



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

February 3, 2009

Minutes of a Meeting

Members present in person: Dorothy Yazzie, Marie Allen, Maggie Benally, Jenny Rodgers, First Lady Vikki Shirley joined the meeting at 1:45pm, Herb Long joined the meeting at 2:10pm and Spencer Willie joined at 2:08pm

Members attending by phone: Paula Curley, Dr. Martin, Paula Seanez, Gerri Kee-Yazzie at 2:04pm

Members absent: None

FTF staff present: Dr. Florinda Jackson, AdiShakti Khalsa and Ellen Majure

Guests present: Julie Fitzgerald, Outreach Specialist for Association of Supportive Child Care

- 1. Call to Order:** The NN RPC meeting was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at the Diné for Our Children, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 48 West Highway 264 - Quality Inn Office Complex, Window Rock, Arizona. The meeting commenced at 1:05pm. Paula Curley, chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and asked each member to introduce themselves for the new council members
- 2. Meeting Minutes:**

The council read the January 06, 2009 meeting minutes. Paula Seanez motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was approved with all members voting in favor, except for the new council members Marie Allen and Maggie Benally, who both abstained from the vote.
- 3. Finance Committee Funding Plan Recommendation:**

Paula explained the background of the funding plan document. She then stated that she is extremely hopeful that the council will approve the funding plan today. She talked about the state legislature/state budget problems, emphasizing how important it is to move forward with the funding plan so it can be presented to the state board for their approval. Florinda stated that there are 3 council members missing from the meeting right now: Gerri, Spencer, and Herb, and so the funding plan can't be voted on until they get here. Florinda will contact the council members to find out when they will arrive.

First Lady Vikki proposed to the council that they go ahead and approve the funding plan without discussion.

Paula Seanez said that the council needs to discuss the 25% matching funds issue in the funding plan.

Marie and Maggie shared that they are comfortable with their understanding of the funding plan. They said that AdiShakti went over the funding plan before the council meeting.

The council discussed the history of the strategies, specifically strategy 1 and 2.

Dr. Martin asked if the council can move forward with strategy 2 the way it is now.

Paula C. stated that her understanding is that we can approve it as is but FTF board/staff may require further articulation of that strategy.

Dr Martin expressed concern that if the council accepts the plan in its present form and send it to the state board, the state board might approve the plan but take out strategy 2 and the funds associated with it.

Paula C. believes that the board wants to make sure that our plan reflects what we want. She thinks the board won't cut that portion of funding but there might be further refinement needed for the plan

AdiShakti clarified that the funding money allotted to the Navajo Nation will not go away even if the strategy does not get approved. If the strategy works for Quality and Access, the council would just need to craft the language and performance measures a little differently. She knows the concern will be that if it just reflects what Quality First is offering, how would the council support/justify why it is not a Quality First program?

There was further discussion about the articulation of strategy 2. Paula C. suggested that if they need to further articulate strategy 2, that it could be done after the council approves the funding plan so that there won't be a delay in getting the funding plan approved. She believes the council should move forward with the approval.

4. Discussion and Possible Approval of Funding Match Included in Funding Plan:

Paula C stated that for the home visiting services strategy (#6), there is a 25% match requested in the funding plan. The reason for the matching funds is that in other states when these kinds of programs are funded without matching funds, programs or organizations sometimes are not as vested in the program and the funds are mismanaged. If there are match funds required, organizations are more vested in the program and the funds are more secure. The match for home care providers is a 50% match.

Paula Seanez said she talked at the last council meeting about the matching funds issue. She wants to clarify her position. There are two issues for her. The council is not asking for matching funds for the education strategy and they have the capability to come up with the matching funds as well, but we are also asking for smaller organizations to come up with the match in some of the other strategies. There is not fair play across the strategies. 2nd issue- She agrees with the match as far as equipment, but the council hasn't agreed on what defines match, can it be in-kind? If the council asks small child care organizations to come up with matching funds, then we need to ask the educational institutions to come up with matching funds a well. Paula asked we can lower the match for smaller orgs?

Discussion about reasonable matching amounts and in-kind matches.

Paula C. suggests that the word "secure" be taken out of the strategies because that means it has

to be money and can't be in-kind match and also she thinks the 50% match is high.

First lady brought up using the budget overhead as matching funds.

AdiShakti brought up that for budgeting, FTF has a policy about indirect costs cap of 10% (not 22%).

First Lady Vikki stated that the NN board may not vote to approve any programs unless there is 22% of indirect costs built into the budget.

Paula C asked AdiShakti if the council can acknowledge to the board that they are still having a discussion about what that percentage should be and what kind of match they want? AdiShakti agreed that they could approve the funding plan and send it to the board.

Gerry joined the meeting by phone at 2:04pm

Marie asked if on the final budget do we have to write in their indirect costs?

Paula C. replied that we don't have to write in the indirect costs, we can submit the plan as it is now to the board of directors. They will then approve or not. Then the team for FTF will write the RFGA and further clarify about the indirect costs.

AdiShakti stated that that is correct but input from the council will be needed and if FTF says it has to be 10% and the NN says 23% that will have to be discussed further.

Spencer Willie joined the meeting by phone at 2:08pm.

Herb Long joined the meeting in person at 2:10pm.

5. Discussion and Possible Approval of Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Funding Plan:

Florinda told the council about the conflict of interest as far as voting for the funding plan.

AdiShakti added that if there are enough people who invoke the conflict of interest, then there won't be a quorum of council members and the rule of impossibility will have to be invoked. If that rule is invoked everyone can state their conflict and then everyone can vote.

Paula asked the council members to state their position as far as voting on the funding plan and declare their conflict if they recuse themselves.

Paula S Recuses herself - early childhood programs

Dr. Martin Recuses himself - implications for NAU

Paula C. Recuses herself - her organization has no intention of applying for funds at this point but her director might want to apply in the future

Gerri Yes can vote

Spencer Recuses himself

First Lady Yes can vote

Dorothy Yes can vote

Maggie Yes can vote

Marie Yes can vote
Jenny Recused herself
Herb Yes can vote

First Lady Vikki motions to approve the funding plan with the recommendations that the council made today regarding the indirect costs and the administrative fees, which will be clarified later. Marie seconded the motion. The council voted as follows:

Gerri Yes
First lady Yes
Dorothy Yes
Maggie Yes
Marie Yes
herb Yes

The motion is unanimously approved by the members who voted.

First Lady Vikki stated that she wants to take a moment to thank everyone for their hard work and she is happy that the funding plan has passed and that they are moving forward to bring the money to the children on the NN. Paula stated that she agrees with First Lady and added the work has just begun.

6. Quality First! Discussion:

Discussion about Quality First! State Outreach Activities for Navajo Nation Child Care Centers.

Paula S suggested that the council get a PSA on the radio about Quality First to get the word out about the request for applications. First Lady Vikki offered to record the PSA.

7. Update on Arizona State Budget:

Paula discusses the state budget and how it affects FTF. The state budget was approved and they took \$7,000,000 in interest funds from FTF. She suggested that people should let the legislators know about the importance of not cutting funds from FTF.

Paula suggested that Arizona Votes is a good organization for watching what is happening with the state budget and that the council should go along with them. Paula went to a meeting with Arizona Votes and they support keeping proposition money. Paula suggests that the council be aware of the state budget and get updates. Paula will send the budget updates to Florinda and she can forward them to the council

8. Coordinator's Report:

Florinda brought up the member forms, 19's and defensive driving class, recommending that the council members get those completed.

9. Upcoming Meeting Date:

March 3, 2009 @ 1:00 pm at the Diné For Our Children - 2nd Floor Conference Rm., Window Rock, Arizona

Spencer can't make the meeting but everyone else can.

10. Call to the Public:

Julie Fitzgerald spoke first. She congratulated the council for approving the funding plan. She passed out her business card. One of the programs they were just awarded is Quality First assessment and TEACH coaches. She has job descriptions for the coaches and the assessors. They are looking to fill those positions. They would like to find people who are fluent in Navajo. Coaching will be based in the Flagstaff office but that person won't have to be located in Flagstaff.

AdiShakti shared that this is that skilled piece for encouraging people to become coaches for Quality First.

Julie stated that there will be an early childhood conference in Glendale in March and an early childhood fair at Northland Pioneer college. She is in charge of the vendor tables. She handed out flyers for the fair.

Angela Barney Nez, who works with First Lady Vikki spoke second. They have done a lot of follow up as far as what First lady can do about stating her position on FTF and the budget cuts to the state legislators. She brought a letter from First Lady Vikki to be presented to the governor. She gave the letter to AdiShakti. Paula suggested that they contact Sandy Carpenter for more information on what else they might want to do.

11. Meeting adjourned at 2:49pm