



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council MINUTES

Call to Order/Welcome

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on January 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was located at the Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room #1, Highway 264 and Loop Road, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at approximately 10:05 a.m. followed by introduction of the Regional Council, staff, and guests.

Members Present: Martin Ashley, Grace Boyne, Rhonda Etsitty, Harry Martin, Byrde Nez, Paula Seanez, and Jeannette Yazzie. Amelia Black attended telephonically.

Members Absent: Valonia Hardy

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, Memarie Tsosie, and Virginia Turner

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public at this time.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the December 11, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Ashley that the Regional Council approve the December 11, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Etsitty. Motion carried.

Presentation of First Things First Board Approved Benchmarks and Discussion of Preliminary Timeline and Process to Identify Regional Benchmarks

Regional Director Begay provided an overview of the development of the First Things First State Board School Readiness Indicators and Benchmarks, and also reviewed current regional School Readiness Indicators selected by the Regional Council. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council consider a course of action for developing regional benchmarks for all regional School Readiness Indicators. Upon confirming with the Regional Council, Chair Martin indicated that the Regional Council would collectively be responsible for the development of regionally adapted benchmarks.

Presentation and Regional Grantee Updates for State Fiscal Year 2013

a. Home Visitation – Northern Arizona University

Diane Lenz, Project Director of the Nihiyazhi Ba'it'ih Program, expressed gratitude for the Regional Council's support and presented a slideshow for the program, documenting regional numbers of enrolled families, and short narratives of success by families and Home Visitors.

b. Scholarships non-TEACH

1. Northland Pioneer College

Claude Endfield, Early Childhood Program Chair at Northland Pioneer College, provided a Fall 2012 Summary, highlighting challenges and successes of the 83 participants of the Navajo Nation Child Development Associate (CDA) credential program, as well as operating challenges regarding travel budgeting, and local partnerships that are currently influx.

2. Coconino Community College

Kathy Nesbit, Tech Prep/Perkins Grant/High School Transitions Coordinator, and Kevin Mullins, Perkins Grant/High School Programs Specialist, provided updates regarding the dual enrollment program of Tuba City High School with consideration of recent expansion enabled by First Things First grant award. Ms. Nesbit reported that applicant interest and participation has exceeded initial target numbers, and that recent professional development opportunities through the National Career Pathways Network Conference has led to Career Pathways certification for Dr. Aurora Goatcher, Tuba City High School Education Teacher.

c. Family, Friends, and Neighbors – Navajo Nation Child Care Development Fund

Selena Curley, Principal Social Worker for the Navajo Nation Child Care Development Fund, provided program updates regarding recent hires for regional offices, the number of active providers participating in program training and home/child assessments, and the success of collaborations leading to participant certifications.

Presentation and Discussion of First Things First Statewide Evaluation Plan and Dashboard Display

Regional Director Begay presented the First Things First Research and Evaluation Plan 2013-2017 to the Regional Council, focusing on the recommendation to increase the quality and utility of data collection and analysis for the purpose of providing a longitudinal view of the child-level data. The overview included 8 infrastructure goals that will support ongoing evaluation, and data collection and analysis; recommendation being that First Things First should enhance its own data system and help increase the early childhood community's capacity for ongoing service data collection. Regional Director Begay requested that the Regional Council provide suggestions for types of data to be collected that would benefit the work of the Regional Council.

Discussion of Discretionary Funding to Regions

Regional Director Begay provided an overview of the First Things First fund balance and regional allocations; specifically, discussions by the First Things First State Board to possibly alter current methods of determining regional discretionary funds to include submissions of proposals pending any recommendations given by Regional Councils. Any changes would occur until 2016.

In discussion, Vice Chair Boyne requested that special consideration be given to tribal Regional Councils due to special conditions of tribal regions that may cause an extended delay in program start-up.

Chair Martin requested that potential guidelines be provided for how to use discretionary funding. Per the suggestion of Senior Regional Director Turner, Chair Martin also indicated that the Regional Council should create an ad hoc committee to discuss the allocation of the Regional Council's discretionary funding.

Community Outreach Coordinator Report

Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie presented the January 2013 Quarterly Report, highlighting activities, benchmarks, and Champion activities. Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie heartily commented that the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, now recognized within the region, has begun to receive an increased number of invitations for presentations.

Regional Director Report

Regional Director Begay presented updates to the Regional Council regarding the Native Language Enrichment Strategy and potential partnership with the Office of Dine Culture, Language, and Community Services; the recent outreach to Navajo Head Start; the recruitment of Quality First Coaches for the Association for Supportive Child Care – Navajo Nation region; the progress of the

Early Childhood Workshop – Play: Where Learning Begins scheduled in April 2013; the upcoming Northeast Meeting with First Things First State Board in March 2013 in Holbrook; and the Regional Grantee Coordination Meeting in January 2013 in Tuba City.

Regional Council Member Announcements

Member Etsitty announced that the Association for Supportive Child Care has recently hired John Cregg, Teach Program Coordinator.

Member Yazzie announced that one hospital in Navajo Area Region will soon be certified as baby-friendly.

Next Meeting

The next Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting will be held on February 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Quality Inn Restaurant, Window Rock, Arizona.

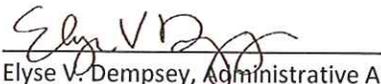
Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Chair Boyne to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried. Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:43 p.m.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2013

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council



Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II



Harry Martin, Chair