



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

The regular meeting of the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council meeting was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at the Diné for Our Children, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 48 West Highway 264 - Quality Inn Office Complex, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

Paula Curley, Chairperson for the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, called the meeting to order, at approximately 1:58p.m.

Members Present In Person: Paula Curley, Paula Seanez, Marie Allen, Maggie Benally, Dorothy Yazzie, Joe Martin

Members Present by Phone: None

First Things First Staff Members Present: AdiShakti Khalsa (Northeast Regional Manager), Katie Stevens (Tribal Child Development Issues-Senior Policy Specialist), Ellen Majure (Northeast Administrative Assistant),

Guests: Teresa Honahni (Parenting Arizona), Vivian Hyden (Coconino County Health Dept. Page), Lola Riggs (Coconino County Health Dept. Page) Julie Fitzgerald (Association of Supportive Child Care),

Consent Agenda

The Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council (hereafter referred to as the Council) reviewed the March 3, 2009 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Member Seanez to approve the minutes as corrected. Member Marie Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Emergency Early Childhood Response Plan Update

A. Emergency Child Care Scholarships

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the emergency early childhood response plan and its progress. There is approximately \$600,000 available to the Navajo Nation. The emergency child care scholarships can be given to approximately 300 children on the Navajo Nation. The issue on the Navajo Nation is more about capacity than about a lack of funding available for child care and whether or not the Navajo Nation will really be able to utilize the funds. United Way of Northern Arizona is the Administrative Home for the scholarships. Child care centers and homes can contact United Way of Northern Arizona if they want to pursue the scholarships. This is not part of the frontier allocation funds. The Emergency Response Plan is for funding through June of this year.

The Council then discussed the scholarships. Member Martin made the following motion: **I make a motion that reflects this discussion here that we not allocate any new funds of our own budget but take advantage of what's available and try to exhaust that and make sure that word gets out by whatever means out to the centers that identify the folks who are in need.** Member Seanez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Food Box Distribution-Next Steps

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the next steps for the food box distribution program. Ms. Khalsa asked the Council if they want to identify any additional Food Providers. The Council identified Navajo Way, WIC, St. Michaels and the Elderly Program as possible food distributors. After the Council discussed the food boxes, Member Seanez made the following motion: **that we utilize the \$18,333 for the food box distribution and that we work with Navajo Way, WIC, and St. Michaels and the Elderly Program for getting a plan for distributing those and that we not put any additional funds as of yet .** Dorothy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. Family Support

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on Family Support, or Home Visitation. She clarified that the Emergency Family Support is also for a Home Visitation Program. Ms. Khalsa would not recommend expediting anything under family

support at this time. The Home Visitation Strategy Request For Grant Applications (RFGA) will be released on April 8th. Ms. Khalsa then explained the RFGA process to the Council. The Council wants to wait to see what kind of response occurs (how many grant applications are received). Member Seanez made the following motion: **I move that we not add any more frontier funding to family support.** Member Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Regional Funding Plan

A. Update on Request for Grant Applications

Chair Curley told the Council that Strategies #3 and #6 will be released as RFGA's on April 8th. Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the status of the strategies, following the attachment on the Strategy updates. She shared that she and Chair Curley will work on developing the selection criteria for Strategy #1- Quality First for good geographical representation. Ms. Khalsa also shared that she and Chair Curley will work to further develop Strategy #2 together and it will be brought to the Council next month. Strategy #4 (Professional Development) will come under a government to government agreement or procurement.

The Council then discussed Distance Learning issues related to Strategy #4. Member Martin shared that NAU will be shutting down all distance learning and the Navajo and Hopi centers will be shut down as well. Chair Curley asked how much it costs to run the distance learning program for professional development classes. She brought up the idea that perhaps the Council could put funds into the Northern Arizona University (NAU) distance learning program for the professional development classes. Dr. Martin agreed to get information on how much it costs NAU to have a distance learning program in the area of Professional Development classes. He said that Fred Hurst is the director of the Distance Learning Program at NAU. The next steps are to follow up with NAU, Northland Pioneer College and Diné College. Ms. Khalsa told the Council that she will get more clarity on Strategy #4 by the next meeting.

The council discussed the location of the next RPC meeting. It was agreed that the meeting will be in Flagstaff. Member Martin will find a meeting room at NAU.

D. Strategy #5: Update on the Statewide Wage Enhancement Initiative

The RFGA is for the Statewide Administrative Home for Wage Enhancement, but the Council's allotment for the Wage Enhancement strategy is limited and the Council might want to put more money into this strategy next year. There is \$100,000 allotted for this strategy

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on Strategy #6. It goes out for RFGA on April 8th.

Ms. Khalsa explained the RFGA process to the Council. Member Seanez suggested that First Lady's office might be appropriate for accepting the RFGA applications. There is a need for a review committee made up of 6 people for each RFGA. There will be training for the committee, but no training date has been set. Ms. Khalsa explained the role of the review committee.

B. Strategy #7: Discussion and Possible Approval of Clarifications

The Council discussed Strategy #7- Early Literacy with a Clearinghouse. The next steps will be to look for a facility or library. Member Seanez and Member Benally will talk to Eddie Tso, Program Director - Navajo Nation Office of Language & Culture, before the next meeting to get more information on clearinghouse materials so the Council can define the Scope of this strategy further. Mr. Tso may be able to help define the scope of the clearinghouse. Member Martin requested that the council be clear about defining if the strategy is for dual language, early literacy, maintenance and/or transition. Other possibilities are for pre-literacy, literacy in the language spoken at home and/or a clearinghouse. Ms. Khalsa agreed to provide to the Council the First Things First Early Literacy Scopes of Work.

Frontier Allocation: Discussion and Possible Approval

Chair Curley requested that the Council wait to see what comes forward for the RFGA's before allocating the Frontier Funds. Member Seanez offered that the Council might want to consider expanding Quality First sites. Member Martin motioned **that the Council desires to wait for proposals for the RFGA's before making further decisions on the Frontier Allocations.** Member Seanez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Call to the Public

Guest Lola Riggs, Healthy Families Program, spoke to the Council about the funding cuts the Healthy Families Program is facing and she requested that the Council consider funding this program. They serve the areas of Bitter Springs, copper mine, Inscription House, Kaibeto, Leupp and Marble Canyon and the program has shown positive outcomes for

the families with whom they work.

Guest Vivian Hyden, Healthy Families Program, spoke to the Council to share some success stories of families that have benefited from their program.

Guest Ms. Fitzgerald, Association for Supportive Childcare, spoke to the Council. She reported that the S★CCEEDS program has been cut. Ms. Fitzgerald has been selected to be the TEACH coach for the Navajo Nation. She is the only coach in the area so far. They are hoping to fill an additional TEACH coach position for the Navajo Nation.

Update on Quality First!

The Update on Quality First was given under the Funding Plan agenda item.

Update on Parent Kits

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the Parent Kits and then Ms. Stevens explained the history of the Parents Kits and the current situation regarding distribution of the Parent Kits on the Navajo Nation. The Council discussed the Parent Kits and looked at the sample Parent Kits that were brought to the meeting. Member Allen and Member Seanez agreed to review the kits and report back to the Council about the appropriateness of the kits for distribution on the Navajo Nation.

Update on Regional Coordinator Position

Member Martin updated the Council on the hiring process for the Regional Coordinator. The interview committee interviewed candidates this morning. After discussion, the hiring committee felt it best to continue with at least 2 of the candidates and possibly solicit additional candidates.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:50pm