FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board
Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council
MINUTES

Call to Order/Welcome

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on February 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was located at the Quality Inn Restaurant, Coral Room, 48 West Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at approximately 10:01 a.m. followed by introduction of the Regional Council, staff, and guests.

Members Present: Martin Ashley, Grace Boyne, Rhonda Etsitty, Valonia Hardy,Harry Martin, Byrde Nez, Paula Seanez, andJeannette Yazzie;Amelia Black attended telephonically.

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, Memarie Tsosie, and Virginia Turner

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public at this time.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the January 8, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Boyne that the Regional Council approve the January 8, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Ashley. Motion carried.

Presentation on Quality First Recruitment

Andy Romley and Shannon Reeths, Community Impact Managers of Valley of the Sun United Way, and Barb Gordon, Program Manager of the Association for Supportive Child Care,provided an overview of Quality First to the Regional Council includingassessments and participation, ratings, coaching, financial incentives, and recruitment. Ms. Gordonalso indicated thata recent closure of Mesa View's preschool classroom has led to a disenrollment in Quality First. The three currently enrolled programs on Navajo Nation – Little Folks Day Care, C.O.P.E. Program, and ABC Early Education Center – are to receive assessment ratings in late spring. Additionally, in consideration of twenty-nine Navajo Nation programs eligible for Quality First enrollment, Ms. Romley solicited recommendations from the Regional Council forrecruitingregional Quality First Coaches.

Review and Discussion of the 2012 Needs and Assets Draft Report

Regional Director Begay presentedthe first draft of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council 2012 Needs and Assets Reportas reconstituted by University of Arizona Norton School.Regional Director Begay indicated the removal of primary data;re-representation of regional demographic data; and rearrangementor extraction ofdata including that of Health, Public Awareness, and System Coordination to be among the recommended modifications. Regional Director Begay also specified that a final draft report will be presented to the Regional Councilin March 2013 for final review and discussion, and recommendto theFirst Things Frist State Board in April 2013. Dr. Michele Walsh, Associate Research Professor of University of Arizona Norton School, and Violeta Domínguez, Research Scientist of University of Arizona Norton School, were available telephonically.

Chair Martin requested clarification forthecause of the decrease in the population of young children across Navajo Nationas indicatedby reported data. Dr. Walsh indicated that additional research would be completedto determine cause.

Vice Chair Boyne requested clarification forterm usage in reference to populations within Navajo Nation. Dr. Walsh indicated that additional research would be completed for further clarification.

Member Etsitty offered appreciation to Dr. Walsh and Ms. Domínguez for their initial efforts and investment.

Ms. Domínguez clarified that some sections as requested by First Things First could not be included due to lack of resources and/or data.

Chair Martin asked that the Regional Council further review the report and submit queries to Regional Director Begay by February 20, 2013.

Presentation and Discussion of February 7, 2013 Chairs Meeting

Vice Chair Boyne provided an overview of the Chairs Meeting including discussion ofregional commitments toearly childhood education withemphasis on early childhood nutrition and health. Vice Chair Boynealso encouragedthe Regional Councilto attendimminent meetings with First Things First leadership.

Chair Martin provided updates regarding Discretionary Funding, Regional Council networking, and communication strategies for community awareness. Specifically, Chair Martin indicated that an ad hoc committee – to be established – will be responsible for the distribution of Discretionary Funding. Additionally, Chair Martin announced that three forthcoming webinarsscheduled to begin in March 2013will be available to the Regional Council; webinars willprovideintroductory overview for School Readiness indicators, data sources, and state-level benchmarks as well as assistance withinterpreting tribal datathat would assist in setting regional benchmarks.

Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Councilconsider data release phases when settingregional benchmarksfor School Readiness Indicators. Recommendations from the Regional Council will be providedto the First Things First State Board for review and discussion in April 2014; though, recommended benchmarks will not be made for certain indicators due to unavailable data. Furthermore, Regional Director Begay noted that webinars may be available at forthcoming Regional Partnership Council meetings.

Update on 2013 Grantee Renewal Process, RFGA Releases, and Government Agreements

Regional Director Begay presented guidelines and timelines for the Grantee Renewal Process, RGFA Releases, and Government Agreementsfor existing or expiring grant agreements. The Regional Council will be presented with grant renewals and agreements in May 2013 for review and discussion; after which, recommended to the First Things First State Board in June 2013.

Regional Director Begay further reported that twoexisting grantees – Northland Pioneer College and NihiyazhiBa'iit'ihProgram – will conclude their third year in 2013, leading to scheduled releasesfor Scholarship non-TEACH and Home Visitation strategies. Specifically, the Home Visitation strategy, as a competitive process, will be released on March 1 and close on April 12. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council consider participating on review committees.

Community Outreach Coordinator Report

Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie presented January outreach activities and benchmarks, and provided updates for existing community collaborations with Chinle High School in regards to community awareness; Vikki Shirley, Coordinator of Reach Out and Read Arizona, and Dr. Marian Song, Pediatrician at Tuba City Regional Health Care, in regards to early literacy; and the NihiyazhiBa'iit'ih Program in regards to early dental health.Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie also announced that First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council will host aSite Tour of the ABC Early Education Center and Early Education Forum in

April 2, 2013 in Kayenta, Arizona, following the April Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting. First Things First leadership and tribal leadership will be in attendance.

Regional Director Report

Regional Director Begayprovided updates to the Regional Council in regards to the First Things First State Board, Regional Partnership Council strategies, and regional meetings. Regional Director Begayreported the approval of the Regional Council's 2014Funding Plan by the First Things First State Board;recent progressin establishing the Prenatal Outreach and Native Language Enrichment strategies; and development of a blanket Navajo Nation Internal Review Board application with the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board. Regional Director Begay also announced thattheRegional Area Presentations with First Things First State Board and Regional Partnership Councils of Navajo Nation, Navajo/Apache, and White Mountain Apache Tribeis scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2013 in Holbrook, Arizona. Furthermore, Regional Director Begay presented a proposed agenda for the Site Tour of the ABC Early Education Center.

Regional Council Member Announcements

Member Hardyannounced that Tséhoostooí Medical Center and theArizona Department of Health Services are addressing recent reports of pertussis in the Fort Defiance/Window Rock area. Furthermore, in regards to developing the Prenatal Outreach strategy, Member Hardy encouraged more collaboration with local programs.

Member Etsitty announced that a referral process is now in place with the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arizona scholarship program and that the 22nd Annual Celebrate the Young Child Conferencewill be held in Glendale, Arizona on March 9, 2013.

Next Meeting

The next Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting will be held on March 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room 1, Loop Road and Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Chair Boyne to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Etsitty. Motion carried. Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45 p.m.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2013

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II

Harry Martin, Chair