



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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

Call to Order

The meeting of the First Things First – Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on **September 14, 2011** at 9:00 a.m. at the Cultural Resources Center, 880 Highway 66, Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

Chair Irwin called the meeting to order at 9:21a.m.

Members present: Chair Sandra Irwin, Lucille Watahomigie, Helen J. Watahomigie, Charlene Imus, Candida Hunter, Joyce Holgate, Scott Dunsmore

Members Excused: Vice Chair Pete Imus, Madelena Cesspooch

Address Potential Conflicts of Interest Regarding Items on the Agenda

No Regional Council Member expressed a conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Member Hunter made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2011. Member H. Watahomigie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by members present.

Call to the Public

There were no responses for the Call to the Public.

First Things First Grantee Updates

a. Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program

Jennifer Pope, R.N., gave an update on the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program (MCH). Nurse Pope stated the MCH program is still working with Bright Start and all the available slots are full. One child did graduate the program and the slot was filled with another child. Nurse Pope explained MCH is also still working with Hualapai Social Services. Referrals are still being made to Milemarkers Therapy for children to receive treatment. MCH held a health fair with an emphasis on breastfeeding. Nurse Pope and her colleague with MCH attended the First Things First Arizona Early Childhood Summit in August. Nurse Pope informed the Regional Partnership Council MCH will be sponsoring a cradleboard contest during Hualapai Indian Days. MCH worked with a car seat giveaway program. MCH is also continuing to give out the Baby Baskets, and they will be applying for another incentive for baby supplies from National Relief Charities. MCH will be doing ASQ3 Screenings at the Head Start later in September.

b. Emergency Infant Formula Assistance Program

Nurse Pope gave an update on the Emergency Infant Formula Assistance Program. Member Hunter inquired if there has been an increase in the number of mothers who are breastfeeding compared to last year due to MCH's emphasis on breastfeeding. Nurse Pope responded there has been an increase, and some of the moms are now utilizing breastfeeding for subsequent children. As a result, all the breast pumps MCH has received have been given out to moms in the community. Nurse Pope stated the increase in referrals indicates the community is becoming more aware of the Emergency Infant Formula Assistance Program and it is being utilized. A back up for referrals has been set up with another staff person shared between MCH and WIC.

c. Native Language Enrichment

Carrie Cannon from the Cultural Resources Department gave an update on the Native Language Enrichment program. Ms. Cannon explained that the proposal has goals written into it to be completed each month and quarter. The end of the first quarter is approaching at the end of September. To date, the Native Language Enrichment program has had two staff meetings with the department and a staff meeting with the Elders assisting on the program is scheduled for September 14. Ms. Cannon explained how the program is using the funds. Ms. Cannon informed the Regional Partnership Council there will be five bilingual books for the Head Start children, and she gave a breakdown of the topics being covered by the books: General Terms; Kinship Terms; Anatomy and Medical Terms; Animals, Environment and the Outdoor Terms; and Hualapai Lullabies. Ms. Cannon explained the Elder consultants have an extensive linguistic background, so they will have the best idea of how to utilize the books as learning tools. Ms. Cannon also explained that while the grant is set to fund 5 Elder consultants, the Native Language Enrichment program staff are looking to incorporate 6 Elders on a rotating basis to allow for a wider base of expertise and to allow for gender balance. Member Holgate inquired about the publisher for the books. Ms. Cannon explained the staff has received a proposal from a company in Texas that specializes in including audio recordings in the book; however, no publisher has been selected as of yet. The illustrations will be created by community members in house, which will save on costs. Member Holgate inquired about the possibility of making the books digital and available on the internet or CD-ROM. Ms. Cannon informed the Regional Partnership Council there is a possibility of making the books available on CD-ROM. Chair Irwin asked if the public would be able to buy the books as a way to continue to have funds. Ms. Cannon replied that has not been planned at this time. Member Hunter suggested putting it out to the community that the books are available as the families of children who belong to the Hualapai Tribe but attend school off the reservation would also be interested in the books. Ms. Cannon explained the staff would be doing a pre- and post survey to find out if the parents are reading to the children and to see if the books have had an impact on school readiness.

Member Dunsmore left the meeting at 9:34a.m.

Discussion and Debrief on Arizona Early Childhood Summit

Vice Chair Imus and Members Dunsmore, Holgate, Hunter, and Imus all attended the First Things First Arizona Early Childhood Summit. Member Holgate expressed approval with the session choices, and was especially interested in the representative from the Department of Education who addressed Early Learning Standards and she was able to make some good contacts with other colleagues in the state. Member Hunter stated she came back with many new ideas and thoughts and she was extremely impressed with Dr. Bartlett, the tribal session keynote speaker, as well. Member Imus enjoyed the Summit and made some suggestions for gathering different perspectives at the next Summit. Member Hunter was especially impressed by the session on childhood obesity, which gave her some new ideas for the community including the concept of a community garden. Member Hunter stated that at the Juvenile Detention center a community garden is a part of the work being completed at this time.

