FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on March 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at ABC Day Care, 422 S. 2nd Ave., Whiteriver, AZ 85941.

Chair Massey, Jr., called the meeting to order at approximately 3:23 p.m.

Members Present:
C. Bradley Brock, Deborah Clendon, Laurel Endfield, Ranelda Hastings, Velma Kaytoggy, Mary Kline (via telephone) and Kirk Massey, Jr.

Members Absent: Shine Burnette and Faye Smith

Other Attendees: Kate Dobler-Allen, Mona Lisa Eleando, Claude Endfield, Beth Haas, Monique James, Kathy Lacapa, Rochelle Lacapa, Nicole Neault and Maureen Theobald

Discussion and Possible Approval of the February 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Chair Massey, Jr., reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 8, 2010.

Member Kline moved to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2010 regular meeting of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council as presented. Member Clendon seconded; the motion passed 7:0:0.

Call to the Public

Ms. Mona Eleando, Northland Pioneer College (NPC), requested to share the status of the Apache Families First Project, which just completed a three-week class, Early Childhood Development 185. Ms. Eleando further stated that all five students who enrolled in the course completed the course; some students may continue with additional classes. There are 16 students signed up for the second offering of the Early Childhood Development 185 course. Coordinator Lacapa will be interviewing one of the students for an article in *The Apache Scout.*

Discussion and Possible Approval of SFY 2010 Support Box Contract Modification – Timeline Extension

Ms. Nicole Neault, Johns Hopkins, shared a handout with attendees on the current status of the Support Box Project and requested that the project be extended for an additional six months to December 31, 2010. Coordinator Lacapa noted this would require a vote by the Regional Partnership Council members.

Vice Chair Endfield motioned to extend the contract for the Johns Hopkins Support Box Project through December 31, 2010. Member Kaytoggy seconded. Chair Massey, Jr., and Member Hastings voiced conflicts of interest because of their employment with Johns Hopkins; therefore, the vote could not be taken due to lack of quorum. This agenda item was tabled until the April meeting.

Discussion and Possible Approval of SFY 2010 Needs & Assets Data Collection Methodology

Coordinator Lacapa informed everyone that Ms. Cassandra O'Neill, Wholonomy Consulting, recently raised some questions regarding the members' preference in the methodology of the data collection. Specifically, Coordinator Lacapa asked if:

1. The Regional Partnership Council would like to utilize focus groups in order to inform qualitative information in the needs and assets report and
2. If the Regional Partnership Council would like to utilize the 2000 Census demographic data with a caveat that the data is somewhat outdated or if they would like to eliminate that data entirely.

Member Brock asked for specific examples of Census data that could be utilized but would be outdated; Coordinator Lacapa stated that the 2000 Census data can be broken out by community and would be more region-specific, whereas, Census data after 2000 is not community specific and would be included with Navajo, Apache and Gila County's statistics. Vice Chair Endfield asked if the focus groups would involve day care staff; Coordinator Lacapa confirmed this. Member Kline stated we need more current data and further stated she prefers the use of focus groups.

Member Brock motioned that the Regional Partnership Council members accept the methodologies as presented. Vice Chair Endfield seconded; the motion passed 7:0:0.

Discussion and Possible Approval to Reallocate SFY 2010 Carry Forward Dollars

Coordinator Lacapa reminded the members of the $6,500, which is now available due to the Child Find Program declining the SFY 2010 contract for community awareness. Because of its relationship to the next agenda item, the members moved to agenda item #7 prior to making a determination on this issue.

Discussion and Possible Approval of SFY 2010 Communications Strategy(s)

Coordinator Lacapa reviewed the proposed Cross-Regional Communications Plan that would include both the Navajo Nation and the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Councils. The plan involves Family Fun Days, which are estimated to cost $8800 per event. This partnership would offer an opportunity to share in the overall costs. Another option would be to utilize the statewide communications plan, which would involve hiring a sub-contractor to organize meetings, presentations, etc., and would cost approximately $15,000 for a three-month period. A third option would be to utilize the Born Learning materials, which is a public relations campaign related to early childhood development. After further discussion, the members preferred the Family Fun Day events and felt it would be beneficial to work with other regions.

Vice Chair Endfield moved that the $6500 in unallocated funds, be reallocated to the Cross-Regional Communications Plan partnership of the three Regional Partnership Councils (Navajo Nation, Navajo/Apache and White Mountain Apache Tribe). Member Kline seconded; the motion passed 7:0:0.

Review and Discussion of SFY 2010 Quarter 1 Narrative Reports

Coordinator Lacapa reviewed the first quarter narrative reports (July through September 2009), which reflected the start-up period for the grantees and noted that the second quarter's narrative reports are forthcoming. Coordinator Lacapa informed the members that both programs, NPC's Apache Families First and Johns Hopkins Father's Project, experienced some start-up barriers such as a lag in getting approvals for communications materials, recruitment of staff, etc.; however, both are progressing currently.

Discussion and Possible Renewal of SFY 2010 Contracts for SFY 2011

Coordinator Lacapa informed the members that the option to offer a renewal does not require an official vote by the Regional Partnership Council but, rather, the Regional Partnership Council only needs to arrive at consensus. However, the Regional Partnership Council will need to take an official vote when the renewal packets are received from each grantee. Coordinator Lacapa's recommendations for each grantee are as follows:

a. Johns Hopkins Father's Project – Offer contract renewal with a 10 percent increase in funding as outlined in the SFY 2010 and 2011 Regional Funding Plans

b. NPC's Apache Families First Project – Offer contract renewal with a 10 percent increase in funding as outlined in the SFY 2010 and 2011 Regional Funding Plans

c. FCCLA Early Childhood Conference – Offer contract renewal with 100 percent increase (from $2,000 to $4,000) in order to fund, more fully, the conference

d. Tribal Planning Department Census Project – While $5500 had been approved during the February meeting, the U.S. Census will be completed by May 2010, so Coordinator Lacapa recommended the motion from February's meeting be rescinded and that funding not be renewed for the SFY 2011. Additionally, Coordinator Lacapa recommended bringing the SFY 2010 Census contract back to the Regional Partnership Council in April for re-allocation if the contract is not in place by April 12, 2010.

All members without a conflict were in consensus with Coordinator Lacapa's recommendation.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Funding Mechanisms for SFY 2011 Strategies

Coordinator Lacapa recommended the following funding mechanisms for SFY 2011 Strategies:

a. Early Literacy – Request for Grant Application (RFGA) process. Release Date: April 1, 2010

b. Oral Health – RFGA process. Release Date: April 1, 2010

c. Child Care Scholarships – Continue with existing contract with United Way-Valley of the Sun. Coordinator Lacapa noted that First Things First (FTF) is extending the existing contract two months (July and August, 2010) while concurrently releasing a competitive

Request for Proposal for the administrative home to implement this strategy statewide. The new contract would begin on August 1, 2010.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Regional Partnership Council 2-Year Term Recommendation Process

Coordinator Lacapa reviewed the procedures for members who will complete their two-year term on June 30, 2010 and discussed the procedures for filling those seats, which will become four-year terms as of July 1, 2010. The suggested review committee for the new applicants consists of one community member and two Regional Partnership Council members. Coordinator Lacapa further explained that the options for the members are to identify members for the applicant review committee or to request FTF staff to identify members for the committee. Coordinator Lacapa noted that Northeast Regional Manager, AdiShakti Khalsa will then be responsible for coordinating the interview teams and completing the process for First Things First Board approval. The members stated their preference would be to delegate the nomination process for the applicant review committee to Coordinator Lacapa. Coordinator Lacapa shared that Mrs. Dawnafe Whitesinger's application will go before the First Things First State Board for approval on March 23, 2010, Ms. Cathy Wynn is in the process of applying for the Health Services Provider seat and Mr. Elmer Lamson has expressed an interest in applying.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Lacapa reviewed her list of meetings in the community and the newspaper articles submitted to *The Apache Scout* during the month of February. Coordinator Lacapa shared that she was contacted by Mr. Cline Griggs, White Mountain Apache Tribe Educational Department Director, to determine what he could do to help First Things First with the current legislative climate.

SFY 2011 RFGA Review Committee Recommendations

Coordinator Lacapa shared the list of RFGA review committee members from 2009 and asked the Regional Partnership Council members if they wished to review the list during the meeting or have Coordinator Lacapa follow up with an e-mail asking for input on additional review committee members. The members preferred to receive the details in an e-mail and would respond accordingly.

Items for the Good of the Order

The next Regular meeting of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council will be held on Monday, April 12, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at the ABC Day Care in Whiteriver, AZ.

Adjourn

Having no further business, Chair Massey, Jr., adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Approved:

Kirk Massey, Jr., Chair

Rochelle Lacapa, Regional Coordinator