

**Tribal Consultation Summary Report
September 27, 2016
Phoenix, Arizona**

Pursuant to AZ Executive Order (EO) 2006-14, Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona tribes, and the First Things First (FTF) Tribal Consultation Policy, FTF convened a formal consultation session on Tuesday, September 27, 2016. The purpose of the consultation was to: 1) continue an effective dialogue on high quality early childhood programs and services; and 2) maximizing grant opportunities as part of ongoing early childhood systems building.

First Things First is committed to meaningful consultation with tribes through which elected officials and other authorized representatives of the tribal governments have the opportunity to provide meaningful and timely input regarding the development of policies or procedures that affect Arizona's tribes, Native American children and their families.

The following summary reflects comments and questions raised by Arizona's tribal leaders and their authorized representatives/designees.

Participants

Tribal Leaders and Tribal Representatives:

Amelia Flores, Councilwoman, Colorado River Indian Tribes

Yvonne Kee-Billison, Executive Assistant, Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation

Cathy Quintana, Special Education Specialist, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Herminia Frias, Councilwoman, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Barney Enos, Jr., Councilman, Gila River Indian Community

Rosa Alvarez, Councilwoman, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Carlos Powell, Head Start Director, Havasupai Tribe

Virgil Smith, Councilman, Quechan Tribe

Carlene Tenakhongva, Chief of Staff/ Office of the Chairman, Hopi Tribe

Deanna Scabby, Councilwoman, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Dr. Noreen Sakiestewa, Education Director, Hopi Tribe

Alicia Cadmus, Councilwoman, San Carlos Apache Tribe

Stewart Crozier, Councilman, Hualapai Tribe

Allred Pike, Councilman, San Carlos Apache Tribe

John Thomas, Early Learning Center Director, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians

Verlon Jose, Vice Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation

Nathaniel Brown, Council Delegate, Navajo Nation

Jerome Kasey, Councilman, White Mountain Apache Tribe

Jerold Altaha, Councilman, White Mountain Apache Tribe

Ophelia Tewawina, Child Care Manager, Yavapai-Apache Nation

First Thing First:

Nadine Mathis Basha, First Things First Board Chair

Sam Leyvas, First Things First CEO

Pam Powell, First Things First Board Vice Chair

Michelle Katona, First Things First Chief Program Officer

Vivian Saunders, First Things First Board Member

Kim Van Pelt, First Things First Chief Regional Officer

Gayle Burns, First Things First Board Member

Candida Hunter, First Things First Senior Director of Tribal Affairs.

In addition, First Things First staff members, representatives from tribal departments, and staff from the University of Arizona were in attendance to observe the consultation.

Summary

The ability to collect timely information from staff and families regarding their experiences implementing and accessing early childhood programs and services is key to the ability to ensure continuous quality improvement of those services. Tribal leaders and representatives were asked for their insight on a variety of questions related to data gathering and information sharing in and with tribal communities. Although all of the tribal leaders addressed the consultation topics with regard to their specific communities, the discussion presented some common themes. Tribal leaders shared the need for information about early childhood programs provided by FTF and other partners to continue to be regularly reported back to the tribe, including family success stories that demonstrate the impact of those programs. In terms of data collection, tribal leaders suggested that one way to minimize the number of requests for data collection would be to consider utilizing Memoranda of Understanding with tribes that address multiple data needs. Lastly, several tribal leaders indicated that staff turnover can impact the tribe's ability to collect information from programs for their own continuous quality improvement efforts.

As policymakers, tribal leaders are aware of the scarcity of resources to meet all the needs of their communities. Early childhood is no exception. We must leverage every opportunity to bring additional funds in to our communities to support children birth to 5 and their families. Tribal leaders and representatives were asked for their insight on a variety of questions related to maximizing grant opportunities in order to build early childhood systems. Again, tribal leaders addressed this consultation topic with regard to their specific communities, but the discussion presented some common themes. Of the tribes represented at Tribal Consultation, many shared that capacity exists for searching and applying for grant opportunities that align to tribal priorities, albeit at different levels. Tribal leaders and representatives also shared specific examples of successful grant applications and how they are managed within existing tribal government structures. Generally speaking, most shared that the process for applying for grants is not centralized – rather, this work is typically conducted by individual departments within tribal governments. Additionally, relatively few tribes present indicated that they employ grant-writing staff or consultants. However, a number of tribes shared that upon the successful

award of a grant that compliance, finance, and reporting support services exist as a centralized function within tribal government structures. Barriers to successful grant applications shared by tribal leaders and representatives included unnecessarily truncated deadlines imposed by grantors. Additionally, some tribes indicated that when a grantor and a tribe's fiscal years are misaligned, this can sometimes prove problematic. Participants also advised on the need to stay current on internal audits as these are typically a required component of grant applications.

