FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

# Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions**

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council took place on November 15, 2014 at the Tohono O'odham Nation Recreation Center Multipurpose room and Baboquivari Indian Oasis School Library, South of highway 86, Sells, Arizona 85634. The meeting was anticipated to be held at the Sells Education Center, but was not available and so the council met next door for the first 90 minutes and then across the street for the remainder of the meeting (noted). Chair Mildred Manuel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Members Present: Joseph Mease, Kymberlii Tenario, Jeanne Leon, Rose Lopez, Dr. Albert Adler, Cheryl Conde, and Mildred Manuel

Members Absent: Ella Begay

**Invocation**

Member Joseph Mease provided the invocation.

**Approval of October 11, 2014 Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by member Adler that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approve the minutes of the October 11, 2014 Regional Partnership Council meeting as presented, seconded by member Mease. Motion carried.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Chair Manuel introduced the agenda item and asked members to declare any conflicts they have. No members declared a conflict of interest.

**Call to the Public**

None at this time.

**Discussion and Possible Action: Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Grant Agreement GRA-RC026-14-0674-01 Quality First Child Care Scholarships with the Tohono O'odham Nation**

Chair Manuel introduced the item and turned the floor over to Regional Director Travis Le Duc. Mr. Le Duc provided the council members with an overview regarding the timeline and process of trying to complete the outstanding grant agreements with the Tohono O'odham Nation for Fiscal Year 2015. Members had specific questions regarding the lack of movement. Mr. Le Duc stated that these are questions for Director Hobbs and that the contracts are currently at the Attorney General's office. He further informed the council that a meeting was occurring November 20, 2014 between Tohono O'odham Nation leadership, two other First Things First staff and himself. He stated that the meeting has three main topics: First Things First has been implementing and its successes on the Tohono O'odham Nation, First Things First Public Private Partnership plan, and the ongoing discussions between the Tohono O'odham Nation and First Things First regarding data collection and research. Members asked more questions and determined they would like Dr. Adler of the regional council to also attend. Members asked about the Needs and Assets report, and Mr. Le Duc informed them that the delay was in two parts, First Things First changed and required first person data in the report for two of the school readiness indicators and the waiting for a determination by the Tohono O'odham Nation if the data collection request for the indicators will have to go before the Tohono O'odham Nation's Internal Review Board.

**Discussion and Possible Action: Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Grant Agreement GRA-RC026-14-0674-01 Quality First Child Care Scholarships with the Tohono O'odham Nation**

Chair Manuel introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Mr. Le Duc, who stated that the update was the same as the previous agenda item for this grant agreement, and asked for any further questions. A member had a question regarding if the planning department oversees amendments to the contract. Mr. Le Duc stated he could have a representative from the planning department attend a future meeting to provide an update on the status of the building in San Lucy. Members concurred they would like for that to occur.

**Needs and Assets Report Update**
Chair Manuel introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Mr. Le Duc, who stated that in addition to the update on the delay, the Regional council will have a draft of the report mailed to them in December. He reminded the members that the report was for their eyes only and not for public distribution until the final copy is approved by the Tohono O'odham Nation.

**Regional Director's Report**
Mr. Le Duc briefly went over the expenditure report and thanked Dr. Morris for her work in implementing the Quality First Child Care Scholarship Program at the Indian-Oasis Elementary School. He also thanked Fiscal Specialist Michael Strawther for his excellent work with grants and contracts on the Tohono O'odham Nation, announcing that he would now supporting the Central East Region and Russell Spencer was back supporting the Tohono O'odham Nation. He pointed out the community outreach report, which included a form to provide the coordinator with outreach opportunities. Members asked to be emailed a copy of the outreach form as well. Members then had a discussion on funding allocations and carry forward, and asked if a discussion on sustainability could be a part of the conversation on November 20th with Tohono O'odham Nation leadership, which Mr. Le Duc confirmed it could be discussed if the regional council wishes.

**Strategic Planning for SFY 2016-2018: Reflection and Discussion**
Chair Manuel turned the floor over to Mr. Le Duc who reviewed the strategies for the Fiscal Year 2015 Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan. Members asked questions about the strategies and their funding. Mr. Le Duc provided an explanation of each strategy and clarifications as needed. Member Conde and audience member Dr. Morris, Baboquivari Unified School District Superintendent, were called upon to provide explanation of the coaching and incentives received through Quality First.

*11:31-11:51* Meeting paused for 20 minutes and moved across the street to Indian-Oasis Elementary School, as the room was needed for another activity. Signs were put up to provide directions to any late-comers to the new location.

Quality First
A motion was made by member Conde that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approve the Quality First Strategy package for Fiscal Year 2016 for eight centers with an estimated funding allotment of $144,787 through an amendment to the statewide contracts. The Quality First package includes the following strategies for enrolled providers: Quality First Coaching and Incentives with an estimated allotment of $113,107, Child Care Health Consultation with an estimated allotment of $19,760, Specialized Technical Assistance with an estimated allotment of $4,400, and Quality First Academy with an estimated allotment of $7,520, seconded by member Adler. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Quality First Scholarships
A motion was made by member Adler that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $150,000 for Quality First Scholarships targeted at supporting 20 children at the B.U.S.D. early care and education program at Indian-Oasis Elementary School, seconded by Vice Chair Tenario. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Family Support Coordination
A motion was made by member Lopez that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $225,000 in support of Family Support Coordination for 90 families, seconded by member Mease. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education
A motion was made by member Adler that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $120,000 in support of 45 professionals in Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education, seconded by member Mease. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Expansion, Start-up and/or Capital Expense
A motion was made by member Leon that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $150,000 in support of expanding early care and education services for children by creating 20 additional slots, seconded by member Mease. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Communications

A motion was made by member Lopez that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $10,000 in support of the Community Awareness portion of the First Things First communications plan, seconded by member Leon. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

A motion was made by member Conde that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $80,000 in support of the Community Outreach portion of the First Things First communications plan, seconded by member Lopez. Motion failed by roll call vote, 3 in favor, 4 against.

Members engaged in discussion regarding opportunities for implementation of the communications plan. Members shared their opinions and concerns regarding the cost for a position, and the possibility of moving to a half time position. Chair Manuel called on Interim Senior Director Jessica Brisson to provide further information about opportunities for tailoring the work and to provide background on the council's previous attempts at having a half-time position in a large mostly rural area.

A motion was made by member Lopez that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $80,000 in support of the Community Outreach portion of the First Things First communications plan with the understanding the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Council will provide direction to the staff person, seconded by member Adler. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Tenario that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $5,000 in support of the Media portion of the First Things First communications plan, seconded by member Conde. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Statewide Evaluation

A motion was made by Member Mease that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for Fiscal Year 2016 allot $26,577 in support of First Things First Statewide Evaluation, seconded by member Leon. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

**Recommended Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Le Duc stated that the three items he heard during this meeting are: Update from the planning department regarding expansion, a presentation and direction setting session with Community Outreach Coordinator Aggie Hart, and a presentation by Baboquivari Unified School District. Members concurred and members added they would also like a Quality First Child Care presentation regarding children 0-2 years and 11 months old, and a Community of Practice participant. Mr. Le Duc concurred and said that timing wise it would be best to space out those multiple presentations over the first three months of the New Year.

**Call to the Public**

None at this time.

**Adjourn**

Chair Manuel adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:25p.m.

Submitted By _____
Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Mildred Manuel, Chair

Dated this 7 day of Feb, 2015.