FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

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, September 9, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Little Colorado Behavioral Health Center, 470 W. Cleveland, St. Johns, AZ 85936.

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at approximately 3:05 p.m.

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

Members Absent:
Mary Tyler

Others Present:
Joyce Alves, Karen Applequist, Kate Dobler-Allen, Luke Gallagher, Dee Hoagland, Lee Kenney, Rochelle Lacapa, Jennifer Prior, Keli Sine-Shields, and Maureen Theobald

Member Report and Updates

Member Endfield shared concerns related to Emergency Child Care Scholarships shared with her by a child care center. Member Zimmerman stated his organization is receiving many additional calls regarding the need for child care. Member Tapia reported that Springerville Head Start has a list of 10 applications from families who are over-income for Head Start. Member Towle reported that she'd heard that a child care center in the region was rumored to be closing.

Call to the Public

None

Adoption of Minutes

The August 26, 2009 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Tapia moved to accept the minutes as written. Member Endfield seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chair Webb asked that the members move to Item #7 on the agenda.

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

Chair Webb presented the first award to Keli Sine-Shields of Apache County Public Health; Coordinator Dobler-Allen presented the second award to Chair Webb on behalf of Apache County Higher Learning Education Committee, and read

the following awards since the recipients were not present: Navajo County Public Health Services District, Navajo County Education Services Agency, and Applied Economics, Inc.

Chair Webb asked that the members now return to Item #5 on the agenda.

Regional Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed her report and reminded the Members of the Chair/Vice Chair meeting on September 10, 2009. Chair Webb and Vice-Chair Pullin will attend. Some discussion was held around the agenda that had been developed for this meeting; Chair Webb and Vice-Chair Pullin will give an update at the October meeting of this Council.

Discussion of Recent Board Decision Related to Attendance Policy, Council Adoption of Attendance Policy into Council Governance

Chair Webb reviewed the new attendance policy approved by the State Board. After discussion, Member Barela moved to accept the Attendance Policy. Member Zimmerman seconded; the motion passed.

First Things First External Evaluation Presentation and Discussion

Dr. Karen Applequist and Dr. Jennifer Prior, both from Northern Arizona University (NAU), presented related to the University Consortium External Evaluation. Dr. Applequist reviewed the goals, and methodology/design, of the external evaluation project. Dr. Prior reviewed the evaluation instruments that will be utilized and also discussed the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping/Baseline of community resources that will become available on the First Things First website. Significant discussion was held surrounding the methodology and funding of the First Things First External Evaluation.

Discussion and Possible Council Action Regarding Un-Awarded Funds for the Expansion of Child Care Openings

Discussion was held surrounding Strategy 6 – Expansion of Child Care Openings, which involves $182,008 of un-awarded funding. Discussion was held surrounding the timeline of the different funding options available for this strategy. Member Zimmerman moved that Strategy 6 Expansion of Child Care Openings be kept intact and that staff seek a vendor from the Arizona State Procurement Office vendor list to find an appropriate vendor. Member Towle seconded the motion; motion passed.

Discussion of Regional Boundaries for SFY 2011

Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that Forest Lakes is now within the boundaries of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council.

Update on Funding Allocation for FY 2011

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the funding allocations that were approved by the State Board for FY 2011.

System Building and SFY 2010, 2011, and 2012 Funding Plan

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the current status of the three-year funding plan. Discussion was held regarding the beneficial outcomes from the Emergency Child Care Scholarships and Food Boxes, the current economic status of our region, and Apache County in particular. Significant discussion was held surrounding the creation of new ongoing strategies to address the significant need to support families' access to quality child care, as well as creating a new ongoing strategy that would work to meet families' need for nutritious foods for their young children. Additionally, conversation was held surrounding the need to include an educational component in the strategy to meet the nutritional needs of families with young children. Consensus was reached by the Council directing staff to create two new strategies to address these needs, and to bring them to the Council in time for discussion and vote at the October meeting, and to have them included in the State Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Plan.

Additional discussion was held surrounding funding levels for currently funded strategies; this discussion will be continued during the regular Council meeting in October.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 3:00 p.m., at Northland Pioneer College/Mogollon High School, 3450 N. Mustang Drive, Heber, AZ 85928. There being no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Melissa Webb

Melissa Webb, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator