



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

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

**Call to Order/Welcome**

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on March 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time). The meeting was located at the Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room 1, Loop Road and Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

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

Members Present: Amelia Black, Grace Boyne, Rhonda Etsitty, Valonia Hardy, Harry Martin, Byrde Nez, and Paula Seanez

Members Absent: Martin Ashley and Jeannette Yazzie

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, Amy Kemp, Karen Peifer, Charlene Surber, 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 February 12, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Boyne that the Regional Council approve the February 12, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried.

**Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Approval of the 2012 Needs and Assets Report**

Dr. Michele Walsh, Associate Research Professor of the University of Arizona Norton School, and Violeta Domínguez, Research Scientist of the University of Arizona Norton School, presented the final draft of the 2012 Needs and Assets Report to the Regional Council. Ms. Domínguez initially identified limited access to primary data as the primary challenge to completing the report with sufficient emphasis on relevant and regional information. Additionally, chapters for coordination and collaboration, early childhood systems, economic indicators, family support, health, and public awareness were altered or excluded due to insufficient data, with the exception of public tribal data.

Member Etsitty expressed gratitude for the presentation of a concise and accessible report that better identified regional needs.

Vice Chair Boyne expressed concern regarding the exclusion of primary data and an inability to accurately determine regional needs.

Chair Martin recommended an adjustment to the specified age group served by First Things First, to indicated birth to age 5 where the report indicated birth to age 6. Additionally, Chair Martin requested clarification for data in sections pertaining to languages spoken in the home, household income, unemployment, Navajo Nation Program for Self-Reliance, dropout rates, child care centers, childhood obesity, and incarceration.

Member Black requested the inclusion of data for schools located on the borders of the region. Ms. Domínguez indicated that limitations of time and public data would not allow for thorough reporting, leading to exclusion of the information entirely.

Member Seanez recommended that the provided list of colleges and universities as being in partnership with regional departments/agencies for purposes of professional development be verified.

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Partnership Council approve the 2012 Needs and Assets Report with the suggested changes recommended by the Regional Council, seconded by Member Black. Motion carried.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action on SFY13 Child Care Health Consultation Strategy**

Member Seanez declared conflict with the Child Care Health Consultation Strategy. Member Seanez is the Assistant Director of the Growing in Beauty program, which is the current contractor for the Child Care Health Consultation Strategy.

Karen Peifer, Senior Director of Children's Health for First Things First provided an overview of the Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) with special attention to continued recruitment efforts for a CCHC Nurse on Navajo Nation. Senior Director Peifer indicated that regional Quality First centers are not receiving regular assessments for health and safety practices due to challenges in recruiting and hiring a CCHC Nurse. The Regional Council was presented with a temporary solution to hire a PRN CCHC who would perform responsibilities of assessments, and support Quality First centers within the region until the current contractor, Growing in Beauty, is able to identify a qualified candidate to serve the Navajo Nation region. Additionally, the PRN CCHC would provide assistance to recruit a permanent CCHC Nurse in addition to providing support during transition. The Regional Council was presented with proposals of reallocating funding from the current contractor in FY2013 to recruit a PRN CCHC; and to reallocate the award for FY2014 from the current contractor, Growing in Beauty, to Maricopa Country starting July 1 to fund the PRN CCHC position. Regional Director Begay confirmed that funding would return back to the original contractor, Growing in Beauty, after a CCHC Nurse for Navajo Nation has been hired.

Member Hardy recommended partnering with public health nurses on the Navajo Nation to assist in providing CCHC services.

Regional Director Begay further reported that the current contractor, Growing in Beauty, is currently exploring alternatives such as partnering with an agency to assist in identifying a contracted CCHC Nurse.

The Regional Council did not provide a motion or vote.

#### **Review and Discussion of SFY13 Quarter Two Data and Financial Reports**

Regional Director Begay presented SFY2013 Quarter Two data and financial reports for regional strategies. Regional Director Begay specified that no major challenges were reported for the quarter and that most grantees are continuing to reach or exceed their Contracted Service Units. Additionally, Regional Director Begay provided further clarification to the Regional Council regarding financial expenditures for Community Awareness, Food Security, Oral Health, and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships strategies.

#### **Discussion and Possible Approval of 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Vendor**

Regional Director Begay presented the timeline for the 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Report process and provided an overview of proposal summaries for prospective vendors. The contract and developed work plan with a selected vendor would begin in July 2013 and the Regional Council will receive a final report in September 2014. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council also consider identifying primary data to be included in the 2014 Needs and Assets Report so initial discussions can begin with the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board for purposes of obtaining approval.

A motion was made by Member Seanez that First Things First staff be directed to work with the University of Arizona for the 2014 Needs and Assets Report, seconded by Member Etsitty. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Boyne exited the meeting at approximately 12:06 p.m.

**Presentation on Early Childhood Everyday**

Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Regional Council identifying the structure of First Things First and community outreach strategies that would better enable public introduction and discussion of First Things First, and early childhood health and education. Specifically, Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie highlighted positive community response when connection is made between First Things First strategies and cultural customs of the local communities.

**Regional Director Report**

Regional Director Begay provided updates to the Regional Council on the Early Childhood Workshop, the ABC Early Education Center Site Tour, and the recent presentation to the Navajo Nation Health, Education, and Human Services Committee; specifically, Regional Director Begay provided the Navajo Nation Health, Education, and Human Services Committee with an overview and current status of partnerships with Navajo Nation programs including the Navajo Nation Child Care Development Fund, Office of Diné Culture and Language, and Navajo Nation Head Start.

**Regional Council Member Announcements**

Chair Martin expressed gratitude to Regional Council members who were able to attend the Regional Board Roundtable in Holbrook, Arizona. The Regional Council was also asked to consider serving on the Discretionary Funding ad hoc committee, and to confirm their attendance to the April Regular Meeting in Kayenta, Arizona.

**Next Meeting**

The next Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting will be held on April 2, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time) at the Kayenta Unified School District Administration Office, Administration Training Room, North U.S. Highway 163 and Mustang Boulevard, Kayenta, Arizona 86033.

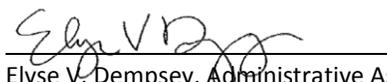
**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Member Seanez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Nez. Motion carried. Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:44 p.m.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council



Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II

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Harry Martin, Chair