



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board
Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes for June 16th, 2008,

Council Members in attendance

Patty Cook
Melissa Madrid
Priscilla Foote, Chair
Byron Donahue
Duane Johns, Vice Chair
Pamela Johnson
Arle Beeson
Sister Martha

First Things First Staff

Cathy Thornton- Gila River Indian Community Regional Coordinator
Ana Garcia -Region C Administrative Assistant
Dr DJangi – Regional Manager Region C

Consultant

Aleena M. Hernandez

Public

2 members of the public were present

Call to order

Meeting called to order by the Regional Council Chair Priscilla Foote at 5:51 PM.

Invocation by Regional Council Member Sister Martha

Call to Public

No public comments

Consent Agenda

Regional Council Chair Priscilla Foote wanted the correction to paragraph:

Under system coordination Section III G-Public Information & Awareness Item #2 to read “Intranet can only be accessed by tribal employees”

Motioned by Regional Council member Donahue, seconded by Regional Council member Cook to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the correction. Motion carried no objections

Roberts Rules of Order Presentation

Presentation done By Regional Vice Chair Johns regarding Parliamentary Procedures and effective meeting skills. Presentation included:

- Meeting Manners
- Time is valuable
- Making meetings matter
- Which rules are used
- When do we use the rules
- Meeting myth busters
- Informal meeting manners
- Formal meeting manners
- All meeting manners
- Keeping perspective

Discussion on Regional Needs and Assets Report

Regional Coordinator Cathy Thornton gave recap of last meeting’s discussion regarding collecting data and writing a memo to the Education Advisory Committee regarding the community assessment.

When Regional Coordinator Thornton spoke with Ms. Pat Foster regarding presenting the report to the Education Advisory Committee. Ms. Foster expressed concern that a step was missed by not obtaining specific permission from Tribal Council regarding collecting data. Ms Thornton asked for guidance from the Regional Council on how this issue should be handled. What steps does the Council feel should be taken regarding this issue? Regional Council member Beeson asked if there was a specific area where Ms. Foster felt a step had been missed and suggested that maybe she should give clarification. Regional Council Member Johnson also suggested getting clarification from the Education Advisory Committee.

Regional Council Chair Foote noted that no specific permission was asked for when the presentation and documentation were given to the Tribal Council but that the intent was obvious. She further asked that a document be drafted so that approval can be obtained as to not have any further delays. The document should cover all the agencies that will be involved and have this document as an umbrella for future data gathering exercises. Regional Council Consultant Hernandez suggested that a list of all data sources be incorporated in the document along with a copy of the template and survey.

Regional Council member Beeson questioned who would ultimately sign off on the document.

Dr. DJangi voiced a few concerns:

When the tribe voted to be a separate region it was understood that they approved what needed to be done

Have a process or procedure that would be Tribal Proprietary

Time line will be crucial for the next few weeks. By June 30th all data should already be gathered.

Regional Council member Beeson questioned whether there was a document with the Tribal Council's approval. If the Tribal Council voted on a resolution a copy should be requested. As far as he understood , all the approvals have been verbal.

Regional Council member Johnson stated that it is her belief that a resolution was approved so she would contact the Tribal Council on June 17th to obtain a copy of this document.

Regional Council member Johnson will speak to the Governor or Lt. Governor regarding this issue and if necessary obtain a letter to clarify the Tribal Council's position.

Regional Vice Chair Johns stated that another option would be to be placed on the agenda so that approval could be obtained.

Regional Council Member Beeson questioned whether the letter needs to be approved by the Education Advisory Committee.

Regional Vice Chair Johns responded that it is his belief that the letter can go directly to the Tribal Council.

Regional Chair Foote stated that Plan "A" would be for Regional Council Member Johnson to take the letter to the Governor and try to get it signed and if that is not approved to be placed on the Tribal Council's Agenda as plan "B".

Regional Council Member Beeson motioned to draft a letter for Regional Council Member Johnson to take to the Governor for approval. Regional Council Member Sister Martha seconded. Motion carried no objections.

After lengthy discussion it is the Council's intent to have the letter be concise and it should cover all departments and agencies that deal with families and children so that the intent is clear. It should include the template and survey per Regional Consultant Hernandez' suggestion.

Discussion and possible adoption of Parent/Community Survey

Regional Consultant Hernandez gave overview of presented survey.

Survey trying to meet the 2 priority needs that the Council chose to focus on at the first meeting, and to follow the template.

First set of questions

1. Who are we serving?
2. Demographics
3. Who uses it, needs it?
4. What type of child care do they use?
5. Funding
6. How many hours?
7. Cost out of pocket. How much? How often?
8. Child care out of the Reservation
9. Likes and dislikes
10. Challenges
11. Quality issues
12. Barriers
13. Awareness of what is available
14. Getting a sense of awareness
15. What they value regarding child care and are they getting it?

