FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on March 11, 2009 at the Little Colorado Behavioral Health Center, 470 West Cleveland, St. Johns, AZ 85936.

Chair Webb welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3:10 p.m. Chair Webb called for a roll call attendance; the following members were present:

Members present:
Claude Endfield, Mary Hammond, Rance Pullin, Cathy Taylor, Becky Towle, Mary Tyler (via telephone), Melissa Webb; Tom Barela and Michael Zimmerman arrived after roll call.
Members absent: Margie Tapia

Others present:
Dee Hoagland, Maureen Theobald

Member Report and Updates

Chair Webb reported on the FTF Award Presentation Event held on March 9, 2009, and noted the number of local mayors and council members who were present. Member Endfield reminded everyone of the upcoming 22nd Early Childhood Fair on April 4, 2009.

Call to the Public

No calls to the public forms were received.

Adoption of Minutes

The February 11, 2009 Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Minutes were presented for approval. Member Towle asked that a correction be made noting that Pinetop Head Start should have

been included along with the Show Low Head Start related to the Nutrition and Childhood Obesity Study.

- Member Endfield moved to accept the Minutes as revised; Vice Chair Pullin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Regional Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the contacts/visits she's made in the community to discuss First Things First, and the RFGA process. She completed a radio interview with Barbara Bruce, which aired March 8, 2009. Upcoming events include the RFGA Pre-Application Meeting on March 12, 2009. She plans to attend NPC's District Governing Board Meeting and has an appointment to meet with Superintendent Doug McIntyre, Sanders USD.

She shared with the Council that our Region is short-staffed currently because of the absence of the Coordinator for the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council and stated she'd be facilitating the White Mountain Apache Tribe Council Meetings during Coordinator Lacapa's maternity leave. Coordinator Dobler-Allen shared that this Council has four RFGAs and the White Mountain Apache Tribe Council has two; all of which close on April 16, 2009.

She stated that Mel West (City 4 TV) would like her to be interviewed on the City 4 TV show Navajo County Connections. The Mogollon Overlook (on-line newspaper based in Heber/Overgaard) is very interested in FTF's progress, and has requested that the Coordinator submit an article focusing on the needs of our Regions' children that will be part of the paper's series titled, "For the Sake of Our Children". Coordinator Dobler-Allen mentioned there is a shortage of sponsors for the annual White Mountain Bike Rodeo for this year, the Council directed Coordinator Dobler-Allen to be a part of the planning committee meetings and to come back to the Council in April with information related to the potential costs of sponsorship.

Member Tyler noted that the FTF website states the times as 1:30-6:30, not 2:00-7:00 p.m. The Coordinator stated that this is an error; the meeting will begin at 2:00pm as was posted with the Secretary of State in the Courtesy Notice that was posted for this meeting.

RFGA Timeline Update

Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that the first 4 RFGAs went on-line March 5, 2009, and that all applications are due on April 16, 2009 at 10:00am at the First Things First Regional Office in Lakeside at 4700 W. White Mountain Blvd. Suite B1. The remainder of the timeline was reviewed with the Council.

FTF Communications Materials

The communications plan for FY 2010-12 was reviewed, examples of specific messaging were shown.

Revised Cost per TEACH Scholarship (Professional Development Pathway Strategy)

Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated that the revised cost of the TEACH Scholarship is $3600, based on revised TEACH estimates. Significant discussion related to the cost of this Council's strategy was held, as well as the possible impact of the de-funding of the S*CEEDS program. Member Barela moved to retain this strategy as is and Member Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed.

FTF State Board's Bid Waiver Request and Discretionary Funding

Because of the economic crisis, the FTF State Board has determined three areas of immediate need: stabilization of working families, prevention of hunger in young children, and family support to prevent child abuse and/or neglect. Therefore, the First Things First Board has allocated $23.3 million statewide for child care scholarships, $500,000 for additional Emergency Food Boxes, and $6.3 million as a "Frontier Adjustment" for rural Regions, as defined by the U.S. Census as "frontier communities". The frontier allocation is $304,205 for the Navajo/Apache Region.
Significant discussion by the Council was held surrounding the state-wide child care scholarship and emergency food box strategies.

- Member Hammond moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council support the decision of the Board to fund child care scholarships for families up to 200% of the federal poverty level and to issue emergency food boxes for families with children birth through age five, and that the Regional Council vote to participate in this emergency early childhood support package. Member Taylor seconded the motion; motion passed.

Dobler-Allen reported that the $15,000 that had been slated for the costs of the Needs & Assets Report is also available because this expense will now come out of the administrative budget. Member Hammond discussed how much has changed since the Needs & Assets Report was done, and that the Council may need to reconsider some of its original funding allocations as a result of the new "landscape" of needs within the Region.

Dobler-Allen shared that the First Things First Board has requested, and received, Bid Waiver from the Arizona Department of Administration, which allows First Things First and this Council to bypass the RFGA process and will result in the expedited availability of funds.

- After much Council discussion, Vice Chair Pullin moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council participate in the Waiver of Competitive Bid to immediately implement the Navajo/Apache Regional Council's family support strategy. Member Endfield second it; motion passed.

- After much discussion, Member Zimmerman moved that the Council adopt Strategy 12 as written but move it into the Bid Waiver; Member Hammond seconded the motion; motion passed. Dobler-Allen asked for interest in an immediate review committee—Members Towle and Webb indicated their interest.

Participation in and Allocation of Emergency Response Package; Re-allocation of Needs and Assets Funding, Communications Portion, and Carry Forward

Much debate and discussion was held by the Council with respect to the potential allocation of funds to meet short term, immediate needs versus the intent of this Council to create systemic lasting change. Based on the content of the discussion and the breakdown of the funding resources available for possible redistribution/reallocation by this Council, Member Barela proposed the following visual explanation:

$304K – Additional Emergency Response Funds from the State Board

15K – Needs & Assets Funding, which can be re-allocated
163K – Carry Over Funding, which can be reallocated
9K – Approximate Portion of Communications funding available (35%)

After much discussion, the Council determined the following would be a tremendous benefit to this Council's area: 6000 food boxes at approximately $22/each ($132,000); child care scholarships at 300 months (units) at approximately $600 per unit ($180,000); creation of additional child care slots utilizing the remaining money, approximately $178,000.

- Member Zimmerman moved that the Council allocate the $304,205 in Emergency Response funds, $15,000 in Needs & Assets funds, re-allocate $166,053 in Carry Over funds, and $8750 (35 percent of the communications funding), totaling approximately $494,008, to the following:

- 6000 Food Boxes at approximately $132,000,
- preserve 300 months (units) of child care at approximately $180,000,
- create more child care slots at approximately $178,000, totaling $490,000.

Member Barela seconded the motion; the motion passed. Member Zimmerman then amended the motion to state that any additional money goes to the creation of child care slots to meet the total funding available. Member Taylor seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Adjournment

Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:35 p.m.

Melissa C Webb

Melissa Webb, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator