



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

### Draft Minutes

#### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First—Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., at Northland Pioneer College, 1611 South Main Street, Snowflake, Arizona 85937.

Chair Barela called the meeting to order at approximately 3:17 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

#### Members Present:

Tom Barela, Sheila Chairez, Michael Downs, Claude Endfield, Leslie Meyer, Margie Tapia, Becky Towle (arrived at 3:45 p.m.)

Members Absent: Cathy Taylor and Michael Zimmerman

#### Others Present:

Kate Dobler-Allen, Anita Ehmke, Norm Ehmke, Rhonda Etsitty, Rhian Evans Allvin, Julianne Hartzell, AdiShakti Khalsa, Michelle Pansulla, Barbara Smith, Ken Smith, Jill Stevens and Maureen Theobald

#### **Member Reports and Updates**

None

#### **Call to the Public**

Mrs. Julianne Hartzell spoke on behalf of Mrs. Barbara Smith, who was unable to stay for the meeting but who asked to have her contact information given out as a resource for the “No on 302” Campaign.

#### **Disclosure of Conflicts**

None

#### **Discussion and Possible Adoption of August 11, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes**

The members reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 11, 2010, of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council. Member Downs moved that the members adopt the minutes of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council regular meeting, held on August 11, 2010, as presented. Member Endfield seconded; the motion passed.

#### **Regional Coordinator’s Report**

**a. Monthly Report:** Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the Regional Coordinator’s report and shared with the members that the Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting has been rescheduled to Friday, October 15, 2010, in Flagstaff, Arizona. Coordinator Dobler-Allen also informed the members that there will be a community meeting to discuss the Lab School strategy on Wednesday, September 29, 2010, at the NAVIT (Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology) Board Room, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., in Snowflake, Arizona.

**b. Operational Plan:** Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the current status of the Operational Plan and shared that the cinema and radio ads are running, which are part of the Communications strategy. Coordinator Dobler-Allen introduced Mrs. Michelle Pansulla, the Community Outreach Liaison for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council region.

**c. Home Visiting Strategy Update:** Coordinator Dobler-Allen has been seeking potential government partners for this strategy and held a meeting last week with both Apache and Navajo County Public Health Services staff. After discussion,

Chair Barela directed Coordinator Dobler-Allen to establish a workgroup to research this. Community attendee, Dr. Norm Ehmke, offered his support with this process.

**d. Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Development (ECE/ECD) Professional Development Strategy Update:**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the history of this strategy with the members and noted that the members had directed Coordinator Dobler-Allen to determine if a government-to-government agreement could be established with the Workforce Investment Act Board. Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that numerous attempts have been made to contact the Workforce Investment Act Board; however, no response has been received. Member Endfield noted that she would like to see REWARD\$ become a strategy for the duration of state fiscal year 2011 and into state fiscal year 2012, if an agreement cannot be established with the Workforce Investment Act Board. Coordinator Dobler-Allen will continue to make contact with the Workforce Investment Act Board and will report next month on the status.

*Member Towle arrived at approximately 3:45 p.m.*

**e. Lab School Strategy Update:** Dr. Norm Ehmke reiterated the e-mail sent by Coordinator Dobler-Allen related to seeking community interest and support for the Lab School meeting scheduled for September 29, 2010, as previously mentioned.

**f. Statewide Studies Update:** Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that the Arizona Health Initiative Study is just finishing and should be available in mid-October and can be used for fiscal year 2012 planning.

**Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Rhian Evans Allvin introduced herself to the members and shared three main areas on which she is focusing:

- a. Setting a culture for First Things First, both externally and internally
- b. Fine tuning the governance model, establishing a statewide vision, creating a collective process and determining benchmarks to gauge success
- c. Building a collective responsibility for a statewide movement toward early childhood development among First Things First and its external partners

**Needs and Assets Report Discussion and Planning for State Fiscal Year 2012**

Mrs. Julianne Hartzell, Chair of the Coconino Regional Partnership Council, provided handouts representing the "Hub Reports" created by Applied Survey Research for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council. Mrs. Hartzell noted there were 1100 surveys done in the region and because the contract was more in-depth, the cost was an additional \$45,000; the members of the Coconino Regional Partnership Council are very pleased with the results. Chair Barela expressed a strong interest in considering this for the next report for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council region.

**State Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Revision Discussion and Planning for State Fiscal Year 2012**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the revised budget for state fiscal year 2011 and noted that this is due to declining tobacco tax revenues. Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that this Regional Partnership Council received an increase in discretionary funding from the one-time, fund-balance drawdown to offset the budget reduction. Coordinator Dobler-Allen shared that the State Board will review the state fiscal year 2012 budget during the September 2010 Board meeting. Currently, the carry forward amount for this Regional Partnership Council for State Fiscal Year 2011 is \$181,555.94. The Early Childhood Framework recommendations before the Board will impact these decisions.

**Communications Update and Discussion**

Mrs. Pansulla introduced herself to the members and briefly explained her roles as the Community Outreach Liaison for the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council. She further indicated that her focus this year encompasses outreach to the Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (teachers/administration), women's, and faith-based communities in the region. Mrs. Pansulla made herself available as a resource for the members and for the community at large, in her capacity as Outreach Liaison.

*Member Tapia left the meeting at approximately 5:15 p.m.*

**Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at the Town of Springerville Complex, 418 East Main Street, Springerville, Arizona 85938. There being no further business, Chair Barela adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:27 p.m.

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Thomas Barela, Chair

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Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator