FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular meeting of the First Things First – White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held at 3:00 p.m. on October 4, 2011 at ABC Day Care, 422 South 2nd Avenue, Whiteriver, Arizona 85941.

Chair Endfield called the meeting to order at approximately 3:07 p.m.

Members Present:
C. Bradley Brock, Laurel Endfield, Ranelda Hastings, Velma Kaytoggy (arrived at 4:40 p.m.), Maura Riesop, Dawnafe Whitesinger and Kathy Wynn

Members Absent: Shine Burnette

Other Attendees: Kate Dobler-Allen, Mona Eleando, Claude Endfield, Rhonda Etsitty, Rhian Evans Allvin, Charlene Hamilton, Michelle Katona (via phone), Sam Leyvas, Pamela Powell, Beverly Russell, Janet Sanchez, Maureen Theobald, Mary Tyler, Virginia Turner and Peggy Wojtal

Call to the Public

None

Disclosure of Conflicts

Conflicts were disclosed as discussions took place.

Discuss and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2011

Chair Endfield asked the members to review the minutes of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council Regular meeting held on September 13, 2011.

Vice Chair Whitesinger moved that the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council approve the minutes of the Regional Council's Regular meeting held on September 13, 2011, as presented. Member Wynn seconded; the motion passed 6:0:0

Program Reports and Updates, State Fiscal Year 2012

a. Apache Families First: Mona Eleando, Northland Pioneer College, distributed a summary to all attendees, which covered State Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012.

b. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood: Rhonda Etsitty, Association for Supportive Child Care, distributed a fact sheet and literature to all attendees and gave an update on the current status of scholarships.

c. Community Awareness Update: Regional Director of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council, Kate Dobler-Allen shared information related to the distribution of children's books in the community.

Chair Endfield moved to Item #7 on the Agenda.

Regional Director Search Update

Sr. Director, Northeast Region, Virginia Turner stated that phone screens have been done and six applicants are being scheduled for in-person interviews on October 25, 2011. These interviews will take place in the Lakeside Regional Office; the interview team will include Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona; Sr. Director, Tribal Affairs Beverly Russell; Sr. Director, Northeast Virginia Turner and White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council Member Shine Burnette.

Needs and Assets Data Collection Update
Sr. Director Turner informed the members that the approved Data Collection Resolution has been submitted to Procurement, so data collection in the community should begin soon.

Chair Endfield moved to Item #10 on the Agenda.

Review and Discussion of Regional Needs for State Fiscal Years 2010-2012
Regional Director Dobler-Allen reviewed the prioritized needs, determined by the Regional Council, over the past three years.

Discussion and Prioritization of Regional Needs for Strategic Planning for State Fiscal Years 2013-2015
Regional Director Dobler-Allen distributed a list of key findings from the 2010 Needs and Assets report. Vice Chair Whitesinger expressed the need to continue to build the foundation that has been in process. Member Riesop expressed concern over the increased vision needs of this population. Vice Chair Whitesinger shared concern for children beginning school without any mechanical knowledge of books; in addition, the need to inform parents of the importance of good health and its impact on a child's ability to learn. Member Wynn will look into research on the age at which a child's hearing and vision abilities can first be screened. After further discussion, the members identified the following prioritized regional needs:

a. Need support and information for families with children birth to five years old
b. Need to support parents with children who have a developmental delay but do not qualify for early intervention services
c. Need for early literacy opportunities for young children and their families
d. Need for child wellness, including: oral health, vision, hearing, nutrition, obesity, well child visits
e. Need to increase affordability of quality child care for children birth to age five
f. Need for public awareness, support from public officials and collaborative community partnerships to strengthen the support of the early childhood development and health system

Discussion and Selection of Arizona School Readiness Indicators to Align with the State Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Plan
Regional Director Dobler-Allen reviewed the 10 School Readiness Indicators. After discussion, the members selected the following indicators to align their State Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Plan with:

a. (#1): #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical
b. (#2): #/% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars
c. (#5): % of children with newly identified developmental delays during the kindergarten year
d. (#7): #/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)
e. (#8): #/% of children receiving timely well child visits
f. (#9): #/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay

Chair Endfield requested a five-minute break at 4:30 p.m. and then moved to Agenda Item #6. Member Kaytoggy arrived at 4:40 p.m.

