FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First—Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Northland Pioneer College, 2251 N. Navajo Blvd., Holbrook, AZ 86025.

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at approximately 3:03 p.m.

Members Present:
Tom Barela, Claude Endfield, Mary Hammond, Rance Pullin, Margie Tapia, Cathy Taylor, Becky Towle, Mary Tyler, and Melissa Webb

Members Absent:
Michael Zimmerman

Others Present:
Chinenye Anako, Rick Brammer, Kate Dobler-Allen, Dee Hoagland, Deb Martinez, Leslie Meyer, Sarah Murley, Jorja Nackard, Dr. Jeanne Swarthout, and Maureen Theobald

Member Report and Updates

Member Hammond shared that food boxes are being given out in Springerville every third Thursday.

Call to the Public

None

Adoption of Minutes

Five sets of minutes were presented for approval and adoption:

A. The May 13, 2009 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Hammond moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Member Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:0.

B. The May 13, 2009 Minutes of the Executive Session during the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Tyler moved to accept the Executive Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member Hammond seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:0.

C. The May 20, 2009 Minutes of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Special Meeting were presented. Member Tyler moved to accept the meeting minutes of the Special Meeting as presented. Member Towle seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:0.

D. The May 20, 2009 Minutes of the Executive Session of the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Hammond moved they be accepted as written. Member Tyler seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:0.

E. The June 1, 2009 Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Towle moved that the June 1, 2009 Special Meeting Minutes be accepted as presented. Member Pullin seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:0.

Presentation and Discussion of Professional Career Pathways Program (PCPP) and Status of Alignment with the First Things First Systemic Professional Development Work

Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated there had been questions during the last meeting about PCPP related to TEACH; therefore, since she is a member of the Professional Development Work Group, she informed everyone that the work group met with DES to determine how First Things First and TEACH Arizona could work together with PCPP, and other grant/scholarship sources to create an early childhood professional development system in Arizona. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated PCPP has been asked to create unit pricing, which they have done and grouped into three different units.

A. Unit 1 entails tuition, textbooks, etc., at $109.50 per credit.

B. Unit 2 includes the CDA Application Fee, Assessment, and Postage, which is $385/student.

C. Unit 3 involves CDA Mentoring (when students need someone to review their application, there will be a mentor available to assist them with putting their portfolio together), which is 20 hours per student or $870/student.

Coordinator Dobler-Allen further stated that PCPP doesn't support coursework beyond the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) or Certificate of Proficiency (COP).

Chair Webb suggested the members move to Item 9 on the agenda in order to present the awards.

Announcement and Recognition of Awarded Programs within the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Region for Fiscal Year 2010

Coordinator Dobler-Allen presented the following awards:

A. North Country Healthcare for Implementation of Healthy Steps for Young Children (Jorja Nackard)

B. Arizona Academy of Pediatrics for Reach Out and Read expansion to five sites in the region (Deborah Martinez)

C. Northland Pioneer College – Planning Grant for Community-Based Training (Dr. Jeanne Swarthout)

Chair Webb then moved back to Item 6 on the agenda.

Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH Arizona) Presentation and Update

This agenda item was tabled until contract amendments are finalized.

Discussion and Possible Clarification of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's Intent for the Distribution of Additional TEACH Arizona Scholarships

Coordinator Dobler-Allen asked that the members review Strategy 3, which is a two-part strategy, in order to clarify the intention for the strategy pertaining to additional TEACH scholarships. The wording in the strategy is: "Offer additional TEACH Scholarships to child care professionals outside of *Quality First.*"

Chair Webb stated her understanding to be that the additional TEACH scholarships would be offered in the broadest sense; other members agreed this was also their intention. Significant discussion was held around the allotted number of scholarships offered with *Quality First* enrollment (one for homes, two for centers) and the fact that the Council's intent is to make TEACH scholarships available to as many early childhood care professionals as possible. Therefore, the

Council stated that they want to make the additional TEACH scholarships available to both *Quality First* and non-*Quality First* participants.

Regional Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the community outreach list and stated the second round of RFGAs will be 10-month contracts, ending on June 30, 2010, with the exception of Applied Economics, which would be a potential 12-month contract. Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that the Chair/Vice Chair meeting will be on September 10, 2009. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated the Navajo County MAPP Summit was very good; its findings were that the emergency preparedness is great, however, there is a lack of communication overall. The Needs & Assets RFP will be rolling out this fall in order to have the report ready for next fall (2010).

Coordinator Dobler-Allen then reviewed Attachment 7 of the meeting documents, which was a synopsis of the current status of the Funding Plan/Operational Plan for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council. This document will be an ongoing document, which will be updated regularly.

