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Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

**San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council
Regular Meeting of June 15, 2009**

Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order/Roll Call

A regular meeting of the First Things First San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on June 15, 2009 at the San Carlos Apache Tribe Education Building Conference Room, San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, Arizona 85550.

Vice Chair Reede called the meeting to order in the excused absence of Chair Steele at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Member Reede introduced Marla Chamberlain, Central East Regional Manager. Ms. Chamberlain gave a brief overview of her work with First Things First and with the Regional Partnership Councils.

Members Present:

David Reede, Vice Chair, Angelina Burgett, Fred Ferreira, Robert Olivar Sr., Vernon Poncho and La Toya Tewawina

FTF Staff Present:

Marla Chamberlain, Central East Regional Manager, Beverly Russell San Carlos Apache Regional Coordinator, Mary Courvoisier, Gila/ San Carlos Apache Regional Administrative Assistant

Members Absent:

Catherine Steele, Chair (excused), William Belvado, Mitch Hoffman, Janell McIntosh, Delphine Rodriguez (excused)

Review and Approval of May 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes of the May 21, 2009 Special Meeting. A motion was made by Member Ferreira to approve the minutes of May 21, 2009, seconded by Member Olivar. Motion carried; 6-0.

Call to the Public

During the Call to the Public, there was one public comment made by Margret Celix of the Association of Supportive Child Care (ASCC)/ Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR).

Ms. Celix provided a handout and ASCC updates to the Regional Partnership Council.

Chair's Report

No Chair's Report was provided.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Russell provided a monthly report to the Regional Partnership Council on the items listed below:

- *San Carlos Apache Tribe Relations*
On June 10, 2009 a resolution, seeking authorization to publish and disseminate the 2008 San Carlos Needs and Assets Report on the First Things First website, was passed by the Tribal Education Committee. The Education Committee requested that First Things First proceed with presenting the resolution to the full San Carlos Apache Tribal Council for consideration. On June 11, 2009 the resolution was presented to the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council and passed.
- *FTF Legislative Information*
The coordinator provided information on Arizona Senate Concurrent Resolution 1009 and its impact on the Voter Protection Act.
- *Regional Partnership Council Information*
The coordinator reminded the Regional Partnership Council members that they are required to complete the online Defensive Driving Course offered by the state.
- *Upcoming Meetings and Events*
The coordinator shared the following dates with the members:
June 17, 2009 – Central East Team Meeting, San Carlos, AZ
June 19, 2009 – San Carlos Apache Region Mobile Developmental Screening Request for Grant Application (RFGA) closes.

Regional Funding Plan Update

- a. **Update on RFGA/Funding Mechanism Timelines and Processes for the Region**
- b. **Update on Statewide Strategies and Emergency Response Package**

Ms. Russell provided a copy of the current Operational Plan (Funding Plan) and went over the document with the Regional Partnership Council.

Discussion of Review Team Composition for San Carlos Apache Region Mobile Screening Strategy

Ms. Russell initiated a discussion with the Regional Partnership Council relating to the composition of a grant review team and inquired as to how they would like to proceed with this task for the Mobile Screening Strategy. The Regional Partnership Council directed Ms. Russell to proceed with the same process that was used to compose the San Carlos Apache Health Intervention Strategy Review Team.

Update and Discussion on University Consortium

Ms. Russell shared information with the Regional Partnership Council on the longitudinal study and evaluation for First Things First funded programs that will be conducted by the University Consortium of Arizona State University (ASU), Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the University of Arizona (U of A). She reported that thus far, the Consortium is made up of psychologists, experts in early childhood development and health fields and data experts from the three Universities. The Consortium will be assessing:

- a) Kindergarten readiness
- b) The impact of First Things First

She further reported that there will be three simultaneous studies occurring on the following subject matter:

- 1) Readiness – (data will be collected on 1200 children 5 years of age for the duration of 5 years)
- 2) Longitudinal study (data will be collected on 8500 children; infants, preschoolers, and kindergarteners)
- 3) Family and Community case studies

Ms. Russell ensured the members that prior to any data collection in the regions, the University Consortium will be presenting their methodologies to each individual Regional Partnership Council. She acknowledged that no date has been identified yet for a meeting between the San Carlos Regional Partnership Council and the University Consortium.

