



# 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, October 14, 2009 at 3:00 p.m., at the Mogollon High School Library, 3450 Mustang Dr., Heber, AZ 85928.

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at approximately 3:10 p.m.

#### Members Present:

Tom Barela, Claude Endfield, Mary Hammond, Leslie Meyer, Margie Tapia, Cathy Taylor (telephonic), Mary Tyler, Melissa Webb, and Michael Zimmerman

#### Members Absent:

Rance Pullin and Becky Towle

#### Others Present:

Kate Dobler-Allen, AdiShakti Khalsa, Joe Dorsey, Dee Hoagland, Byron Lewis, Mary Manzano, Aileene Nelson, Tim Rasmussen, Maureen Theobald, and Kathy Turner

#### **Member Report and Updates**

Chair Webb shared her experience at the Chairs/Vice Chairs Meeting in Phoenix on September 10, 2009, and stated they discussed strategy planning and capacity building. Member Endfield stated she attended the Early Learning Standards focus group and that change reflects evaluation instruments, which needs to be more cognizant of rural areas. Discussion was held regarding the proposed licensure fee increase by Department of Health Services and its impact to organizations and parents. Member Zimmerman stated he met with Ms. Sarah Murley of Applied Economics and expressed that he felt she fully understood the study both from a theoretical and a personal standpoint.

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

None

#### **Adoption of Minutes**

The September 9, 2009 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Hammond moved to accept the minutes as written. Member Endfield seconded the motion; the motion passed.

#### **Review of Conflict of Interest Requirements for First Things First Regional Partnership Council Members**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the criteria for what constitutes a conflict of interest and the responsibility of each member to identify a conflict.

### **Disclosure of Conflicts**

There were no conflicts of interest for the agenda items for this meeting.

### **Regional Coordinator's Report**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed her report. Member Tapia asked if Coordinator Dobler-Allen gives input on the current status when she attends community meetings. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated she does give updates at the meetings she attends.

### **Navajo/Apache Operational Plan Update**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen presented the Operational Plan. Member Hammond asked which grant went to Apache County; Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated that the contract is for Child Care Health Consultation and there will be an update in the next month or two.

### **Fiscal Year 2010 Program/Grantee Status Reports/Updates**

- A. Mr. Dave Sherman (The Salvation Army/Emergency Food Boxes) – Mr. Sherman discussed the different community entities he's working with and stated he gets food from St. Mary's Foodbank. Mr. Sherman shared the flier his agency is utilizing. Mr. Sherman further stated that October 21, 2009, will be the first distribution and they may eventually distribute two times per month. Member Hammond asked if the flier could be handed out throughout the community; Mr. Sherman stated it could. Member Tyler suggested that the flier be printed in Spanish as well (if a translator can be found within the community).
- B. Mr. Byron Lewis (North Country/Healthy Steps) – provided a brief progress report for Healthy Steps.
- C. Ms. Kathy Turner (United Way of Northern Arizona/Emergency Child Care Scholarships) – Ms. Turner presented a status report of the program, which is servicing young children birth through age five whose families have incomes up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- D. Mr. Tim Rasmussen (Town of Springerville/Emergency Food Boxes) – Mr. Rasmussen shared that this program is doing a distribution once per month and he shared distribution numbers for both the St. Johns and Springerville locations.
- E. Ms. Aileene Nelson (Reach out and Read) – Ms. Nelson shared that they are targeting five sites: Winslow, Snowflake, Taylor, Show Low (2). She further stated their challenge is finding new clinics; they are collaborating with North Country HealthCare within the Navajo/Apache Region, and Save the Children on the Navajo Nation.
- F. Mr. Joe Dorsey (Northland Therapy/Beautiful Beginnings) – Mr. Dorsey provided a program update through the month of September; Beautiful Beginnings has a referral rate of 25-30 children/families per month. At this rate of referral, a wait-list will likely be in effect beginning in the spring of 2010.
- G. Coordinator Dobler-Allen gave an update on TEACH and Quality First. Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the roll-out of TEACH. Member Endfield directed staff to bring information to the Council related to the strategies that other Regional Partnership Council's have to increase Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) scholarship funding.

### **Council Discussion and Possible Action Related to Proposed Strategies for State Fiscal Year 2011**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed her draft attachments of the following potential strategies:

- A. Capacity Building – Because of the apparent lack of knowledge throughout the region for the grant application process and because of FTF Board's concern about money going un-appropriated, this may be an

educational opportunity for the public to improve competition for grants. The members stated their interest in this strategy.

B. Access and Affordability – There is an importance for the current child care centers to maintain their business and often the owners of the business are not well educated on running a business. Chair Webb stated she would gather a list of Small Business courses available to the public and determine the costs involved. It was noted that a model already exists through Rio Salado Community College. The members expressed their interest in this strategy.

C. Family Support/Kith ‘n Kin – Because many of the parents in this region are out of work or under-employed, there is a need for good resources to support their children’s development. A suggestion was made for a potential agreement with the local libraries to expand their early childhood programs. The members expressed their interest in this strategy.

D. Family Support and Child Care Slots – This strategy would consider a co-pay to support families with their child care costs. An important factor to be a recipient of the stipend would be that the parent(s) would have to show they are working part-time or going to school. The members stated their interest in this strategy.

E. Nutrition Education – Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated she has a meeting scheduled with WIC, Navajo and Apache County representatives, and University of Arizona’s Cooperative Extension Program to discuss existing curriculums and materials in order to create a parent-education campaign. The members expressed their interest in this strategy.

**Review, Discussion, and Possible Action Related to Proposed Strategies for State Fiscal Year 2011**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed her spreadsheet attachment, which covered budget projections. There is \$182,008 in Access and Affordability/Expansion funds that was not slated for FY 2010.

**Home Visiting/Beautiful Beginnings Budget Discussion related to State Fiscal Year 2010 Contract**

Because of the stated shortfall of budgetary needs during the presentation by Beautiful Beginnings, Member Barela moved that a portion of the unused funds intended for Child Care Expansion within the SFY 2010 budget, \$40,000, be allocated for Beautiful Beginnings for FY 2010 and the remainder of those unused dollars, approximately \$142,000, be carried over to FY 2011. Member Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 3:00 p.m., at the Blue Ridge Unified School District Board Room, 1200 W. White Mountain Blvd., Lakeside, AZ 85929. There being no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:15 p.m.

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Melissa Webb, Chair

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Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator