



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

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### Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

#### Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2009

##### Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

The regular meeting of the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council meeting was held on Friday, June 12, 2009 at the Diné for Our Children, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 48 West Highway 264 - Quality Inn Office Complex, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

Paula Curley, Chair for the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:44am.

**Members Present In Person:** Paula Curley, First Lady Shirley, Jenny Rodgers, Maggie Benally, Spencer Willie, Herb Long

**Members Absent:** Joe Martin, Paula Seanez, Marie Allen, Dorothy Yazzie

**Members Present by Phone:** None

**First Things First Staff Members Present:** AdiShakti Khalsa (Northeast Regional Manager), Ellen Majure (Northeast Administrative Assistant),

**Guests:** Julie Fitzgerald, Afton Sells

Chair Curley asked to change the order of the agenda items due to meeting time constraints. The Council agreed.

##### Nomination and Possible Election of Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Chair and Vice-Chair to serve from July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Chair Curley asked for someone to present a motion for nominations. Member Shirley **motioned to nominate Chair Curley for the Chair position and Member Rodgers as the Vice-Chair**. Member Long seconded the motion. No additional nominations were made. Member Willie motioned to close the nominations. Member Long seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council members filled out the ballots and turned them into Ms. Majure for a count of the ballots. The ballot count was unanimous for both nominations.

##### Child Care Scholarships Update and Possible Vote

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the Child Care scholarships. The Council will need to have an official motion to draw back the funds for the child care scholarships so the Council can utilize the funds in another way. Member Willie asked for additional information about the child care scholarship situation on the Navajo Nation. Ms. Khalsa explained the Child Care Scholarship issue. Ms. Khalsa then added that she checked with First Things First and learned that the Council can draw back the funds to be utilized in another way. The Council then discussed the scholarships. Member Willie **motioned to recapture the emergency child care scholarship funds (\$643,117) and redistribute it according to the needs of the Navajo Nation communities as determined by the Council**. Member Benally seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

##### Parent Kits Update and Possible Vote

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the Parent Kit Supplement strategy, including listing the contents of the supplement bags. She reported that the First Things First State Board approved the Parent Kit Supplement and the funds for them. Ms. Khalsa reported that the cost for the Supplement Bags will be higher than was first thought, due to the bag cost, the increased number of supplements (1500 instead of 700) and the lullaby CD cost. The Council then discussed the Parent Kit Supplements. Member Willie stated that he is in favor of putting extra money into this strategy because Navajo children need culturally relevant materials. He added that he could offer some of his staff to assist with putting together the resource list for the Supplements. Ms. Majure agreed to send the information/resource sheet to Member Willie to

review. Member Shirley asked if there is a timeline for the kits. Ms. Khalsa shared that July 1<sup>st</sup> is when the Supplement Bags should start getting distributed with the Parent Kits. Ms. Khalsa informed the Council that an evaluation piece needs to be added to the strategy and reflected in the funding amount. Member Curley suggested that \$110,000 be allotted for this strategy and she asked for a motion. Member Willie **motioned to increase the funding for this strategy from \$50,000 to \$110,000 to include the evaluation piece. The motion was seconded by Member Rodgers. Member Long added that he “thirded” the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Consent Agenda**

Member Curley stated that the Council will not be voting on this agenda item.

### **Emergency Food Box Update**

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the Food Box Distribution program. St. Michael Mission will be distributing \$5.00 vouchers from Basha's. The vouchers will list the types of foods that can be selected. Sister Josephine wants to be able to give additional vouchers to a family if needed. The Council then discussed the Food Box Distribution program. The Council agreed to allow additional vouchers to be given to a family if needed.

### **Regional Funding Plan Update**

#### **A. Strategy #2 (Expanding Access to Child Care) Discussion**

#### **B. Strategy #7 ( Early Literacy) Discussion**

Member Curley stated that strategy #2 and #7 need to be revisited and the Council needs time to have a working session at the next Council meeting to go over these strategies. Ms. Khalsa let the Council know that early literacy meetings are happening outside of the Council meetings and those meetings will continue. Member Willie shared that there will be an Early Literacy meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Member Curley would like to see a summary of the funding allotments and funds that are still available to the Council including the frontier funds, the funds drawn back from the child care scholarships and the cost for additional Quality First Sites.

### **RPC Meeting Attendance Discussion**

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the proposed First Things First State Board Attendance Policy (this policy is for RPC Members at RPC Meetings). The proposal is being reviewed by the State Board and they would like feedback from Councils on the policy. The feedback can be provided via email. Member Curley asked Council members to send their feedback to Ms. Majure.

The Council discussed options for the best RPC meeting times/days. The Council agreed that it would be best to meet after 5:00pm. Member Willie expressed that phone/email messages work for him and frequent reminders are fine. Member Benally stated that she prefers phone calls for meeting reminders.

Ms. Khalsa let the Council know that First Things First Director Elliot Hibbs would like to attend an RPC meeting soon to award one year pins to Council members. Member Curley thought it would be a good idea to invite Mr. Hibbs to the Navajo Nation Fair in September and to the RPC meeting.

Ms. Majure let the Council know that there is a vacant seat on the Council; the business seat. Member Curley suggested that Romero Brown would be a good business representative for the Council. He owns the Navajo Land Inn and Suites.

### **RFGA's Update**

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the RFGA process. The review committee will be meeting soon for their training and then to review the RFGA applications. Ms. Khalsa offered to send the list of applicants to the Council. The review committee should have their recommendations for the Council by the next meeting.

Member Curley thinks they should revisit the strategies and the current funding to see where the funds need to be allotted as soon as possible. The Council needs to have enough time in the meeting to decide on the two strategies and on funding decisions.

### **Regional Coordinator Position Update.**

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the hiring process for the Regional Coordinator. Member Curley suggested that Gwen Clark, the wife of the President of Diné College, might be interested in the Coordinator position. She will send Ms. Clark's information to Ms. Khalsa.

### **Legislative Update**

Member Curley shared her concerns about the State Legislature and the budget. Due to the current state budget issues, she expressed that the Council needs to spend the First Things First funds as soon as possible so the legislature cannot take those funds. Member Curley will send out an email to everyone with a script of what to say to state legislators and a list of legislators to call. She shared that the Executive Director for Save The Children recently met with Governor Brewer and told Ms. Brewer that First Things First funds need to stay where they are.

### **University Consortium/FTF External Evaluation Project**

Ms. Khalsa updated the Council on the University Consortium. Member Curley suggested that the Council discuss the Consortium further at the August meeting.

Ms. Curley made the Call to the Public.

Afton Sells introduced herself to the Council in Navajo and then explained her new position as a Quality First! Coach. She stated that there are 9 centers on the Navajo Nation that will be approved soon and when the additional 10 centers are approved, she will be working exclusively with those Navajo Nation Quality First! sites.

The Council agreed that the next regular Council meeting will be on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Dine Education Building, second floor large conference room.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15pm.