the budget submitted. Director Pascual provided the budget for the Regional Council's viewing. Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to approve the Maternal Child Health renewal grant agreement for FY2014. Member Perkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FY2014 Regional Partnership Council Officer Elections

Nomination and Election of Vice Chair – Chair Imus made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Hunter. Member Watahomigie made a motion to nominate Chair Imus. Four members voted for Vice Chair Hunter, and two members voted for Chair Imus. Vice Chair Hunter was elected to be the Vice Chair in FY2014 by majority vote.

Nomination and Election of Chair – Member Watahomigie made a motion to nominate Member Holgate for Chair. Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to nominate Chair Imus. One member voted for Member Holgate, and four members voted for Chair Imus. Chair Imus was elected by majority vote to be the Chair in FY2014.

Community Outreach Report

Erin Taylor, Community Outreach Coordinator explained her outreach work over the last two months, including the Week of the Young Child as one of the biggest outreach efforts with proclamation readings at meetings of the Mohave County Board of Supervisors, the Hualapai Tribal Council, and other area government entities. Coordinator Taylor spoke about working with the Hualapai Youth Council to lead them through the proclamation process and allow them to spearhead the project and present their work to Tribal Council. There were also several stories in local publications about the impact of First Things First in the Hualapai area.

Coordinator Taylor will be participating in the End of School Year Youth Conference scheduled May 28-31, 2013, with forty participants expected. “How to Build A Movement” will be the topic of the session.

Coordinator Taylor is also planning an article on the Native Language Preservation project when the books are developed.

Regional Director’s Update

Director Pascual reviewed First Things First strategy participation statewide, including the school readiness indicators throughout the West Regional Area, and illustrating how the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council focus parallels those of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council, as well as other west regional partnership councils.

Director Pascual reviewed upcoming events, including the next grantee coordination meeting scheduled in Kingman in August; and a Family, Friends and Neighbors Workshop event in Parker on May 22. The next regional partnership council meeting will be held on June 12.

CEO Allvin noted the topic of the pre-summit is going to be on systems building, with a video presentation from Peter Senge who wrote The Fifth Discipline, and ending with an interactive workshop by The Waters Foundation. Information on registration for the Summit will be available May 15.

Vice Chair Hunter thanked CEO Allvin for all of her involvement – especially with the tribal consultation – and wished her good luck in her endeavors in Washington, D.C.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council will be June 12, 2013.

Adjourn

Chair Imus adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

Reverend Pete Imus, Chair