Comments/Questions/Concerns/Recommendations on High Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services

Tribal leaders shared their experiences with strategic planning and department reporting requirements to continuously inform or improve their tribally run programs.

- Tribal leaders and representatives from Colorado River Indian Tribes, San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Hopi Tribe shared how their tribes are implementing strategic planning and involving their tribal departments and community members in that process.
- Tohono O'odham Nation Vice Chairman Verlon Jose stated their programs provide quarterly and monthly updates on program expenditures, number of people served and discuss ideas of how to address challenges the programs may face.

Tribal leaders and representatives expressed the need to continue building relationships in tribal communities, share how the tribe benefits from data collection and ensure data tells an accurate story of what is occurring in the community.

- Tohono O'odham Nation Vice Chairman Verlon Jose and Colorado River Indian Tribes Councilwoman Amelia Flores stated there is a need to ensure that data collection and analysis paint an accurate account of what is happening in tribal communities in order to continue building trust in the community. They also suggested that results of data collection be shared with the whole community, not only elected officials.
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe Councilwoman Herminia Frias stated focus groups with teachers and parents can provide valuable qualitative data to support quantitative data collected.
- Hopi Tribe Education Director Noreen Sakiestewa stated there is a need to share family success stories because storytelling is a traditional way that information is shared in tribal communities. She also suggested the need to tie data collected and presented back to the work being done in tribal communities.
- Hualapai Tribe Councilman Stewart Crozier stated grandparents are raising grandchildren, many only speak their native language. It is, therefore, necessary to consider intergenerational communication challenges when sharing information in tribal communities.
- Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President Executive Assistant Yvonne Kee-Billison shared how the Nation's Tribal Action Plan is focusing on suicide prevention, violence and substance abuse and the need to connect early childhood to prevention of these issues.
- Gila River Indian Community, Councilman Barney Enos, Jr. shared how the partnership between FTF and the Community has developed over the years and expressed how beneficial it has been to have FTF staff involved in the community and accessible for council and working committees.

Tribal leaders and representatives shared ideas of how to gather information to inform continuous quality improvement.

- Tribal leaders and representatives from Tohono O’odham Nation and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation shared how many tribal departments already are collecting information that can be useful to FTF.
- Tohono O’odham Nation Vice Chairman Verlon Jose stated there is a need to be strategic about data collection efforts because the tribe receives constant requests for research and surveys from various entities.
- Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Special Education Specialist Cathy Quintana suggested longitudinal studies of children from early childhood education until high school graduation because there is a disproportionality of Native children in special education and there is a need to see if there is an impact from early intervention.
- Hopi Tribe Education Director Noreen Sakiestewa stated informal conversations are helpful to help tribal leaders understand more about data requested and reported.
- Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President Executive Assistant Yvonne Kee-Billison suggested that Requests for Grant Agreements (RFGAs) need to be continuously improved in terms of the data that grantees are asked to collect to demonstrate impact.

Tribal leaders and representatives shared their experiences with other entities in developing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the tribe to request information for program purposes.

- Yavapai-Apache Nation Early Childhood Director Ophelia Tewawina shared how an MOU was developed between FTF and the Nation to approve grant partners to implement early childhood programs in the Nation and provide program information to FTF. This also requires a quarterly report from the FTF Regional Director to the Nation.
- Hopi Tribe Office of the Chairman Chief of Staff Carlene Tenakhongva shared that other state or private entities must enter into an MOU with the Tribe to collect data and the information is shared with the tribal council prior to publication.
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe Councilwoman Herminia Frias shared that the Tribe’s Attorney General’s Office works on MOUs or Inter-governmental Agreements for data agreements. The Tribe also has an Institutional Review Board.

Tribal leaders from Colorado River Indian Tribes, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community and the Tohono O’odham Nation shared that they have an institutional review board or cultural and research board in place to protect their people and set standards for data collection.

