FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First—Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., at the Lakeside Fire Department, 2922 W. White Mountain Blvd., Lakeside, AZ 85929.

Chair Barela called the meeting to order at approximately 3:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Members Present:
Tom Barela, Michael Downs, Claude Endfield, Leslie Meyer, Cathy Taylor, Becky Towle and Michael Zimmerman (arrived at 3:45 p.m.)

Members Absent: Margie Tapia

Others Present:
Rich Bast, Rachel Daffara, Kate Dobler-Allen, Anita Ehmke, Rhonda Etsitty, Tracy Keenan (via telephone), Deborah Lewis, Mary Manzano, Aileene Nelson, Judy Snitzer, Abbie Stevens (via telephone) and Maureen Theobald

Member Reports and Updates

Member Towle shared that NACOG Head Start recently completed training entitled "Classroom Assessment Scoring System," in order to be better able to review teachers' performance. Member Towle also shared that there are available openings for registration at Head Start.

Call to the Public

None

Disclosure of Conflicts

Michael Zimmerman submitted a disclosure form related to agenda item #11, Lab School Implementation (submitted at approximately 3:45pm, immediately following his arrival).

Discussion and Possible Adoption of July 14, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

The members reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 14, 2010, of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council. Member Endfield then moved that the minutes of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council regular meeting, held on July 14, 2010, be approved. Member Taylor seconded; the motion passed.

Regional Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the Regional Coordinator's report and shared with the members that there will be a Regional Area Forum held on August 20, 2010, from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., at the Lakeside Fire Department. Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that the Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting date has been changed to October 7, 2010. Coordinator Dobler-Allen then reminded the members of the 2010 Arizona Early Childhood Summit, to be held on August 30-31, 2010, in Mesa. Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the Operational Plan and shared that the Director Mentoring, Nutrition Education and Outreach, and the Early Literacy agreements are in final signature processes and noted that these agreements will run through June 30, 2011. Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members of the statewide studies being done under the Evaluation Strategy.

Program Updates

a. Healthy Steps: Ms. Deborah Lewis, North Country HealthCare, stated she has seen 43 families since May; a total of 228 families have been seen since September 2009. Ms. Lewis noted that there are not as many families seeking assistance from other community resources. Ms. Lewis completed the CCHC (Child Care Health Consultant) training in Tucson.

b. Reach Out and Read: Ms. Aileen Nelson shared that three new sites have been added and 375 children have received books. Ms. Nelson stated that three to four sites have been added to the RIF program (Reading is Fundamental). Ms. Nelson stated the program is also partnering with libraries to obtain used books for waiting rooms.

c. Child Care Health Consultant: Dr. Rich Bast stated there are four participating First Things First facilities; there are 15 licensed in the region (17 including Head Start sites).

Member Zimmerman arrived at approximately 3:45 p.m. Chair Barela moved to Agenda Item #11.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Lab School Implementation Strategy for FY2011

Member Zimmerman submitted a disclosure form noting a conflict of interest with this agenda item because his employer may bid on this strategy in the future. Chair Barela noted the professional Lab School template that had been created and thanked Mrs. Anita Ehmke and her husband, Dr. Norm Ehmke, for their efforts; Chair Barela asked Mrs. Ehmke for her suggestions on the next steps. Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that this strategy will require partnerships with Northern Arizona Vocational Institutes of Technology (NAVIT) and Northland Pioneer College, and may include partnerships with local businesses. After further discussion, Member Endfield moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council approve the Lab School Implementation strategy. Member Towle seconded; the motion passed.

Chair Barela moved back to Agenda Item #8.

Presentation, Discussion and Possible Approval of 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report

Tracy Keenan and Abbie Stevens, with Applied Survey Research (ASR), joined the meeting via telephone. Discussion was held regarding areas of need in this region. Discussion was also held around the Regional Partnership Council's desire, in future Needs and Assets Reports, for more primary data specific to the Navajo/Apache Region, and the White Mountain Regional Medical Center. The Regional Partnership Council requested the opportunity to review a comparison Needs and Assets Report prepared for a region that had funded an additional amount towards the report, as well as to hear the Regional Partnership Council's perception of the usefulness of the greater detail presented in the report. Coordinator Dobler-Allen reported that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council had allocated an additional amount of funding towards the Needs and Assets Report and that Applied Survey Research had completed that report as well. Chair Barela requested that a synopsis of the Coconino Regional Partnership Council's feelings related to the usefulness of that report be presented to this Regional Partnership Council at the next Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council meeting. Chair Barela thanked the ASR staff for the work they did on the report and complimented them on the concise and well-written nature of it. Member Downs then moved to approve the 2010 Needs and Assets Report for the First Things First Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council, as presented. Member Zimmerman seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Renewal Contract for FY2011 with Applied Economics, Inc.

Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that the current contract with Applied Economics, Inc., expires on August 31, 2010. Should this renewal be approved, the contract would run from September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, a 10-month contract. Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that renewal of this contract involves technical assistance to seek and assist other potential employers who may be interested in providing employer-sponsored child care. After further discussion, Member Endfield moved that the renewal contract for Applied Economics, Inc., be approved by the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council, as presented. Member Zimmerman seconded; the motion passed.

Second Read, Discussion and Possible Approval of Regional Governance Document

Coordinator Dobler-Allen provided the Regional Governance document, including the recommended changes made during the previous meeting. Member Taylor moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Governance documents be approved, as presented. Member Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Council Action Related to Un-Awarded FY2011 Home Visitation Funds

After significant discussion, Member Zimmerman moved that First Things First staff be directed to explore appropriate public agencies able to be a partner in a government-to-government agreement with the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council and

report back to the members at an upcoming meeting with responses for meeting the established criteria of the strategy. Member Taylor seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Council Action Related to Un-Awarded FY2011 Professional Development ECE/ECD Scholarship Funds
Coordinator Dobler-Allen reminded members that Apache County Higher Education was contracted to administer this strategy in FY2010, and that there is no recommendation for renewal. Members discussed other potential means of accomplishing this strategy; Member Downs suggested partnering with the Department of Economic Security (DES) Workforce Investment Act (WIA). After further discussion, Member Downs moved that First Things First staff be directed to investigate a government-to-government agreement with the Workforce Investment Act Board in the hopes that it would be the fiscal agent for this strategy. Member Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

Adjournment
The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at Northland Pioneer College, 1611 S. Main St., Snowflake, Arizona 85937. There being no further business, Chair Barela adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Thomas Barela, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator