FIRST THINGS FIRST

AGENDA ITEM: Regional Needs and Assets Reports

BACKGROUND:

Presented for the Board's consideration is one (1) Regional Needs and Assets Report submitted in fulfillment of Regional Partnership Council responsibilities under ARS Title 8, Chapter 13, Section 1161.

RECOMMENDATION:

First Things First staff recommends approval of this Regional Needs and Assets Report on behalf of their respective Regional Council:

- San Carlos Apache (the report has also been submitted to and approved by the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council)

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

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December 1, 2010

San Carlos Apache Tribal Council
P.O. Box O
San Carlos, Arizona 85550
ATTN: Bernadette Goode

Dear Chairperson and Council Members:

On behalf of the First Things First San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council, I would like to request your approval of the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council 2010 Needs and Assets Report.

In November 2006, Arizona voters approved Proposition 203 that led to the creation of First Things First (FTF), a statewide initiative to improve the lives of Arizona's youngest children. The mission of FTF is to increase the quality of, and access to, early childhood development and health programs that ensure a child entering school comes healthy and ready to learn. FTF is a community-based initiative and funds Regional Partnership Councils to provide services based on community needs. The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council represents a voluntary governance body responsible for planning and implementing actions to improve early childhood development and health outcomes within San Carlos Region.

The regional needs and assets report provides a snapshot of the demographic characteristics of the region's young children ages zero through five and their families; the early care, development and health systems, services, and other assets available to children and families; and the areas in which the region has unmet needs for early childhood development and health systems and service for these children and families.

This regional report focuses on the unique qualities of the region and its young children and their families as well as reporting the common attributes of the population. It includes information about the current status of, strengths in, and service gaps in the six goal areas: (1) quality and access to early care and education, (2) health, (3) professional development of early care teachers and workers,(4) family support, and (5) communication and (6) coordination among early childhood programs and services.

Please be advised, this report was presented to the San Carlos Apache Education Committee and approved for consideration by the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council on December 1, 2010. Further, on December 1, 2010, a resolution to formalize the approval of this report was also approved by San Carlos Apache Education Committee for consideration by the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council. As recommended by the Education Committee, a copy of the report was also extended to you on November 9, 2010.

We deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Steele

Catherine Steele, Chair
San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council

San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council
Regional Needs and Assets Report
Executive Summary

This report builds on the data collection and Needs and Assets identification activities conducted to date by the San Carlos Apache Regional Council. These activities have included, but have not been limited to, reviewing and approving the 2008 Needs and Assets report and other available community reports, as well as inviting community members to participate in discussions focused on the First Things First (FTF) mission of increasing the quality of, and access to, early childhood programs that will ensure a child entering school arrives healthy and ready to succeed.

As a result of these activities, the following gaps in existing early childhood programs and services for the San Carlos Apache Region were initially identified:

- Insufficient availability and/or access to early care and education settings and/or early care and education settings that have the capacity to accommodate the current early child care need;
- The need for family support as it relates to home-based child care, parenting skills, poverty and cultural identity;
- Lack of access to health care for San Carlos children, specifically appropriate and timely screenings and health care services administered by a pediatrician;
- Lack of partnerships among programs for children and families;
- The need for professional training and credentialing of early childhood professionals.

There has been no data or limited data related to the child development and health needs of young children and their families in the San Carlos Apache Tribe Reservation. This is because either data was not analyzed down to this specific community level or because it has been aggregated within county statistics. Information has been inferred based upon available quantitative data for similar communities and populations, or from qualitative data collected through personal accounts or reporting.

For the 2010 report, care was taken by the data collection team to foster prior relationships with representatives from Tribal Program Directors, the Tribal Grants Department, San Carlos Public Health Nurses, the San Carlos Unified School District, Apache Kid Child Care, San Carlos Head Start and other local early childhood program service providers. This resulted in increased access to data directly from Tribal sources; sources more likely to provide current and relevant statistics that are more accurate for this specific population of Native American children ages birth to five and their families.

In addition, the indicators identified as part of the full scale data collection plan for this report are widely recognized and are meaningful when addressing the well-being of Native American children ages birth though five.

