



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

### 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 **November 10th, 2010** at 9:00 a.m. at the Hualapai Health Department, 960 Rodeo Way, Peach Springs, AZ.

Vice Chair Imus called the meeting to order at 9:22a.m.

#### Members present:

Rev. Pete Imus, Shelly Bachison, Helen J. Watahomigie, Candida Hunter, Charlene Imus, Lucille Watahomigie, Scott Dunsmore

Members Excused: Sandra Irwin, Penny Renfro

Members Absent: Cheryl Beecher

#### **Approval of October 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Member Hunter moved to approve the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting minutes. Member H. Watahomigie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the members present.

#### **Call to the Public**

There were no responses for the Call to the Public.

#### **Address Potential Conflicts of Interest Regarding Items on the Agenda**

No members expressed a conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda.

#### **Executive Director's Update**

First Things First (FTF) Executive Director Rhian Evans Allvin addressed the Regional Council and thanked them for having her. Director Allvin briefly outlined her background with FTF and advised the Regional Council there are 3 primary issues she is focusing on.

They are:

1. The tone and culture of FTF and who we are as an organization, including technology infrastructure.
2. Governance structure and the Regional Council model based on Smart Start of North Carolina.
3. Building a culture that's investing in young children or educating the public on who and what FTF is.

Director Allvin advised the Regional Council that although FTF was not involved in the "NO ON 302" campaign, she was awed by the dedication and commitment contributed by all the Tribes around the state. Director Allvin advised the Regional Council that the budget crisis is not over and FTF will continue to cautiously monitor and navigate through resolving issues and working with partners in education. Director Allvin advised Regional Council Members she has a list of legislators that are considered priority for educating on FTF and she will share that with Tribal leaders.

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

Member Dunsmore stated he recently attended a superintendents conference and found there were many misconceptions regarding FTF. Member Dunsmore stated many educators believed that passing Proposition 302 would have meant more funds flowing into the education system. Member Dunsmore suggested that FTF needs to increase communication with school districts and administrators regarding FTF. Director Allvin stated that FTF is obligated to do that and to unite with friends in education. Director Allvin added that the recently hired Community Outreach Liaisons are providing presentations to school boards and administrators around the state. Director Allvin advised the Regional Council that the Governor's budget has already cut as much as

possible from the schools before the State is not demonstrating a *maintenance of effort* in order to continue drawing on federal funds.

#### **First Things First Grantee Update**

Jennifer Pope, RN, of the Maternal Child Health Program (MCHP), provided an update to the Regional Council advising no new referrals were received in the past month. MCHP continues to work with IHS and referrals to the audiologist, as well as with Bright Start and the elementary school. Referrals are now being scheduled for vision and hearing screenings. The next Toddler's class is scheduled for November 23rd focusing on infant and toddler attachment. The next New Mom's class is scheduled on November 16<sup>th</sup> covering Gestational Diabetes, and December's class will focus on the importance of fire safety. MCHP staff participated in Red Ribbon activities including Vice-Chair Imus' presentation at the elementary school, and the Harvest Carnival. Directly after the Regional Council meeting, MCHP staff will work with the IHS Dental clinic for children 23 months and younger. MCHP staff also collaborated with Head Start providing healthy snacks to trick-or-treaters. MCHP staff met with Gisela Ruppel of the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities, and discussed requirements for the program. MCHP also met with the WIC department in Kingman to discuss programs and classes they offer and the possibility of bringing some of those to the Hualapai community. MCHP submitted *Important Milestones and Positive Parenting Tips* to the Gamyu.

Deleted:

#### **Update on Status of Contract with St. Mary's Food Bank**

Coordinator Pascual updated the Regional Council on the contract with St Mary's Food Bank, regarding their response to reducing the contract award amount by 30%, making the budget \$5,831. Coordinator Pascual advised the Regional Council she is waiting for final signatures on the contract with St. Mary's Food Bank. Coordinator Pascual and FTF staff participated in a meeting with the WIC State Coordinator and ITCA Director, and identified ways in which WIC and the Maternal Child Health Program can collaborate, especially with providing infant formula to the community.

The Regional Council held lengthy discussion regarding the Food Assistance and Nutrition Strategy including lack of outreach in the community from WIC, barriers that prevent families from accepting assistance, and continued need for educating the public.