16. Getting recommendations from them on what they feel is needed

Regional Consultant Hernandez asked for feed-back regarding length of survey.

Should some of the questions be deleted?

Locations for conducting surveys

Incentives for participation: Wal-Mart card, gas card etc.

Regional Council Member Sister Martha stated that she would not remove any questions but maybe would change wording on certain questions.

These are some of the changes she would like:

Question 12 What are your expectations regarding child care?

Question 8 If you have been refused child care, what was the reason? Are you on a waiting list?

Regional Council Member Beeson asked who will conduct the survey. His opinion is that a community member would be better to promote confidence for the participants

Dr Djangi stated that the baseline for data collection should be done by June 30th, 2008. But, more realistically data will likely be gathered for the next 12 months. All the information cannot be collected by the dead line but with the information that we will have it will give a base line for what will be needed.

Questions with corrections should read:

Question 12. What can the community do to improve programs and services for children 0-3 and their families?

Question 9. What child care services are you familiar with for families with children under the age of 3 in your community? Other than what you have already described, what services do you and your family use?

Question 10 As a parent, what is most important about your child's health and growth?

Question 11 Does your childcare provider provide care that supports what you feel is most important for your child's health and growth?

Question 8 What makes it difficult to receive child care assistance from the community?

As an example: Financial Assistance, availability, etc.

Regional Council Member Sister Martha questioned whether the children in the community need to be enrolled in the community. Regional Council Member Madrid clarified that only one parent needs to be enrolled, but that the enrolled parent needs to sign all required documents for the child.

Regional Council Member Beeson stated that the enrollment department put out a report that 1200 children are being serviced this covers approx. 400 families that would definitely need to be contacted and surveyed.

Regional Consultant Hernandez pointed out that the survey might be taken to the district for the families to participate.

Regional Council Member Donahue motioned to approve the Parent Survey with all the above mentioned corrections.

Regional Council Member Johnson seconded. Motion carried no objections.

Funding Process Presentation

Regional Council Coordinator Thornton gave presentation regarding Funding, highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Building blocks to a Funding Plan
- The Funding Process is a Marathon not a Sprint

- The Foundation Needs and Assets
- The Framework Goals
- Determining Progress System Measures
- How we Achieve Success: Strategies
- Regional Priorities
- Regional Priorities: The Funding Plan
- Pulling it all together
- Road Ahead: Our Timeline:
 - Needs and Assets through end of September
 - Prioritize Goals through October
 - Choose Measures end of October
 - Develop Strategies end of November
 - Finalize Funding Plan through December

Dr Djangi gave brief description of Discretionary Funds:

State Board will be deciding at the June 24th and 25th State Board meeting how these funds will be allocated. They represent approximately 20%. Allocation will be done according to community numbers. First Things First website has all pertinent information regarding this issue.

Dr DJangi suggested to the Council members to start thinking about how the Council would like to spend these funds. Sustainability will be crucial to the State Board when they consider how the funds will be spent. Report from the State Board regarding this issue will be provided to this Regional Council as soon as it becomes available.

Update on Vacancies

2 positions open. Regional Vice Chair Johns has been working diligently on 1 potential candidate. He gave a brief description on the candidates that would be applying for the Philanthropic vacancy. Candidate serve on the Casino Board at the present time. This organization donates up to 8% of their revenue to organizations, per the gaming compact between the State of Arizona and the Gila River Indian Community.

Regional Council Member Beeson voiced a concern that money raised through this venue might be viewed as “double dipping”. Regional Council Member Johnson expressed that the Philanthropy vacancy should be filled by someone that would have the ability to raise funds outside of the community.

Dr. DJangi stated that every seat that is filled the goal is to have someone that will be able to provide knowledge and expertise to the Council.

Article for the GRIN

Regional Coordinator Thornton updated the Council on the article that will be published. Regional Council Member Byler and Coordinator Thornton have been working on the article and Regional Coordinator Thornton will be e-mailing the final draft to the Council Members June 17th. Dr Djangi suggested that a picture of the Regional Council accompany the article.

Regional Council Member Beeson asked for information regarding how potential candidates can apply for the seat vacancies. Regional Coordinator Thornton will furnish all necessary information to anyone interested.

Preparation for next meeting

Dates for next meeting:

July 8th 2008 @ 5:30 PM

Location: GRTI Building

Regional Coordinator Thornton will furnish directions to everyone before the meeting

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned @ 7:45 PM

SUBMITTED BY:

Ana Garcia AA III

Approved:

Priscilla Foote, Regional Council Chair