Reliable data are essential to the assessment and reporting process, and as noted, considerable efforts were made to collect data directly from Tribal sources to confirm identified areas of need. To this end, the data collection team sought to identify opportunities for encountering families, through newly forged relationships. These relationships provided access to sites, events, activities, individuals, and organizations that facilitated entry into early childhood development and related networks within the San Carlos Apache communities.

Like the 2008 report, the 2010 Needs and Assets report incorporates a relevant literature review and analysis of secondary data sources. However, in stark contrast to the initial 2008 report, the data collection methodology for the 2010 report resulted in 261 total surveys collected from San Carlos Apache families and the early childhood programs and service providers utilized by these families.

Of the 261 total surveys collected, 244 were completed by San Carlos Apache parents and families. These 244 family surveys represent 380 children, ages birth through five living in the Region. These 380 children are 30% of the current 1,278 children, ages birth though five living in the region.

This report:

- Incorporates existing literature for the local, regional and national level – all data reported in 2008 has been updated with the exception of primary language spoken in the home, as more recent data is not available. Although, of the 33 home-based, child care providers surveyed for the 2010 report, 83.3% of the respondents reported that they spoke Apache in the home[1]
- Includes in depth-social context and supporting quantitative data provided by the 261 total surveys collected and analyzed for the 2010 Needs and Assets report
- Categorizes the status of the San Carlos Apache Tribe's strengths, as well as the gaps in service provision, in the following 4 First Things First goal areas: Early Care and Education; Supporting Families; Health; and Public Awareness & Collaboration (public information and system coordination).

Data analysis for this report highlights the following identified areas of need in each of the following four goal areas: Early Care and Education; Supporting Families; Health; and Public Awareness & Collaboration (public information and system coordination).

I. Early Care and Education (Quality and Access)

a) Insufficient opportunities to place children in quality early child care settings:
   - Each of the 33 home-based providers surveyed stated that they do not receive any type of training or education regarding early childhood care.[2]

b) Insufficient access to, or the availability of, early child care and education programs:
   - As of 2009, the total number of children ages birth through five residing in the Region is 1,617[3], up 54.2% from the total number of children reported in 2008.
   - Capacity levels of center-based early child care programs remain unchanged. Center-based early child care programs currently enroll a combined total of 339 children and are at capacity.[4]
   - As a result, 1,278 San Carlos Apache children and their families are without access to center-based early child care and education programs.
   - When asked "What kind of child care providers do you currently use for your child(ren)?", 85.9% of respondents replied that they use family members as child care providers.[5]

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[1] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)

[2] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)

[3] *"Total Membership Report." Tribe's Total Enrollment Administration Management System (T.E.A.M.S.). San Carlos Apache Tribe. Apr. 2010.*

[4] San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses. 2010. Raw data. San Carlos Apache Reservation, Districts: Seven Mile Wash, Gilson Wash, Peridot and Bylas. Respondents included Head Start and Apache Kid Child care

- Additionally, 54% of these responded that if they could have their choice of child care provider they would not choose a family member, they would choose center-based care.[6]

II. Supporting Families

a) Family Support as it relates to poverty:
- The unemployment rate for the San Carlos Apache Tribe is reported to be 65%[7], over 7 times greater than the current unemployment rate for Arizona, which was reported to be 9.6%, May 2010.[8]
- Additionally, 82.3% of San Carlos Apache children live at 200% below the federal poverty level.[9]

b) Family Support as it relates to stress factors and other barriers that affect parenting and early childhood:
- 27% of live births reported for the San Carlos Apache in 2008 were to teen mothers, who are defined as those 19 years of age or younger.
- Although the percentage of San Carlos Apache single parent households has remained at 42% from 2006 to 2009, this is double that of the State's and triple that of the Nation's rates reported at 23.4% and 14% respectively for 2009.[10]
- 32.7% of all live births reported for the San Carlos Apache in 2009 were born to mothers that had not achieved a high school diploma.[11]
- 39% of families live in substandard housing and 40% of families live in overcrowded conditions.[12]