#### **FY2011-2012 Regional Funding Plans**

##### *2010 Needs & Assets Summary – Review Strategies & Discuss Possible Use of Unexpended Funds- Continue Strategic Planning for Fiscal Year 2012*

Coordinator Pascual provided the Regional Council with a summary of the 2010 Needs and Assets report and reviewed the prioritized needs. Coordinator Pascual asked the Regional Council to focus on the prioritized needs identified through the Assessment and compare them to the strategies already in place. The Regional Council held discussion regarding unemployment and poverty levels in the region, as well as how the Needs & Assets report defines the term "home" in the Hualapai region. Coordinator Pascual advised the Regional Council that she combined the budget summaries for Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 so they could be discussed simultaneously. Coordinator Pascual explained that FTF developed a tool kit of strategies and strategy concepts. From this information, Coordinator Pascual took the strategies that correlated with the idea's the Regional Council discussed at last month's meeting. Coordinator Pascual reviewed the funds obligated for Fiscal Year 2011, which totals over \$133,000. However, with an allocation of only \$123,000, a portion of the unexpended funds (from Fiscal Year 2010) has already been utilized. Coordinator Pascual explained to the Regional Council the impact of utilizing the FY2010 unexpended funds for a new strategy, or continue funding the current strategies at the current funding levels, but needing to keep the unexpended funds to cover the shortfall each year.

Coordinator Pascual suggested the Regional Council may want to consider using the unexpended balance as part of the budget. Coordinator Pascual advised the Regional Council to keep in mind they will have to focus on prioritizing the greatest needs when planning for fiscal year 2012. The Regional Council held lengthy discussion regarding the 2012 funding plan and use of unexpended funds. Coordinator Pascual advised the Regional Council will need to narrow the focus at some point since sustaining the current funding level will not be possible. The Regional Council held discussion regarding the number of Parents Kits distributed and TEACH scholarships available. Coordinator Pascual summarized the discussion and advised if the Regional Council chooses to carry over all of the original strategies, the carryover amount would need to be applied to those strategies. Coordinator Pascual summarized the proposed ideas for additional strategies including a stipend to bring therapists into the community, bringing more books into the community such as evidence based models like Reach Out & Read, and strategies focusing on nutrition/obesity/physical activity. Due to her presence in the community, Vice-Chair Imus asked Jennifer Pope, RN, which of these strategies she felt would be most beneficial. Ms. Pope stated she thinks Literacy would be most effective, along with Nutrition. The Regional Council held discussion regarding literacy, possible programs for implementing a strategy and innovative ways to get parents involved. Member Hunter suggested tabling this item till next month's meeting to make a decision. Coordinator Pascual asked the Regional Council if they would like her to do further research on different literacy models. Regional Manager Arnold suggested incorporating a literacy strategy with MCHP. Jennifer Pope, RN stated MCHP would be happy to do this. Coordinator Pascual stated it appears that the Regional Council is going in the direction of utilizing unexpended funds for a Literacy strategy, therefore she requested they take a look at the 2012 funding plan and determine which strategies the Regional Council would like to continue. The 2012 funding plan needs to be submitted to the Stated Board in December and to Tribal Council in January. Coordinator Pascual suggested a *funding*

*plan workgroup* consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Coordinator to develop a preliminary funding plan based on the Regional Council's suggestions and bring it to next month's meeting for consideration. This would not include unexpended funds. The Regional Council agreed.

**Coordinator's Update**

The Check presentation was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>, and the Hualapai Tribe Vice-Chairman received the check on behalf of the community.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Coordinator Pascual and members of the External Evaluation presented to Tribal Council on their work and requested approval for participation in the project. The Hualapai Tribe is the second Tribe in Arizona to permit the External Evaluation to conduct their work in the Hualapai community.

Community Outreach is being conducted in the community and FTF Community Liaison Della Gray participated in the Community Health Fair. In regards to Member Dunsmore's earlier comments regarding negative feedback from school staff, Member Hunter asked Ms. Gray if she was hearing this feedback as well. Ms. Gray stated the feedback she has received from the community has been very positive. Ms. Gray requested that the Regional Council members inform Coordinator Pascual if there are any community events coming up that they would like Ms. Gray to participate in.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed for 9:00 a.m. on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The rebuilt Education and Training Center was suggested as the location. Member Helen Watahomigie mentioned she would not be in attendance. Member Hunter mentioned she also may be unable to attend; however, she will contact Coordinator Pascual by the end of the week to let her know.

**Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Imus adjourned the meeting at 11:01a.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**Approved by:**

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S. Jo Griffis, Administrative Assistant II

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Pete Imus, Vice Chair