First Things First Update and Regional Council Member Recognition

Chief Executive Officer Rhian Allvin Evans acknowledged and thanked the Regional Partnership Council members for their support and the work done to show support during the vote last November. CEO Evans introduced First Things First Board Member Vivian Saunders who is a stalwart advocate for children. Board Member Saunders also thanked the Regional Partnership Council members for their dedication and service. CEO Evans recognized Beverly Russell, Senior Director for Tribal Affairs, and introduced Samuel Leyvas, Vice-President for Government Affairs. CEO Evans recognized Members Dunsmore, Imus, and Hunter for their one-year anniversary as volunteers for the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council. CEO Evans gave a brief update on the Statewide perspective of First Things First and expressed satisfaction with the success of the "Ready for School, Set for Life" campaign. CEO Evans informed the Regional Partnership Council of a new campaign being developed to begin in the spring that will center on the interest in Infant Brain Development. CEO Evans also gave an update on the Race to the Top Federal grant process of which First Things First is heavily involved. Discussion ensued regarding the Race to the Top grant campaign and its particulars and timeline.

First Things First Tribal Affairs Update

Senior Director Russell thanked the Regional Partnership Council members who attended the Tribal Pre-Gathering at the Summit as the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council members who attended were instrumental in providing feedback on tribal regions coming together across the state. Senior Director Russell informed the Regional Partnership Council members of different national conferences First Things First will have the opportunity to present at, including the National Indian Education Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Continued Discussion on SFY2013 Strategic Planning

Director Ashley Pascual gave a presentation on the continuing process for SFY2013 Strategic Planning. Director Pascual informed the Regional Partnership Council that the Board will set the Regional Funding Allocations based on population at the September Board meeting and at the last Board meeting the School Readiness Indicators were set and approved. Director Pascual also informed the Regional Partnership Council that the amount of carry-forward for SFY2011 to SFY2012 will be available and made known at the October 12, 2011, Regional Partnership Council meeting. Director Pascual presented a list of the assets of the community and a list of the needs of the community. Discussion ensued on the specificity of some of the needs listed, including the poverty level and unemployment. Discussion also ensued regarding the barriers surrounding continuing education for early childhood educators in the community. Concern over the seasonal nature of the community's main source of income-tourism-and its affect on unemployment, poverty, child care, and school attendance was noted. Chair Irwin asked for numbers regarding child abuse and the method used to gather the data. Director Pascual expressed the desire for this to be an ongoing discussion to help the Regional Partnership Council prioritize the needs of the community and decide on what to focus. Director Pascual gave an overview of the expended and unexpended monies for SFY2011 and an overview up allotted funds for SFY2012. Member Holgate inquired on the unexpended monies for T.E.A.C.H. scholarships. Director Pascual explained the unexpended monies showing for T.E.A.C.H. are the regional portion of T.E.A.C.H., not the statewide portion that exists within Quality First. Director Pascual furthered explained that the region was overcharged for T.E.A.C.H. last year, and the numbers reflect this. Director Pascual reminded the Regional Partnership Council of the upcoming Community Input Session being held that evening, September 14, 2011, to allow the community to come together to give feedback to help the Regional Partnership Council. Director Pascual informed the Regional Partnership Council a second Community Input Session will be held on September 21, 2011. Director Pascual asked the Regional Partnership Council members if they would like to see the first draft of the Strategic Plan before it goes before the Tribal Council. Member L. Watahomigie stated she believes the Regional Partnership Council members should see the first draft and the final draft is what should go before the Tribal Council. Member Hunter suggested submitting the first draft to the Tribal Council to get their feedback before the final draft is submitted. Chair Irwin agreed with Member Hunter.

Community Outreach Update

Community Outreach Coordinator Della Gray gave an update on the quarterly outreach she has accomplished. Coordinator Gray thanked the grantees who attended community events to represent First Things First and spread the word about the many ways First Things First is assisting the community. Coordinator Gray informed the Regional Partnership Council she is working with Director Pascual on arranging for the Big Check Tour. Coordinator Gray asked the Regional Partnership Council to inform her on any event they feel would be a good outlet for spreading the word of First Things First. Chair Irwin suggested the Health Department's Open House in October. It was suggested that Nurse Pope and Ms. Crook could represent First Things First at the Open House as well since they will be attending. Chair Irwin suggested contacting Mohave Mental Health or Southwest Behavioral Health Centers and gave the name of the Tribal liaison for those centers. Coordinator Gray informed the Regional Partnership Council of a parent guide being developed for the region that will be available on the First Things First website.

Regional Director Update

a. Financial Expenditures

Director Pascual gave an overview of the expended and unexpended monies for SFY2011 and an overview of allotted funds for SFY2012 during the discussion on Strategic Planning for SFY2013.

b. 2012 Needs and Assets Status Update

Director Pascual and Chair Irwin requested permission from the Tribal Council to begin gathering data for the 2012 Needs and Assets report. The Tribal Council approved the request with Resolution 60-2011, so the data collection may begin. Quorum was lost at 11:34a.m. when Member Holgate left the room. Quorum was resumed a minute later at 11:35a.m.

c. Regional Director Report

Director Pascual gave an update on the changes to the Quality First program. Director Pascual informed the Regional Partnership Council of the upcoming La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Strategic Planning Session on September 27, 2011, in Bullhead City. Director Pascual thanked the Regional Partnership Council members for attending the First Things First Early Childhood Summit.

Regional Partnership Council Member Updates and Announcements

There were no updates or announcements from Regional Partnership Council members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 9:00 a.m. on October 12, 2011 at Peach Springs Elementary School. Member Hunter mentioned she will not be able to participate in that meeting.

Adjourn

Member Hunter made a motion to adjourn. Member Imus seconded the motion. Chair Irwin adjourned the meeting at 11:41a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Approved by:

Julia Cosmano, Administrative Assistant II

Sandra Irwin, Chair