III. Health

a) Limited access to medical care provided by a pediatrician:
- Of the parents surveyed, 45% listed the San Carlos Hospital as the provider they feel they would access the most regarding early childhood education, health and development.[13] However, the San Carlos Hospital and other Regional clinics share access to only one pediatrician. This critically limits timely access to medical services provided to San Carlos children by a pediatrician.

b) Food insecurity:
- When survey respondents were asked "What, if anything, is difficult to afford?" 87% responded "Food".[14]

IV. Public Awareness & Collaboration (public information and system coordination)

a) Lack of collaborative partnerships among Tribal programs serving children and families:

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[5] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)

[6] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)

[7] *Tribal Family Assistance Plan - May 1, 2008 - April 30, 2011*. Rep. San Carlos Apache Tribe - TANF., 2008. Print.

[8] "Local Area Unemployment Statistics Home Page." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*. May 2010. Web. June 2010. <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>.

[9] TANF (2008)

[10] *San Carolos Apache Tribe Primary Care Area (PCA) Statistical Profile - 2009*. Rep. Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Primary Care Area Statistical Profiles, 2009. Web. June 2010. <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/profiles1.htm>.

[11] (*San Carolos Apache Tribe Primary Care Area (PCA) Statistical Profile - 2009*)

[12] *Improving Housing Opportunities for Native Americans*, Before the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the Financial Services Committee Cong. (2004) (testimony of Kathleen W. Kitcheyan). Print.

[13] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)

[14] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)

- Over 15 interviews were conducted with representatives of related Tribal service providers, all of which identified the lack of collaborative partnerships among Tribal programs for children and families as a critical barrier to high-quality, service provision.

b) Lack of a comprehensive resource and referral tool for all available child and family programs/services:
   - Parent/Family surveys concluded 76.3% believe that there is no coordination or cohesiveness of early childhood resources among Tribal departments.[15]

c) Lack of public awareness related to early childhood health, education and development resources:
   - 96.7% of providers, or home-based care givers surveyed feel that parents are not aware of early childhood health, education and development resources.[16]
   - 50.5 % of parents surveyed feel that they are not aware of early childhood health, education and development resources available to them.[17]
   - 78% of the parents interviewed stated that they do not read printed materials that are given to them from a service provider or related service providers.[18]

San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council Strategies Snap-Shot:

The following strategies have been implemented and/or funded by the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council to address identified needs:

Early Care and Education (Quality and Access)

- Implementing the Quality First, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ARIZONA, and Professional REWARD$ strategies to encourage Professional Development and retention of early care and education providers as well as to improve the quality of care for children ages birth though five
- Expansion of quality child care slots through support, training and capacity building of Family Friend and Neighbor Care

Supporting Families / Strategies

- Development, pilot and implementation of a culturally relevant parent education curriculum

Health

- Expedited food box grant to provide nutritious and adequate food to young children and families at risk of food insecurities through the distribution of food boxes
- Early Steps to School Success (Early Steps) to provide interventions targeting nutrition, healthy weight and physical exercise at Rice Elementary in San Carlos. This program includes the use of a curriculum to provide early childhood education services to pregnant teens and women, and children from birth to age five

Public Awareness & Collaboration (public information and system coordination)

- Establishment and facilitation of the San Carlos Apache Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative, which includes 18 members representing 14 early childhood program and service providers from the San Carlos Apache region
- Provision of 100 Arizona Parent Kits to Tribal families

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[15] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)
[16] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)
[17] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)
[18] (San Carlos Apache Need and Assets Report 2010 - Survey Responses)

The San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council continues to be vested in mobilizing the child services community to coordinate efforts to build a culturally appropriate early childhood development network for the San Carlos Apache Region. The Council has identified the following for consideration through FY 2012 with the intent of demonstrating improved outcomes in the 4 goal areas:

1. Child rearing practices that are reflective of San Carlos Apache Tribal values
2. Coordinated efforts among early childhood service providers to offer enhanced, effective, and collaborative family support and health services
3. Outreach, education and intervention on nutrition and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes
4. Increased public awareness of early childhood issues, First Things First, and career opportunities
5. Increased early care and education opportunities for children ages zero to five.
6. Early screening for health and developmental delays for young children
7. Access to information about child development for families and care providers