FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

Draft Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular meeting of the First Things First Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at 3:00 p.m., at the Apache County Annex Building, 75 West Cleveland Street, St. Johns, Arizona 85936.

Chair Barela called the meeting to order at approximately 3:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Members Present:
Tom Barela, Claude Endfield, Kalman Mannis, Leslie Meyer, Betsy Peck and Margie Tapia (via phone)

Members Absent: Sheila Chairez, Jeffrey Northup, Cathy Taylor and Amy Tregaskes

Others Present:
Joyce Alves, Margine Bawden, Krista Beazley, Becky Benda-Dodd, DeAnn Davies, Nick Kasovac, Sandy Liston, Kate Dobler-Allen, Laurie Hext, Maureen Theobald, Virginia Turner, Juanita Waits and Linda Williams-Tuenge

Member Reports and Updates

Chair Barela welcomed new Regional Council Member Betsy Peck. Member Mannis gave a report on the recent Northeast Arizona Regional Science Fair. Approximately 350 people attended. There were 12 student winners, and five of those winners will compete at the State level.

Call to the Public

None

Disclosure of Conflicts

None

Discussion and Possible Adoption of January 11, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Meyer moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council, held on January 11, 2011, as submitted. Member Endfield seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Adoption of November 9, 2011 Executive Session Minutes

This agenda item was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

Program Status Reports

a. **Nutrition and Obesity Prevention**

i. **Challenges/Barriers:** Margine Bawden, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, stated there is typically a drop in participation over time, there has been some challenge in effectively reaching Spanish-speaking participants, and transportation for participants is an issue.

ii. Coordination/Collaboration: Ms. Bawden listed a number of collaborations, including Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Apache County Public Health Department.

iii. Successes: Ms. Bawden expressed that this year's participation in St. Johns has improved over last year's, thanks to the support of Becky Towle from Head Start in St. Johns. Juanita Waits, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension shared her appreciation for the energy that Mary Koski extended to engage people.

b. Community-based Literacy

i. Challenges/Barriers: Lynnda Cahoon, Navajo County Library District, stated there were issues with locating venues initially but that has been resolved. Apache county libraries are not open to her presenting at their sites.

ii. Coordination/Collaboration: Ms. Cahoon stated partnerships have been formed with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Naomi House.

iii. Successes: Ms. Cahoon related specific success in being able to talk with parents one-on-one at WIC monthly visits.

c. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arizona: Rhonda Etsitty, Association for Supportive Child Care, was unable to attend and will be placed on the agenda next month.

d. Professional Career Pathways Project

i. Challenges/Barriers: Linda Williams-Tuenge, Central Arizona College, works with 9 Regional Partnership Councils and 16 Community Colleges and there is more money available than credits that have been awarded.

ii. Coordination/Collaboration: Ms. Williams-Tuenge has partnered with the Arizona Library Association and the Community Colleges in order to distribute literature; she has also sent information to the home child care providers on the Department of Economic Security list.

iii. Successes: Ms. Williams-Tuenge expressed how good it is to see so many students of all ages wanting to learn in order to better the lives of children;, many students have told her that they would not be able to go to school without this scholarship.

e. Healthy Steps for Young Children

i. Challenges/Barriers: Laurie Hext, North Country HealthCare, stated her organization has taken barriers and turned them into positive situations. It is beneficial that her organization is a medical-home based clinic that can work with children with or without Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), or other health insurance.

ii. Coordination/Collaboration: Deborah Lewis, North Country HealthCare, credited the Healthy Steps Model because it addresses the needs of the family. Ms. Lewis provided a handout showing the different programs available and stated her organization collaborates with Head Start and Child Find, among others.

iii. Successes: Ms. Hext shared a story of a newborn who was referred to AzEIP (Arizona Early Intervention Program) and saw positive results from that referral.

Regional Director's Report

a. Monthly Report: Regional Director Dobler-Allen presented her upcoming meetings and presentations.

b. Financial Reports: Regional Director Dobler-Allen presented the State Fiscal Year 2012 Funding Plan Summary and the State Fiscal Year 2012 Contract Detail reports.

c. Community Outreach Report: Regional Director Dobler-Allen noted that the main focus has been on preparing for the Northeastern Arizona Science Fair held in March. Preparations are being made for the Bike Rodeo in May and the Health Fair at Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center in June. First Things First will also host an information table for Sanders Unified School District's Parent Academic Night on March 29, 2012.

d. Statewide Evaluation Studies Update: Regional Director Dobler-Allen shared that the External Evaluation is not continuing; however the data is available. A National Panel has been created to review the data and to make recommendations to the First Things First State Board.

e. Child Care Health Consultation and Quality First Updates: Regional Director Dobler-Allen shared that there were no applicants that applied for the statewide Request for Grant Application for Child Care Health Consultation; as result, this will become a First Things First directed program. Statewide Requests for Grant Application have gone out for the component pieces of Quality First, and the review process is continuing for services in SFY 2013.

f. Regional Partnership Council Member Term Renewals and Recruiting: Regional Director Dobler-Allen reminded members who wish to re-apply to submit their applications as soon as possible.

State Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Plan Overview

Due to time constraints, Regional Director Dobler-Allen asked that the members review the background materials for this meeting and contact her with any questions.

Adjournment

Administrative Assistant Theobald shared that she will be leaving First Things First on March 16, 2012 to begin retirement and thanked the members and grantees for their dedicated efforts. The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at Northland Pioneer College, Learning Center Room 101, 1001 West Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, Arizona 85901. There being no further business, Chair Barela adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:25 p.m.

Tom Barela, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Director