The coordinator noted that a meeting between the Consortium and the Regional Coordinators was held last week. During this meeting it was reported that Tribes and Regional Partnership Councils will not receive data back once it is collected. Discussion is happening with the Tribal Coordinators regarding this topic due to concerns related to seeking permissions to collect data from the Tribes. The coordinator offered that First Things First is aware of the unique challenges that Tribes may face in relation to these studies and is committed to working out sound processes with the Consortium. Finally the coordinator reported that if permissions are granted to proceed from the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Consortium is looking to hire local data collectors.

The Regional Partnership Council discussed the information provided by Ms. Russell regarding University Consortium data collection and sensitivity concerns.

Member Olivar voiced his concern related to the anticipated process involved with seeking permission from the Tribe to participate in the study and evaluation. He also commented that any participating schools may need an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Tribe to participate. He further added that if the Tribe is not going to receive the data back, they need to know how the information collected is going to be used. Mr. Olivar informed the Regional Partnership Council members that there is a resolution in place with the Tribal Council that mandates any studies conducted on the San Carlos Apache Reservation to go through the Tribal Council for approval.

Member Ferreira noted that when the Regional Partnership Council first started, the Tribe was concerned about the potential that data could be released from the Tribe that may include personal information such as student names and ages. He stated that it was important to the Tribe and to the Regional Partnership Council that information of that nature be kept confidential and remain in the care of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. He further stated that the Tribal Council has to be the body to authorize the release of such information. He added that it could still work, however, previous dealings between the Tribe and the University of Arizona and others may have resulted in negative feelings and the Tribe has become less trusting.

Member Olivar, voiced additional concern related to how the Regional Partnership Council would be kept apprised of the work of the Consortium. For example, he inquired about how the Regional Partnership Council would know if the Consortium found that there was a smooth transition for San Carlos Apache Children from Head Start to Kindergarten. He further asked if the data can be returned to the Tribe and used to benefit the Tribe as a tool.

Member Reede voiced his concern about the participation of ASU in this endeavor. He informed the members of the Regional Partnership Council that he read information related to some work that was conducted by ASU that misrepresented some of the Native Tribes. He expressed his hope that the Universities involved understand the complexity of the tribal communities and will approach this undertaking with sensitivity. He further commented that the three study areas are very sensitive topics for the Tribe and therefore, how the information collected will be used must be clearly defined. He stated that he does not see the Tribe relinquishing full ownership of the data. Member Reede articulated that most Tribes will have reservations about data ownership. He asked Marla Chamberlain to relay that sentiment back to First Things First.

Discussion and Possible Election of Regional Council Officers

Ms. Russell reminded the Council per their Governance Policy that the election of Chair and Vice Chair is conducted annually; therefore, the Regional Partnership Council is due to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair before July, 2009. Ms. Russell informed the Regional Partnership Council that an election can occur by ballot or an official vote of the Regional Partnership Council.

A motion was made by Member Ferreira to retain Catherine Steele as the Chair and David Reede as the Vice Chair for fiscal year 2009-2010, seconded by Member Poncho. Motion carried; 6-0.

Council Member Updates & Announcements

Member Olivar confirmed with the Coordinator that meeting dates for the Regional Partnership Council take place on the third Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The Coordinator noted that July’s meeting will be held in Bylas, Arizona.

Member Reede asked if the First Things First Summit meeting that was cancelled will be rescheduled. Ms. Russell responded by informing the Council that she has not been advised of any updates relating to the status of the First Things First Summit.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Member Ferreira to adjourn the meeting at approximately 2:06 p.m., seconded by Member Poncho. Motion carried; 6-0.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Beverly Russell, Regional Coordinator Date

Catherine Steele, Chair Date