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 scheduled on December 5, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. was relocated to the Cocopah Indian Housing and Development Office, 10488 Steamboat Street, Somerton, AZ 85350.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Members Present: H. Jill McCormick, Chair; Dr. Michael Reed, Vice Chair; Ines Pampara; Paul Soto; Patricia R. Weissenberg; Gina Nierenhausen; Rev. Deal Begay; Cristina Solorzano

Members Excused: Christie Stevens

Declarations of Conflict of Interest
Chair McCormick 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 October 23, 2012 Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes
Member Soto moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2012, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Nierenhausen, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Family, Friend and Neighbor Presentation
Association for Supportive Child Care Program Specialist, Rosy Taylor, shared a brief update on the ongoing trainings in the community. Ms. Taylor stated there are currently six families attending the trainings with graduation taking place on December 12, 2012. Included in the trainings is RIF (Reading is Fundamental) where participants receive one book per child. The Kith and Kin Project is provided in collaboration with the Yuma Regional Partnership Council.

FY2014 Funding Plan Recommendation
A review of the FY2014 Funding Plan final draft was provided by Regional Director Ashley Pascual. Dr. Reed moved to approve the FY2014 Funding Plan with the stipulation that the Regional Director make any necessary edits/embellishments to the funding plan as long as content is not impacted. The motion was seconded by Member Soto, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Discussion on Discretionary Funding
The Regional Council discussed some of the topics stemming from the October 2012 Chair and Vice Chair Forum regarding the Discretionary Funding. Director Pascual reviewed the discretionary fund, and

the policy set by the Board regarding withholding drawdown allotments at this time. Discussion was held, and the Regional Council made the following recommendations:

- Set caps at each level and for each Regional Council, to avoid competition between regions
- Use to warrant sufficient funding for regions to take strategies (to scale) (i.e. Cocopah's home visitation strategy – funding for more than one staff member is needed)
- Support coordination with Public Schools, Head Start, Pre-K, Early Head Start, all Education decision-makers, and the Regional Councils (education system)
- Support coordination between regions (capacity-building)
- If looking at funding for research, have community-level input (including parents and local government)
- Allow funding to be used for getting an idea turned in to plan and then taking action (building capacity)
- Prioritize the full education and care spectrum, "from ground, up." Help regions "break barriers" for providing care to the birth to three population (Access)
- Support the low population count idea

Director's Report

Regional Director Pascual provided a brief review of the FY2013 Financial Expenditures which included a breakdown of expenditures for the Statewide Evaluation, Food Security, Home Visitation, Parent Outreach and Awareness and Quality First Strategies. A review of the Research and Evaluation Plan for 2013-2017 was presented to the Regional Council.

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements

Member Nierenhausen announced the Annual Christmas Children's Festival, Saturday, December 8, 2012, Cocopah Community Center. Chair McCormick announced the Regional Council will meet with the Tribal Chairwoman on a regular basis in an effort to maintain communication and convey any local Regional Council and First Things First information and activity.

Next Meeting

The Regional Council will not meet in January, other than for an optional, informational meeting set for January 7, 2013. The next Regional Partnership Council Meeting will occur February 6, 2013, at 3:00 p.m., at the Cocopah Community Center.

Adjournment

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Marie Megui

Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

Jill McCormick

H. Jill McCormick, Chair, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council