Coordinator Dobler-Allen then reviewed Attachment 8 of the meeting documents, which depicts a visual of the accomplishments of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council during the past year.

Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that every two years, the First Things First Board has the discretion to change the boundaries of the regions. The First Things First Board has contracted with Linda Cannon and Associates to facilitate discussion around this if need be. Coordinator Dobler-Allen gave an example of the Forest Lakes area, whose children are served in Heber-Overgaard, but live in the Coconino Regional Partnership Council. This is in discussion currently to include Forest Lakes in the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council area. Coordinator Dobler-Allen further stated that Tribes have to make a formal decision every two years (by March 2010).

Discussion and Possible Approval of Government-to-Government Agreement with the Apache County Higher Learning Education Committee, through Apache County, to be the Third-Party Administrator of the ECE/ECD Scholarship Fund Created by the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's Strategy 2 of the Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Plan

Chair Webb declared she has a conflict with this agenda item: "I am indirectly paid by Apache County with an IGA with NPC." Coordinator Dobler-Allen explained that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's intentions were to make scholarships available through any 2- or 4-year college or university not limited to Northland Pioneer College (NPC). The Apache County Higher Education Committee of Apache County is interested in administering this program and managing the funding. This program will encompass the intended process; additionally, students will have an advisor. There will be no administrative fee so the total $21,551 will go to scholarships. The next potential steps in this process include:

A. The Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council approves this agreement
B. Apache County Board of Supervisors approves this agreement
C. The First Things First Board approves in August, 2009

Member Barela moved that the Government-to-Government Agreement with the Apache County Higher Learning Education Committee, through Apache County, be the third-party administrator and payer, for the ECE/ECD Scholarship Fund that was created by the Navajo /Apache Regional Partnership Council in Strategy 2 of the FY2010 Funding Plan. Member Taylor seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:1.

Discussion and Possible Approval of a Contract with Applied Economics, Inc., a Vendor with the Arizona State Procurement Office, to Complete the Work of Strategy 4, within the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Plan

Chair Webb introduced Rick Brammer and Sarah Murley of Applied Economics, Inc., a vendor with the State of Arizona Procurement Office that does market research. Mr. Brammer presented the history of Applied Economics, which has been in existence since 1995. Ms. Murley stated the scope of the potential research, market feasibility study, and

creation of communications materials. After significant discussion, Member Barela moved that the State Vendor Contract with Applied Economics, Inc., for the completion of the work outlined in Strategy 4, Advocate for On-site, Employer-Sponsored Child Care, be approved. Member Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed 8:0:0.

Discussion and Possible Approval of a Government-to-Government Agreement with Northern Arizona University, together with the Coconino Regional Partnership Council, for the Work of Strategy 5, within the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Plan

Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council has resolved to contract with NAU for a pilot study looking at Child Care Supply and Demand and Barriers to Improving Child Care Quality. After Council discussion, Member Barela moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council participate in the Joint Pilot Study with the Coconino Regional Partnership Council to look at the issues surrounding Child Care Supply and Demand, as well as the issues surrounding the barriers to high-quality child care; additionally, the funding mechanism shall be a Government-to-Government Agreement with Northern Arizona University. Member Taylor seconded the motion; the motion passed 8:0:0.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Review Committee Recommendations for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's Expanded Child Care Openings/Administrative Home Grant

A motion was made by Member Hammond to move into Executive Session at approximately 5:00 p.m. to discuss confidential grant documents pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) (2). Member Tapia seconded the motion; motion passed 8:0:0.

A motion was made by Member Tapia to return to regular session at approximately 5:07 p.m. Member Barela seconded the motion; the motion passed 8:0:0.

Member Taylor moved that the Review Committee recommendations for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Grant for Increased Child Care Slots/Administrative Home be approved. Member Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed 8:0:0.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Review Committee Recommendations for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's Oral Health and Dental Varnish Grant

Member Tyler recused herself from Item No. 14 of the agenda because her employer, Navajo County Public Health Services District, applied for this grant.

Motion was made by Member Barela to move into Executive Session at approximately 5:11 p.m. to discuss grant documents pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) (2). Member Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:1.

Motion was made by Member Barela to return to regular session at approximately 5:20 p.m. Member Taylor seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:1.

Member Barela moved that the Review Committee recommendations for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Grant for Oral Health and Dental Fluoride be approved. Member Taylor seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0:1.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, at 3:00 p.m., at NPC in Snowflake, AZ. Member Tapia informed the members that Head Start employees will be in a meeting on that day so they will not be able to attend (Members Hammond, Tapia, and Towle). There being no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:25 p.m.

Melissa Webb, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator