



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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

Call to Order/Welcome

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on April 2, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time). The meeting was located at the Kayenta Unified School District Administration Office, Administration Training Room, North U.S. Highway 163 and Monument Valley Boulevard, Kayenta, Arizona, 86033.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at approximately 8:11 a.m. followed by introduction of guests, staff, and the Regional Council.

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

Members Absent: Valonia Hardy and Martin Ashley

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, Rhian Evans Allvin, Karen Peifer, Pam Powell, Beverly Russell, Memarie Tsosie, and Virginia Turner

Call to the Public

Ms. Sandra Davis, a parent from the Nihiyazhi Ba'ii't'ih Home Visitation Program, expressed gratitude for the support of the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, and the home visitation program for assisting in the development of her child.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the March 12, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion and Possible Action on SFY14 Quality First Scholarships Waivers

Chair Martin declared conflict with the SFY14 Quality First Scholarships Waivers, and recused himself from discussion and action. Chair Martin is the current superintendent of Kayenta Unified School District, in which the ABC Early Education Center is a potential recipient of SFY14 Quality First Scholarship Waivers.

Regional Director Begay explained that ABC Early Education Center's Quality First rating assessment indicated they did not achieve a three star rating to continue to be eligible to receive Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships. Regional Director Begay recommended that ABC Early Education Center be transitioned to Quality First with Full Participation, which will include Quality First Child Care Scholarships. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council consider a continuation of funding to the center in SFY14 by providing double over the cap of Quality First Child Care Scholarships. In State Fiscal Year 2014, the Regional Council has allotted funding for six centers in Quality First with Scholarships, and Regional Director Begay reaffirmed the Regional Council would not be increasing the current funding allotment for Quality First.

Member Seanez requested clarification regarding the number of Quality First Child Care Scholarships to be provided to the ABC Early Education Center.

Regional Director Begay indicated that the ABC Early Education Center is considered a large site and is eligible to receive ten Quality First Child Care Scholarships. The center is eligible to receive double over the cap of scholarships, which would be 56 scholarships to provide sufficient funding and support to the ABC Early Education Center to continue working toward improving their star rating.

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Partnership Council approve the Quality First Child Care Scholarships for double over the cap for ABC Early Education Center, seconded by Member Yazzie. Motion carried.

Video Presentation on Regional Benchmarking Process

Regional Director Begay provided a video webinar on the regional benchmarking process for school readiness indicators for 2020 including an early childhood vision and strategic direction, ten school readiness indicators, state level benchmarks, how to use state and regional benchmarks to measure progress, and the timeline for setting regional benchmarks. Regional Director Begay noted that Regional Councils of First Things First are charged with selecting regional benchmarks for their regions; the Regional Council had previously selected Indicators 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10 as regional indicators. Two presentations regarding regional benchmarking will follow in May and June Regional Council meetings.

Presentation and Discussion on 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Supplemental Data Collection

Regional Director Begay presented information on possible supplemental work to the Base Report of the 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Report. As reports previously approved by the Regional Council in 2008, 2010, and the recent 2012 solely provided general population trends of the Navajo Nation region, Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council consider an intentional direction for the type of primary data to be collected and included in future reports in terms of the early childhood system on Navajo Nation. Regional Director Begay also asked that the Regional Council consider the timeline for obtaining approval from the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board for collecting supplemental primary data to include in the report. The 2014 report will be completed by University of Arizona Norton School.

Chair Martin proposed a future work session, as needed, will allow for additional discussion for the Regional Council.

Member Seanez asked that the Regional Council consider the priority roles and school readiness indicators outlined in the video presentation on Regional Benchmarking so that Regional Council goals may align accordingly.

Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Approval on SFY2014 Community Awareness Plan and Budget

Regional Director Begay provided recommendations to the Regional Council for the SFY2014 Community Awareness Plan and Budget. The funding allotment is \$50,000 and will begin July 1, 2013. Regional Director Begay noted that the budget is divided into four different services: Educational Reinforcement, Collateral Materials and External Printing, Event Sponsorship, and Event Participation.

A motion was made by Member Black that the Regional Partnership Council approve the SFY14 Community Awareness Budget as presented, seconded by Member Nez. Motion carried.

Community Outreach Report

Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie provided a written report to the Regional Council including February and March Outreach Activities and Benchmarks.

First Things First CEO Update

Presentation and Possible Discussion

Chief Executive Officer Evans Allvin expressed her gratitude to the Regional Council for their efforts, and acknowledged Members Ashley, Black, Boyne, Etsitty, Hardy, and Nez for one-year of service to First Things First and children of Arizona with a presentation of certificates and pins. Chief Executive Officer Evans Allvin also provided updates in regards to the pursuit of establishing a statewide kindergarten developmental inventory, where a standardized inventory administered in the first three months of

kindergarten would be a combination of work sampling and observation that teachers could use as an instructional tool for a child's development; and would align with the recently revised early learning standards, the infant-toddler program guidelines, the common core, and Quality First so that assessments provide standardized data for individual providers. Simultaneously, First Things First has jointly convened with the State Superintendent and Department of Education a stakeholders' taskforce of people from across the state including Vice Chair Boyne with intentions of providing First Things First and the Department of Education recommendations regarding the development of the kindergarten developmental inventory. The First Things First State Board has also convened a taskforce, led by State Board Member Nadine Basha, on public and private partnerships and how First Things First can comprehensively leverage the tobacco revenue to obtain additional funding from public and private entities. A report is due to the First Things First State Board in June 2013. Additionally, Executive Officer Evans Allvin the State Board indicated that as First Things First is required to reexamine the regional boundaries of every two years; a statewide taskforce has recommended three consolidations for the Phoenix, Maricopa, and Pima regions. The deadline for public comment is May 7, 2013. Last, an update for the State Governor's Office included a request to the state legislature for a \$9 million dollar budget request for child care subsidy.

Regional Director Report

Regional Director Begay provided a written report to the Regional Council including information for the regional Oral Health Forum that was held in Flagstaff on March 20, 2013. Additionally, Regional Director Begay noted that the First Things First Early Childhood Workshop, Play: Where Learning Begins will take place on April 15, 2013 in Tuba City, Arizona; and that grant renewals and government to government agreements have been received.

Regional Council Member Announcements

Chair Martin asked that all Regional Council members plan to attend the May 14 Regional Council in preparation for discussion and action.

Next Meeting

The next Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting will be held on May 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time) at the Quality Inn Restaurant, Coral Room, 48 West Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Chair Boyne to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried. Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:52 a.m.

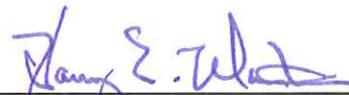
Dated this 5th day of April, 2013

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council



Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II



Harry Martin, Chair