



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**  
*The right system for bright futures*



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health  
Gila River Indian Community

Meeting Minutes July 8, 2008 Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council Meeting

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**Council Members in attendance**

Melissa Madrid, Priscilla Foote, Chair, Byron Donahue, Reyna Byler, Arlie Beeson, Duane Johns, Vice Chair, Pamela Johnson, Pat Foster

**First Things First Staff**

Cathy Thornton Gila River Indian Community Regional Coordinator  
Yolanda Adams Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Coordinator  
Dr. Ahmad Djangi Central East Regional Manager  
Ana Garcia Central East Regional Administrative Assistant

**Public**

3 members of the public were present

**Call to order**

Meeting called to order by Regional Partnership Chair Priscilla Foote at approx. 5:45 PM.

Brief welcome to everyone by Regional Partnership Chair Priscilla Foote.  
Regional Council Chair Priscilla Foote further welcomed and recognized new Regional Council Member Ms. Pat Foster. Regional Council Member Foster gave a brief description of her credentials including: Director of Head Start program for the Gila River Indian Community since 1996. She has worked with children for many years: "my love for all the children is what drives my commitment to obtain a better quality of life for them."

**Invocation**

Invocation by Regional Council Member Arlie Beeson

**No Public Comment.**

**Consent Agenda**

Regional Vice Chair Duane Johns motioned to accept the minutes. Regional Council member Madrid seconded. Motion carried.

**Coordinators Update**

Regional Coordinator Thornton gave report on attending the Education Standing Committee (ESC). Regional Council Chair Priscilla Foote, Regional Council members Johnson and Foster also attended.

Regional Council Chair Foote indicated that she reported to the ESC that the Needs and Assets report is in the process of being done. She also described the project and the data collecting. What protocols needed to be met: memo to the Governor, forwarded to the legal department who in turn deferred it to the Education Standing Committee.

She further reported that the meeting went well, and suggested the data collection continue up until the Tribal Council meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Regional Coordinator Thornton suggested that all Regional Council Members attend the Tribal Council meeting to show their support. Regional Council Chair Foote will be presenting to the Tribal Council. Regional Council member Johnson will be unable to attend.

Regional Council Coordinator Thornton distributed a hand out about the time lines to RPC members followed by brief description of the time line. All dead-lines dates were explained.

Discussion on whether or not the minutes from the upcoming Tribal Council Meeting will be sufficient to give programs to show the GRIC RPC has approval to collect data. Vice Chair Johns suggested having a memo already prepared so that the Tribal Council could approve it. Regional Council Chair indicated that no memo was included with the packet that was submitted to the Tribal Council.

Dr. DJangi indicated that in his opinion it would not be appropriate to ask the Tribal Council to sign any memo at that time. Protocols need to be followed. Council members concurred.

Regional Council members' discussion on time line.

From the time that the report is delivered to Dr. DJangi, he will review and try to get the report with his comments to the Regional Partnership Council approx 24-28 hrs. Regional Council Member Beeson asked if Regional Coordinator Thornton would be doing all the coordination pertaining to the report. He further volunteered to assist Regional Coordinator Thornton. Regional Council Member Beeson further expressed appreciation to Regional Coordinator Thornton for getting clarification on what FTF is really about. Who is going to make it happen and who is going to be responsible for the tasks ahead? Regional Coordinator Thornton indicated that everyone will be responsible and again she referred to the time line tool.

Dr. DJangi pointed out that as soon as the Regional Partnership Council agrees with the report, priorities will be addressed, and based on the report certain priorities might change. There will be a need for a comprehensive plan for the next 5 years.

Regional Council member Beeson inquired as to whether RPC members could obtain time off from their jobs to attend and to devote time to the Regional Council work, and whether a letter could be written from FTF to the Tribal Council regarding time off. Dr DJangi addressed the question explaining that FTF would not be able to write the letter but the Regional Partnership Council could write a letter and give it to the Tribal Council.

Regional Council Member Foster indicated that it is her understanding that there is Tribal policy in place already that addresses employee involvement in volunteer work outside their scope of daily work. She further explained that this policy might fall under "implied permission" since the work that the Regional Council does is related to their work improving the community.

Regional Council Member Johns requested a break in order to have dinner. Meeting broke at 7:04 PM  
Meeting called back to order at 7:24 PM by Council Chair Priscilla Foote.

### **Updates**

Regional Council Vice Chair Johns spoke with a possible candidate about the Philanthropic vacant seat. RPC Vice Chair indicated he would continue to pursue this individual to assist him completing an application.

Regional Council Member Beeson indicated that he also has a potential candidate. He will make a personal contact and will try and get the application from the potential candidate.

General discussion from all the Regional Council members regarding Educational Outreach, District meetings, Community meetings.

Community collaboration on Needs and Assets report will be of utmost importance. Community members identified as important; Leaders/program directors, elders, etc. Discussions will include:

- What their vision is for GRIC
- What they see as problematic in the community
- Solutions to problems

Some of the suggestions for community outreach were: Parent Outreach Conference held on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2008. Health Advisory Committee, Head Start Program orientation for parents, Head Start Elders, Regional Council Members sphere of influence.

Presentations given to the community and different agencies should have consistent and uniform messages. Regional Council Member Beeson suggested that Regional Coordinator attend all presentations with the Regional Council members in the future. Mr. Beeson further stated that between himself and Regional Council Member Foster, they probably have 100s of pictures of children that could be used for needs and assets final report.

Dr DJangi clarified that FTF will have to have a copy of the consent form that was generated by FTF of any picture that is used. Regional Council member Beeson suggested that the time was right to do as much outreach into the community as possible since everyone is so excited about the project.

Next meeting July 23rd @ 5:30 PM

Location: Health Resource Center across from the Girls and Boys Club District #6 Cathy will give address to everyone before the meeting. This will be a "Pot Luck" meeting. Everyone will bring a dish.

### **Adjourn**

Regional Council Vice Chair Johns motioned to adjourn. Regional Council Member Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried no objections. Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**Ana Garcia AA III**

**Approved:**

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**Priscilla Foote, Regional Council Chair**