Tribal leaders and representatives from the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation expressed the need to host a tribal early childhood summit to share what is occurring in regards to early childhood in tribal communities. Tribal leaders, parents and stakeholders from tribal communities should be invited to attend.

Comments/Question/Concerns/Recommendations on Ongoing Early Childhood Systems Building-Maximizing Grant Opportunities

Several tribal leaders stated their tribes do not have a department responsible for applying for grants and some departments are able to work with their planning departments on grant opportunities.

- Havasupai Tribe Head Start Director Carlos Powell stated the tribe does not have a department responsible for applying for grants, but does have a department for managing grants once they

have been awarded. He also shared several examples of how he has been successful in securing grants for Head Start.

- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Councilwoman Deanna Scabby shared that the tribal departments apply for grants and actively seek grants to assist with the needs of their community. She indicated that with the work of the Education Department in particular, they have seen success in both securing grants and monitoring them.
- San Carlos Apache Tribe Councilman Allred Pike stated the tribe has a planning department that has a grant writer that works with other departments to apply for grants. Additionally, the Education Department is proactive in seeking out grants.
- Tohono O'odham Nation Vice Chairman Verlon Jose stated tribal departments apply for grants, and are then supported by a Grants and Contracts program as grants are received.

Tribal leaders and representatives from Havasupai Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Tohono O'odham Nation and the Hopi Tribe shared the type of grants they received to support health, education, public safety, housing and the development of natural resources.

Tribal leaders and representatives shared their experiences of successful partnerships in coordinating grant efforts to support tribal priorities.

- Pascua Yaqui Tribe Councilwoman Herminia Frias stated that First Things First has been proactive and supportive by providing letters of support. Additionally, access to First Things First data has been very important and utilized to support grant applications.
- Hopi Tribe Education Director Noreen Sakiestewa shared how the Tribe has successfully partnered with NAU to enhance teacher preparation and that the grant was administered by the Tribe and NAU at different times.
- Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President Executive Assistant Yvonne Kee-Billison shared coordination efforts that bring others to the table to discuss grant opportunities and support for applications.

Tribal leaders and representatives shared the importance of receiving tribal approval and utilizing data to apply for grants.

- White Mountain Apache Tribe Councilman Jerold Altaha stated all grants require Tribal Council approval and data is important to obtaining grants successfully.
- Tohono O'odham Nation Vice Chairman Verlon Jose shared that time frame to apply for grants are limited and the tribal process to apply for the grant may not meet those deadlines, so the tribe is looking at how to streamline their processes.
- Navajo Nation Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown shared information about Montana Senator John Tester's language immersion bill. He urged leaders present to support the bill and said data is needed to show the need for the bill.

Tribal leaders and representatives provided feedback on how First Things First can support tribal activities around grant opportunities:

- Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President Executive Assistant Yvonne Kee-Billison shared that First Things First has done a good job of sharing information with the Nation's leadership on a regular basis. She also shared that there are more opportunities on the public awareness front.
- Tohono O'odham Vice Chairman Verlon Jose suggested that where appropriate, that FTF regions can review annual program goals and measures to see where there might be grant opportunities to complement the tribe's articulated goals. Additionally, he advised that FTF should be mindful of the appearance of preferential treatment of one tribe over another when lending support for a tribe's grant writing activities. Specifically, he advised that where two or more tribes are applying for the same grant, FTF's role may be that of general support for all applicants (e.g. letter of support for all tribes that request one). Vice Chairman Jose also suggested considering what the readiness of tribes is and the number of people impacted by the project or initiative.
- Colorado River Indian Tribes Councilwoman Amelia Flores expressed the need to generally support all tribes when they are applying for grants because all tribes support children birth to 5 years old.
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe Councilwoman Herminia Frias and Councilwoman Rosa Alvarez asked what resources FTF has to support the tribe in its effort to apply for grants and asked what authorization the tribe can provide to FTF to administer a grant without having to return to the tribe for tribal approvals to improve the efficiency of administering a particular grant.
- Hopi Tribe Education Director Noreen Sakiestewa shared how the Tribe has successfully worked with the FTF regional staff in terms of supplying data that has been collected from regional needs and asset reports as well as narratives to support the current work of the regional council and funded strategies.