

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 was held on February 5, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Cultural Center, 14529 S. Veterans Dr., Somerton, AZ.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair H. Jill McCormick
Council Member Dr. Michael Reed
Council Member Cristina Solorzano
Council Member Elizabeth Renaud (joined at approximately 3:42 p.m.)
Council Member Patricia R. Weissenberg (via conference call at approximately 3:28 p.m.)
Council Member Ines Pampara
Council Member Paul Soto

Members Absent:

Council Member Christie Stevens
Vice Chair Rev. Deal Begay
Council Member Gina Nierenhausen

Approval of December 4, 2013 Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Dr. Reed moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2013, Regional Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Soto, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all members present.

Update on Family Support

Family Support and Literacy Sr. Director, Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, provided an update on Family Support at statewide level. Dr. Samuel stated that much of the work being done at statewide level should be reflective/aligned to ongoing work at the regional level. Further stating ongoing recruitment efforts to recruit the Tribal Community to be part of the “Read On Community”. Dr. Samuel also provided an update on the possible revisions to the Standards of Practice for early childhood/early literacy across all statewide strategies to produce a strong early literacy component.

Dr. Samuel shared that Read On Arizona has developed an Early Literacy Guide to assist Family Support providers in providing information to families on how to best utilize tools/best practices in helping their children with early literacy. Dr. Samuel stated that a Continuum of Effective Practices is being developed to highlight best practices around early literacy by age group.

Introduction of New Regional Partnership Council Member

The Regional Council welcomed newly appointed Council Member Elizabeth Renaud. Ms. Renaud will fill the Educator Seat on the Regional Council.

Update on State Board Finance Committee Meeting

Dr. Reed shared information learned at the State Finance Committee meeting recently attended. Dr. Reed stated it was the general consensus of the Regional Councils to continue/maintain current funding mechanisms in place for the Carry Forward Funds for all regions further adding that in some regions the Carry Forward will not be enough to continue the funding of current programs and monies may be exhausted or at a low point approximately around late FY2016 or early FY2017.

A committee/workgroup will be in place to come together to discuss and provide recommendations to the Regional Council and Tribal Council indicating on the best method to use/improve current funding/programs providing the financial resources needed to best serve the Cocopah community:

Chair McCormick, Member Soto and Dr. Reed volunteered to be part of the committee/workgroup.

Standing Committee Recommendations

Transportation options for the Early Steps Program clients were discussed by the Regional Council. It was the consensus of the Regional Council to proceed with the Early Steps Program Job Description as recommended by the Standing Committee. The position will serve as additional support to the current Early Steps Specialist. Regional Director Roselia Ramirez will provide a draft copy of the job description to the Cocopah Tribe Human Resources Department for review followed by approval by the Cocopah Tribal Council. The goal is to fill the position by July 1, 2014.

Update on Early Steps Program

Early Steps Specialist Lupi Rojas provided a brief update on the Early Steps Program. The update included up to date barriers, successes and trainings attended by Ms. Rojas.

Regional Director Ramirez shared information on the Early Steps Program current target population.

Regional Director's Report

- a) FY2015 Funding Plan: Was approved by the State Board on January 22, 2014
- b) 2014 Needs and Assets Update: A first draft of the Needs and Assets Report will be available to Regional Council for review approximately on April 10, 2014. The Regional Council was provided with the Outline for the Needs and Assets Report submitted by the vendor.
- c) 2013 Regional Annual Report: The 2013 Cocopah Regional Annual Report was reviewed by the Regional Council. The report included demographics, impacts and priorities for the Cocopah community.
- d) Quarter 1 Data Report: Among the items included in the report was an updated account on the Food Security, Home Visitation, Quality First strategies.
- e) Financial Report: Items included in the report were total monies allotted and awarded as well as the year to date expenses of the First Things First programs funded in the Cocopah region. 47.7% of the total allocation has been expended.
- f) Parent Survey: The Regional Council was provided with a copy of the survey questions used in the Parent and Caregiver Survey.

Regional Council Member Terms and Recruitment Process

Senior Director Gary P. Arnold reviewed the Regional Council Member recruitment process with the Regional Council. Members with expiring terms were encouraged to reapply for council membership.

Announcements

The First Things First Early Childhood Summit will be on August 18-19, 2014, Phoenix, AZ.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will occur on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 3:00 p.m., Cocopah Cultural Center, 14529 S. Veterans Dr., Somerton, AZ.

Adjournment

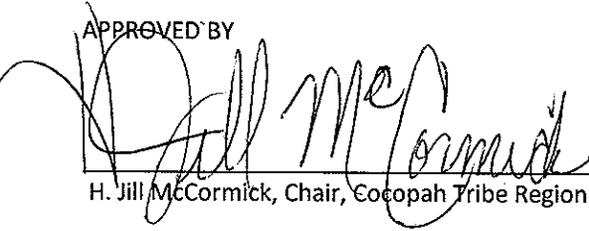
Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY



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

March 5, 2014