



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

**Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board  
San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council  
Special Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2010**

**Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order/Roll Call**

The special meeting of the First Things First – San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on February 16, 2010 at the Boys and Girls Club of the San Carlos Apache Nation, San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, Arizona. 85550.

Chair Steele called the meeting to order at approximately 10:27 A.M.

**Members Present:**

Angelina Burgett, Fred Ferreira, Mitch Hoffman, Janell McIntosh, Robert Olivar Sr., Vernon Poncho, Delphine Rodriguez, and Catherine Steele

**Members Absent:**

William Belvado, David Reede, and LaToya Tewawina

**First Things First Staff Present:**

Beverly Russell, San Carlos Apache Regional Coordinator

**Review and Approval of January 19, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes**

The San Carlos Apache Regional Council reviewed the minutes of the January 19, 2010 Special Meeting. Member Ferreira made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2010 Special Meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Hoffman. The motion carried; 6-0.

**Call to the Public**

Chair Steele announced a Call to the Public. No public comments were offered.

**2010 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment**

Danita Rodriguez introduced herself and one staff member to the Regional Partnership Council. She provided a brief overview of the work and experience of her firm, specifically related to their work with tribal communities. The Regional Partnership Council was very receptive and expressed their excitement about reviewing the finished report. The Council provided the following input regarding their expectations of the 2010 San Carlos Apache Regional Needs and Assets report:

1. Member Ferreira informed them that last year's report did not contain enough information from the tribal service providers and the community. He recognized that time was an issue; however, he stressed the importance of getting information from these venues.

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2. Member Olivar mentioned his desire to see this report serve as a way to promote more collaboration among local service providers. He also mentioned that it would be great to get input from both the youth and the adults about the topic of early childhood development.
3. Chair Steele mentioned the importance of working with the tribal health department to capture data that they may already have available.

Ms. Rodriguez informed the council that her next step is to meet with Coordinator Russell to develop an action plan that can be presented at their next meeting. The council was pleased to hear that she would be appearing at their meetings to provide updates as the report shapes up.

### **First Things First External Evaluation Presentation and Discussion**

Coordinator Russell introduced Beth Blue Swadener, Ph.D. and Dawna Holiday of the First Things First External Evaluation Team from Arizona State University. They presented a brief overview of the three studies associated with the First Things First External Evaluation. They emphasized their understanding of the need to have tribal approval prior to conducting any work in tribal communities. The presenters reported that one tribe has completed the approval process for participation in the studies and two are very close to finalizing approval. Ms. Swadener mentioned that if San Carlos chose to participate, the data collected would be co-owned by First Things First and the Tribe. The council informed her of the Tribal Council's concern with confidential information and data ownership. Member Ferreira requested a written sample of how the data will be presented so that the Regional Partnership Council could begin and/or endorse an approval process with the Tribe. The Regional Partnership Council Members agreed and asked for something in writing such as a sample report or data that would demonstrate aggregate use so that the Tribal Council can see what the information will look like in the study. Ms. Swadener agreed to send Coordinator Russell their latest presentation with some numbers included in addition to a sample family member portrait that has been developed for one of the studies. The Regional Partnership Council will revisit this item after reviewing the material provided to them by the University Consortium.

### **Report on the FTF Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting**

Chair Steele deferred to Coordinator Russell to provide this report to the council along with her monthly Coordinator's Report.

### **Coordinator's Report**

Ms. Russell presented the following report highlights to the Regional Partnership Council for the current period:

1. The San Carlos Apache Tribal Council passed three resolutions on February 2, 2010 in support of First Things First.
2. On February 4, 2010 Chair Steele attended a statewide Chair and Vice Chairs in Mesa, Arizona. Some of the topics discussed were the 2010 and 2011 Funding Plan Implementation, Regional Council Appointments for seat with two year terms, Legislative Updates and Public Affairs, and a review of statewide RFGA recommendations.
3. Board Chair Steve Lynn has convened the Arizona Early Childhood Taskforce. The Arizona Early Childhood Task Force will establish the vision for the state's early childhood development and health system and guide the role of First Things First in the implementation of this comprehensive system for Arizona children. San Carlos Regional Partnership Council Vice Chair, David Reede, has been selected to serve on this task force on behalf of the Central East Region.

