



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

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

## Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome

The regular meeting of the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on August 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Department in Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

## Members Present

Candida Hunter, Chair; Darren Hudak, Vice Chair; Zavier Benson; Omaovensí Coochwytewa; Charlene Imus; Reverend Pete Imus; Sandra Irwin; Dr. Anthony Perkins  
Barbara Tinhorn participated telephonically

## Member Absent

Lucille Watahomigie

Chair Hunter called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed new member Zavier Benson. Chair Hunter took roll to document the members present and on the phone.

## Possible Approval of July 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Reverend Imus made a motion to approve the July 9, 2014 meeting minutes. Member Irwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Call to the Public

There were no responses to the call to the public.

## Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements and Reports

Reverend Imus spoke briefly about the West Regional New Member Orientation, and Member Tinhorn stated she found the orientation very informative.

## Possible Approval of 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment

Regional Director Ashley Pascual reviewed the timeline and gave a brief overview of the actions taken during the Needs and Assets Assessment process. Violeta Dominguez, a Research Scientist with the University of Arizona, Norton School, confirmed the newest regional council members were familiar with the purpose of the report, then provided a brief background of the work to date. Ms. Dominguez stated the demographic information is obtained from the U.S. Census, other public agencies and Tribal departments. She highlighted new information that has been included in the report, such as healthy weight/obesity data, oral health data and immunization data. The report also includes data gathered through a parent/caregiver survey conducted in the region. Special attention was given to the School Readiness Indicators chosen by the regional council. Senior Director Gary Arnold inquired about an after-action report, and Ms. Dominguez advised there would be a white paper provided to report on best practices. Referencing the health data in the report, Reverend Imus requested Director Pascual invite Connie Hunter from the Peach Springs Unified School District to the next meeting to discuss the school's successful new program incorporating fruits and vegetables into children's diets. Director Pascual requested regional council members provide final feedback by August 14, 2014. Reverend Imus made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment as a final draft, with permission to allow staff to continue working with the

contracted vendor to conduct minor editing prior to submitting to the State Board by September 1. Member Hudak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **FTF Grantee Spotlight: Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program**

Vivian Sue Parker, Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program Coordinator, introduced the new Maternal Child Health Advocate, Roxanne Rodriguez. Ms. Parker presented information about the Parents as Teachers curriculum the program employs with families. The curriculum's eight home visits enable staff to connect with families on many levels to discover strengths and set goals. The program has promoted several recent events to encourage healthier choices, with more planned to continue working to build partnerships with parents. There was some discussion about the target service number of thirty families served, and grant-funding remaining as a result of serving only fourteen at this time; however, Ms. Parker discussed the staffing noted the focus is on quality, not quantity.

#### **Discussion on Grantee Data and Fiscal Updates**

Director Pascual advised Attachment 3 is unavailable since the data report was not finalized by the Evaluation division; instead, she shared grantee narrative report information.

Director Pascual reviewed the FY2014 financial expenditures and noted grantees have 45 days after the end of the fiscal year to finalize reimbursement requests. The overall expenditure rate is projected to be approximately 75%.

Director Pascual reviewed the FY2015 contracts, which include Quality First, a full twelve-month grant for the native language strategy, the home visitation strategy and a reduced food security grant. Member Tinhorn inquired about the unused funding for TEACH scholarships, and Director Pascual explained these funds from FY2014 would become part of next year's (FY2016) allocation.

#### **SFY2016-2018 Strategic Planning Discussion**

Director Pascual provided an update on the State Board fiscal policy decisions, as outlined in Attachment 5. Following the presentation of the decisions, there was some discussion surrounding non-funded approaches, such as the recent Hualapai Kids' Health Fair used as an example. These partnerships with community organizations offer additional opportunities to provide services without expending funds.

Director Pascual then provided an update on the State Board program and policy decisions, as outlined in Attachment 6, including the separation of Quality First programs from Quality First scholarships, the addition of incentives for rating only sites, and the requirement to pursue cost efficiencies and continuous quality improvement.

Director Pascual reviewed the strategic planning framework and the school readiness indicators prioritized by the regional council. Director Pascual reviewed the next steps, which include inviting neighboring regional directors to present on September 10; a presentation to Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness staff on September 4; and scheduling a meeting with Head Start staff, all to compile information for the Regional Partnership Council to consider in developing the next funding plan. Member Irwin mentioned a past survey completed by Northern Arizona University that may help during the planning process, and expressed the need for a place for families to learn social skills before entering Head Start. Member Irwin mentioned the process for requesting tribal financial support, as well.

#### **Parent Awareness and Community Outreach Report**

Erin Taylor, Community Outreach Coordinator provided a flyer from the Gamyu highlighting the recent Mother Daughter Retreat, which included an early literacy activity. Coordinator Taylor also informed the regional council that she had participated in the Back to School Bash and the My Kid Your Kid event, where Dr. Perkins shared information about the Pride and Tutoring programs the school has developed to build up students. Coordinator Taylor announced there are public service announcements planned on The Peach radio station.

#### **Regional Director's Report**

Director Pascual shared that the newly named Communications and Public Affairs Division is conducting interviews for the Senior Director of Tribal Affairs position, the Communications Coordinator and the Government Liaison position. She noted that the entire Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council would be attending the Summit, with both Dr. Perkins and Reverend Imus presenting during sessions.

Director Pascual reviewed upcoming events, including the Early Childhood Coordination meeting in Parker on September 3.

#### **Next Meeting**

Chair Hunter checked in with the Regional Partnership Council members regarding the new meeting time. Consensus remained for the 3:00pm meeting time.

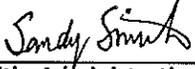
The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Peach Springs School District.

**Adjourn**

Chair Hunter adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



---

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant



---

Candida Hunter, Chair