



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 Regular Meeting of the First Things First – Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on September 3, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cocopah Indian Housing and Development Office, 10488 Steamboat Street, Somerton, AZ.

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair H. Jill McCormick
Council Member Ines Pampara
Council Member Dr. Michael Reed
Council Member Christie Stevens

Council Member River Twist
Council Member Patricia R. Weissenberg

Members Present Via Conference Call:

Amanda Mahon (Honorable)

Members Absent:

Vice Chair Rev. Deal Begay
Council Member Elizabeth Renaud
Council Member Cristina Solorzano
Council Member Paul Soto

Approval of July 2nd and August 22nd, 2014 Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Dr. Reed moved to approve the minutes of the July 2nd and August 22nd, 2014, Regional Council meetings, seconded by Member Weissenberg. Motion carried.

Discussion on Quality Assurance Site Visit

Regional Director Ramirez reviewed the Quality Assurance Site Visit Process and stated that it is intended primarily to provide support and is part of a continuous quality improvement process. Currently the case load for the Home Visitation program is 36 which is more than double the targeted service units required for Home Visitation which has presented some challenges for the program.

Update on Early Steps Program

The update included home visits completed, trainings and events attended during the months of July and August of this year and challenges/barriers encountered.

Update on Arizona Early Childhood Summit

Members that attended the 2014 Arizona Early Childhood Summit shared their thoughts on the event.

Discussion on SFY2014 Quarter 4 Reporting and SFY2014 Financial Report

Target service units for the Food Security Strategy are 30 units. As of the end of the 4th quarter all 30 food vouchers had been distributed. Highlights of the Narrative report included collaboration by the Yuma Community Food Bank to present nutrition education to children and families (at least 2 events), and out of the 30 food vouchers distributed only 25 were redeemed. Food vouchers not redeemed are not carried over into SFY2015, the allocated funding remains within the region's overall allocation. Communication and collaboration has greatly improved.

The Home Visitation Strategy target service units are 15 however the actual case load is 36 families. Other areas included in the report were the number of children newly enrolled during the quarter, number of children served and number of families who received community referrals. Narrative report highlights for the Home Visitation Strategy are: increased inquiries from grandparents and elders, core group of families being served regularly, much collaboration in place to support families and regular participation in professional development by the Early Steps Specialist.

The financial report included an up to date account of expenditures for SFY2014.

Regional Director's Report

a. Regional Council & State Board Regional Forum: September 29-30, 2014

b. Needs and Assets Update/Next Steps: The 2014 Needs Assets Assessment was approved by the Cocopah Tribal Council. The Assessment will be up for consideration by the Board at the September 30, 2014 Board meeting.

c. First Things First State Board Fiscal Policy Decisions: Fiscal Policy Recommendations adopted by the Board on July 22, 2014 were reviewed by Regional Director Roselia Ramirez. Allocations for regions are based on the recommendations approved by the Board. Regional Director Ramirez added that the carry forward balance will be part of the allocation as of SFY2016 and that this will help to stabilize/sustain expenditure level for strategies/programs for the next 9-15 years. Regional Director Ramirez further added that the actual amount of monies allotted for regions will probably be known by September 30th when the Board is scheduled to meet in Yuma. It is anticipated that the allocation for Cocopah will be at least a minimum of \$100,000.

d. Strategic Planning: The Public Relations Department for the Cocopah Tribe shared some elements to consider in the strategic planning process. The strategic planning framework was reviewed by Regional Director Ramirez. The framework includes the regional assessment, prioritized needs, school readiness indicators and benchmarks, approaches to address needs and the implementation plan of the 3 year budget.

e. Award Recognition: Service awards and recognition were given to members with 5 years of service in the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

Regional Council Member Announcements

There were no announcements at this time.

Next Meeting

October 1, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Cocopah Community Center

14251 S. Centre Ave., Somerton, AZ 85350

Adjournment

Chair McCormick adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Marie Megui, Administrative Assistant III

APPROVED BY



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

November 4, 2014