

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/Welcome

The regular meeting of the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on September 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Peach Springs Unified School District, 403 Diamond Creek Road, Peach Springs, Arizona 86434.

Members Present

Reverend Pete Imus, Chair; Candida Hunter, Vice Chair; Darren Hudak; Charlene Imus; Sandra Irwin; Dr. Anthony Perkins and Lucille Watahomigie

Members Excused

Joyce Holgate

Chair Imus called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

There was consensus to rearrange items on the agenda in order to discuss action items first.

Possible Approval of Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Member Irwin noted clarification of correct staff titles needed under the funding plan discussion. Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to approve the August 14, 2013, Regular Meeting minutes with the requested minor change. Member Irwin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Overview Presentation on the 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment Plan

Dr. Michele Walsh, Assistant Research Professor at University of Arizona's Norton School spoke briefly regarding the scope of the needs and assets assessment. The general scope is the same for all regions: to provide an overview of families and children in the region and look in depth to determine their needs, as well as to identify the considerable strengths of the area. Dr. Walsh noted that this is only a starting point to assist the Regional Partnership Council in its collaboration with stakeholders to make a positive difference in the community.

Violeta Dominguez, Research Assistant at University of Arizona's Norton School, spoke about the data sources that would be used, including the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and the United States Census Bureau. Ms. Dominguez discussed the importance of obtaining supplemental data from Hualapai Tribal agencies.

Regional Director Ashley Pascual reported that she presented to Hualapai Tribal Council on September 6, 2013 and the Tribal Council approved moving forward with the needs and assets assessment, allowing data collection, including the Family Community Survey (FCS).

Dr. Walsh added that the team will conduct key informant interviews to get descriptions of services currently being offered to identify assets and needs. The team will work closely with Director Pascual and request feedback from Regional Partnership Council members to identify priority areas, agencies and individuals.

Regarding the FCS, past surveys were phone based, but First Things First has allocated additional funding from the State budget to enable the survey to be conducted face-to-face in tribal regions. Ms. Dominguez reviewed the recommended script and noted the recommended sample size is 93 parents. Dr. Walsh and Ms. Dominguez explained the standard questions for use in tribal regions, and other questions may be added to some extent; however, changing questions is not an option as a major focus is establishing baselines for the School Readiness Indicators. Following additional discussion, the consensus was to add three questions: 1) how many languages are spoken in the home, as well as ideas for preserving and revitalizing Hualapai language use; 2) has the family utilized First Things First funded programs, like the Maternal Child Health program; and 3) did the family receive prenatal care, and if so, where.

Ms. Dominguez requested direction on how best to approach the community with the survey; whether to utilize local community members to conduct the survey as individuals or groups, and whether to conduct the survey inside the homes or in another setting.

Director Pascual noted that, based on questions from the Hualapai Tribal Council, it is recommended that resource information be provided to families if appropriate during the survey. Member Irwin suggested printing out and providing the updated Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Department website, and Vice Chair Hunter suggested using the resource guide that was recently approved by Hualapai Tribal Council. Member Watahomigie suggested holding a community dinner to encourage survey participation.

Member Watahomigie made a motion to have the University of Arizona's Norton School enhance the survey with the additional questions and bring back to the Regional Partnership Council for final review prior to the survey being conducted. Member Irwin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Possible Approval of Governance Policies

Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to approve the current version of the governance policies. Member Hudak seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Early Childhood Collaboration - Conversation on Screening and Referrals

Member Perkins reviewed the algorithm developed by the Hualapai Health Department in 2010. He suggested the Regional Partnership Council collaborate with the Peach Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) and the PSUSD's Special Education Director, Beth Ferry. A to Z Therapies is the new AzEIP provider in the region, and the Indian Health Service's public health nurse should be making referrals to them if milestones are not being met as newborns and infants undergo periodic checks. Child Find is a way to provide information about identification of developmental disabilities to the community, and this could be through posters, literature and the Gamyu. The participants in this process include the Indian Health Service; Head Start; PSUSD's Child Find; Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Department; and Hualapai Human Services. One idea to promote the process would be a public health fair with all agencies attending, along with A to Z Therapies there to provide screenings. Members mentioned when the new child care facility opens it will be a good place to screen younger children before they reach Head Start age. Another concern expressed by Regional Council Members is getting help for children who do not meet the 50th percentile threshold to qualify for AzEIP services.

Senior Director Gary Arnold added there are currently two regions in the West regional area (La Paz/Mohave and Yuma) that are successfully implementing home visitation programs to provide parents other tools to assist them in working with their children if they do not qualify for AzEIP services. It would be up to the Regional Partnership Council to consider adding a similar program, or adapting the current program, as part of a subsequent funding plan.

Chair Imus noted the first community conversation surrounding this subject is scheduled to occur directly after the Regional Council meeting.

Presentation and Discussion FY2013 Strategy Outcomes

Director Pascual reviewed the final FY2013 data for all the Hualapai Tribe strategies. Vice Chair Hunter inquired about the missing home visitation strategy data and Director Pascual explained that it was due to that staff person resigning prior to the reporting deadline. Director Pascual will work with the Health Education and Wellness Department to provide completed data to assist the Regional Partnership Council in future decisions regarding that strategy.

Regional Director's Report

Director Pascual reviewed the FY2013 contract detail report which indicated almost 90% of the funding awarded was expended.

Director Pascual also reviewed the FY2014 contract detail report showing the first deliverables that have been paid out and received by the Hualapai Tribe financial department.

Director Pascual thanked the members who attended the Summit, and she asked for any suggestions she can take back to the committee planning for next year. Member Hudak stated he felt the tribal related sessions were well put together and well presented, and would like even more in the future. Chair Imus thought the opening speakers were great, the videos shared were insightful, and he liked that the tribal gathering was during the day. Senior Director Arnold complimented Chair Imus for his participation in the panel discussion. Member Perkins appreciated the open dialogue session with Interim Chief Executive Officer Sam Leyvas and State Board Chairman Steve Lynn.

Director Pascual reported that Hualapai Tribal Council Vice Chair Watahomigie attended last month's Regional Partnership Council meeting, as well as the Tribal Consultation on August 15 in Phoenix.

Director Pascual referred to the meeting materials and reviewed the list of upcoming events.

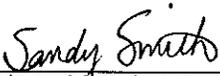
Community Outreach Coordinator Erin Taylor reported that there will be an article about oral health tips for young children in an upcoming issue of the Gamyu. Coordinator Taylor noted she will be participating in an Indian Days planning meeting, and she is also collaborating with the school on the cultural resources fair. Member Watahomigie requested that more information be provided to the community. Coordinator Taylor does make every effort to submit informational articles to the Gamyu to get the word out to the community. Chair Imus requested that in the future approved minutes be posted in the Gamyu.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to adjourn. Member Perkins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chair Imus adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant II



Reverend Pete Imus, Chair