



# 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**

The meeting of the First Things First – Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on September 5, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Community Center.

Dr. Reed called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Members Present: Dr. Michael Reed, Vice Chair; Paul Soto; Gina Nierenhausen; Patricia R. Weissenberg; Rev. Deal Begay; Christie Stevens; Ines Pampara; H. Jill McCormick, Chair (Present via conference call)

Members Excused: Cristina Solorzano

## **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

Dr. Reed 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 August 15, 2012 Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes**

Member Soto moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2012, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Begay, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

## **Discussion on FY2012 Home Visitation Data Report**

Regional Director Ashley Pascual provided a brief update on the 2012 Home Visitation Data Report. A total of 25 families were served for FY2012 and 9 families disenrolled from the Early Steps Program. The report also stated 3 families transitioned to other programs, 5 families opted to discontinue services and one was disenrolled due to unable to contact. Approximately 15-18 clients are still enrolled and have not received services from the program due to the vacancy. The Regional Council was concerned the position may have a high turnover and as a result leaves families without services. The annual Regional Partnership Council Member survey results were also reviewed by the Regional Council.

## **Chairs and Vice Chairs Leadership Forum**

Dr. Reed provided an update on the Arizona Early Childhood Summit attended by the Regional Council in August. He stated that one of the topics discussed at the Chair/Vice Chair Leadership Forum was the amount of monies received as well as monies spent and duration of projected incoming revenue. Members Soto and Nierenhausen also shared their thoughts on the summit mentioning the wide choice of sessions available at the summit.

### **Community Outreach and Awareness**

It was the consensus of the Regional Council to proceed with the Community Outreach and Awareness plan. The plan will serve as an outline of community events where First Things First will be represented, as requested by the Regional Council. Regional Director Pascual will communicate with Ana Corpus, Cocopah Tribe Public Relations Spokesperson, and share the vision and mission of First Things First as requested by Member Soto.

### **FY2014 Funding Plan Development**

The 3 year strategic plan was reviewed by the Regional Council. Parent Outreach and Awareness is a new strategy in FY2013 with an allotment of \$11,674. The Regional Council would like to see adequate funding for the Home Visitation Early Steps Program. Regional Director Pascual explained that the Tribal Administration mentioned the challenge in finding qualified applicants for the program was due to the low salary of the position. The Regional Council also discussed cutbacks on other strategies, specifically the Parent Outreach and Awareness so that the Home Visitation strategy could be supported adequately. The FY2012 financial report was also reviewed by the Regional Council.

A special meeting was scheduled to be held on September 6, 2012 to discuss a funding change to the current FY2013 Funding Plan. Regional Director Pascual will present a proposed FY2014 plan to the Regional Council at the October 23, 2012 meeting.

Also discussed, was the ongoing collaboration with the Yuma region grantees; in particular, with First Smiles Yuma and the Association for Supportive Child Care-Kith & Kin Program. Partnering with another home visitation program in the Yuma region was also considered as a support to the Home Visitation-Cocopah Early Steps Program.

### **Second Read of Governance Policies**

The Regional Council reviewed the Governance Policy Manual. Member Soto moved to approve the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Governance Policy Manual. The motion was seconded by Member Pampara, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present

### **Director's Report**

A presentation on the school readiness indicators and benchmarks was provided at the August 2012 summit. Regional Director Pascual stated benchmarks have not been set for all of the indicators and that baseline data was not available for all of the indicators. The State Board allowed for time for First Things First staff to acquire the information needed before approving benchmarks for the indicators.

Regional Councils are encouraged to participate in a webinar by the Research and Evaluation Advisory Panel scheduled on September 11 and 12, 2012. The webinar will provide information on recommendations and the framework for evaluating First Things First programs.

First Things First has enlisted Quality Assurance staff to assist and ensure programs are implemented appropriately provide technical assistance as needed.

Ongoing efforts continue in order to fill the vacant seats in the Regional Council, which include the Philanthropic and Early Childhood Educator seats.

The FY2013 Parent Outreach and Awareness Strategy, including the community survey, was approved by the Tribal Administrator.

### **Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements**

Member Nierenhausen announced the Cocopah Pageant is scheduled to be on September 21, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cocopah RV Ballroom.

**Next Meeting**

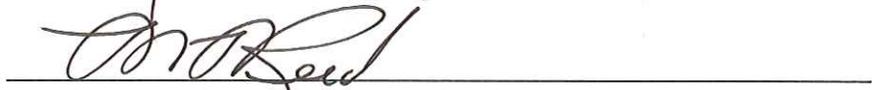
The Regional Council made the decision not to meet on November 7, 2012. Business items for November will be included in the October 23, 2012 regional council meeting. The next Regional Partnership Council Meeting will occur October 23, 2012, at 3:00 p.m., at the Cocopah Community Center.

**Adjournment**

Member Soto moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 p.m. The motion was seconded by Member Pampara, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.



Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III



Dr. Michael Reed, Vice Chair, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council