Executive Director Update
Chief Executive Officer Rhian Evans Allvin distributed First Things First pins to the following members attaining one year:

a. Bradley Brock
b. Dawnafe Whitesinger
c. Kathy Wynn
d. Ranelda Hastings

CEO Allvin then gave an overview of recent structural changes within the organization, as well as the adoption of the Mission, Vision, Values, Beliefs, Actions and Performance. CEO Allvin also reviewed the Quality First Model changes for State Fiscal Year 2013, the current Child Care Subsidy status, the Race to The Top Application and the strategic communications plan for First Things First for the next three years.

Chair Endfield moved to Item #9 on the Agenda.

Strategy Update for State Fiscal Years 2013-2015
Regional Director Dobler-Allen reviewed the following:

a. Quality First: There is a larger component of technical assistance for coaches and children with special needs are now included.
b. Quality First Child Care Scholarships: These are available to low-income families.
c. Smart Support: Per the request made during the September meeting, Regional Director Dobler-Allen reviewed a handout with additional information regarding the Mental Health Consultation strategy.

d. Communications: Community Awareness and earned media are effective within the region, while paid media is not an effective use of communications dollars because there are no media venues within the region for paid media. Community Outreach is effective as a means of spreading information within the community; the focus needs to be placed on utilizing the existing community champions to maximize this tactic.

Chair Endfield moved to Item #13 on the Agenda.

Discussion and Selection of Strategies to Include in State Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Plan

Regional Director Dobler-Allen recapped the needs discussed earlier and recommended the following strategies be included in the State Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Plan:

a. Parent Coaching for Children with Developmental Delays
b. Oral Health
c. Early Literacy (Reach Out and Read)
d. Communications
e. Collaboration (need to revisit how to implement this strategy)
f. Community-based Training

Regional Director Dobler-Allen then reviewed the following strategies and asked the members to disclose conflicts of interest:

a. Quality First
- **i.** Conflicts of Interest: Chair Endfield, Vice Chair Whitesinger, Members Kaytoggy, Riesop and Wynn
- **ii.** Regional Director Dobler-Allen invoked the Rule of Impossibility due to the majority of conflicts
- **iii.** The members would like to fund one more Quality First site.

b. Quality First Child Care Scholarships
- **i.** Conflicts of Interest: Chair Endfield
- **ii.** The members would like to fund this as a separate strategy.

c. Oral Health
- **i.** Conflicts of Interest: None
- **ii.** The members would like to continue this strategy.

d. Early Literacy (Reach Out and Read)
- **i.** Conflicts of Interest: None
- **ii.** The members would like to continue this strategy.

e. Community-based Training
- **i.** Conflicts of Interest: Chair Endfield and Member Hastings
- **ii.** Due to the conflicts of interest, the Regional Council lost quorum and could not discuss this strategy.

f. Communications
- **i.** Conflicts of Interest: None
- **ii.** The members would like to consider funding one-half of a full-time employee for Community Outreach, as well as Community Awareness.

g. Other
- **i.** Chair Endfield requested Regional Director Dobler-Allen to suggest a native-language acquisition strategy, or incorporate applicable language into an existing strategy related to early literacy, or parent education.

Chair Endfield requested Regional Director Dobler-Allen to draft a proposed budget and funding plan for State Fiscal Year 2013.

Adjourn

Chair Endfield requested that the December 6, 2011 meeting be moved to 1:30 p.m. Regional Director Dobler-Allen will make that an agenda item for the November meeting. Having no further business, Chair Endfield adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:42 p.m.

Approved:

Laurel Endfield, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Director
Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council