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### **Regional SFY 2010 Operational Plan Update**

Mrs. Russell provided an update of the current San Carlos Apache Regional Operation Plan. Highlights of the plan included the following:

1. Apache Parent Curriculum: The draft agreement was presented to the full Tribal Council on February 2, 2010. This item was only presented to begin the review process. No action on this item was requested due to the fact that the San Carlos Apache Head Start Program has not yet completed the paperwork required to complete the government to government agreement. In February the Regional Partnership Council decided to revise the agreement for strategy to include SFY 2011 funding, therefore the agreement language for has been revised to reflect a 14 month contract that will be presented to the SCAT Education committee on March 3rd.
2. Early Childhood and Health Collaborative: The next meeting will take place in the month of March.
3. Health Intervention: The grantees have begun programming. The Council has not received an update of programming data due to potential conflicts of interest. The Coordinator is working on finding a solution to this issue.
4. Early Childhood Development Awareness/Recruitment Campaign: The public awareness and career recruitment campaign activities will be discussed by the Collaborative in March.
5. Professional REWARD\$ Program: This program is in the initial start up stage at the state level.
6. Mobile Developmental Screenings: The draft agreement was presented to the full Tribal Council on February 2, 2010. This item was only presented to begin the review process. No action on this item was requested due to the fact that the San Carlos Apache Head Start Program has not yet completed the paperwork required to complete the government to government agreement. In February the Regional Partnership Council decided to revise the agreement for strategy to include SFY 2011 funding, therefore the agreement language for has been revised to reflect a 14 month contract that will be presented to the SCAT Education committee on March 3rd.
7. Arizona Parent Kits: This strategy has been completed.

#### *Emergency/Expedited Strategies:*

1. Emergency Child Care Scholarships: \$2,861 of the scholarship dollars was utilized by Apache Kid Care in the month of December.
2. Emergency Food Box Initiative: The first allocation for this strategy was reported to have been processed and mailed out to the Fire Department by First Things First during the week of February 8th.

### **Discussion and Possible Action related to SFY 2010 Unexpected and Carry Forward Dollars**

Ms. Russell reported that the Board of First Things First has provided authority for Regional Councils to utilize unplanned, unexpended allocations for SFY 2010 to expand strategies where approved grants or agreements now exist within their region or to use such funds for emergency strategies previously approved by the Board, as long as the funds use clearly provides added value for children. She explained that this authority was provided to help councils expedite decisions in a more timely fashion for use of current year regional funds. Coordinator Russell informed the Council that the only San Carlos Apache regional strategies that would be eligible for increases under this authority would be the Health Intervention, the Food Boxes and the Childcare Scholarships. The Regional Partnership Council emphasized their belief that there hasn't been an adequate amount of programming to be able to justify the need for additional dollars for any of these strategies. The coordinator clarified that the other strategies would not be eligible for this amendment because they are agreements that have not yet been finalized. Ms. Russell explained that the Collaborative strategies (procurement) have not yet expended any monies and the Professional Reward\$ is still in the start up phase at the state level. The Regional Partnership Council further expressed that the Parent Kit strategy was adequate and there was

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no need to increase the number of kits for use in the community. Therefore, the Regional Partnership Council chose to take no formal action at this time but they did direct Ms. Russell to research and provide recommendations for consideration of grant/agreement modifications at the April meeting. The Regional Partnership Council agreed that by April the emergency food box strategy may have demonstrated a need for additional dollars.

### **Discussion and Possible Action Related to Contract Renewals and/or Alternate Funding Mechanisms for 2011 Regional Strategies**

Ms. Russell presented recommendations to the Regional Partnership Council related to SFY 2011 contract renewals and alternate funding mechanisms. The Regional Partnership Council expressed their support of the funding mechanisms offered in the recommendation matrix. The Regional Partnership Council directed Ms. Russell to proceed with the recommendations offered in attachment number seven (7). Additionally, the Regional Partnership Council reviewed the funding plan worksheet relating to the FY 2011 Family, Friend, and Neighbor strategy which they supported to be released as an RFGA. The members of the Regional Partnership Council expressed their opinion that the intent of the strategy was captured in the funding plan and there was no need for the Regional Partnership Council to review a scope of work for this initiative. Ms. Russell was directed to proceed with the development and release of the Scope of Work and RFGA using the elements of this strategy included in the SFY2011 funding plan.

### **Discussion and Possible Action Related Regional Partnership Council Membership**

Ms. Russell informed the Regional Partnership Council that the positions that hold a two year seat will be expiring on June 30, 2010. Those members whose terms will expire must reapply if they wish to remain on the Regional Partnership Council. The Regional Partnership Council took no formal action on this item. However, as it relates to the review of applicants, Ms. Russell was directed to work with the Chair and the Regional Manager to develop a review team appointed by the Chair that did not include any members of the Regional Partnership Council. In short, they did not want to be involved in the review process. They felt like they should be excluded to maintain an impartial process. Members commented that they were not interviewed by people from the Regional Partnership Council and/or community members and they enjoyed that process because there was no indications of special treatment, family preference etc.

### **Council Member Updates & Announcements**

No updates or announcements were provided.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business Chair Steele adjourned the meeting at 12:26 P.M.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**Beverly Russell, Regional Coordinator**

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**Catherine Steele, Chair**