



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

### Minutes

#### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First—Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was 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.

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at approximately 3:10 p.m., and welcomed everyone, especially Mr. J. Elliott Hibbs, Executive Director of First Things First and Dr. Jillynn Stevens, Early Education—Senior Policy Specialist for FTF.

#### Members Present:

Tom Barela, Claude Endfield, Leslie Meyer, Rance Pullin, Cathy Taylor, Mary Tyler (via telephone), Melissa Webb, and Michael Zimmerman (via telephone)

#### Members Absent:

Mary Hammond, Margie Tapia, and Becky Towle

#### Others Present:

Kate Dobler-Allen, Joe Dorsey, Dr. Norm Ehmke, J. Elliott Hibbs, Dee Hoagland, Rochelle Lacapa, Elaine Salmi, Dr. Jill Stevens, Maureen Theobald, Connie Warren, and Lee Warren

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

None

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

Ms. Dee Hoagland handed out a letter from NACOG (Northern Arizona Council of Governments), which informed the attendees that NACOG was awarded stimulus funds to create and sustain child care businesses in Apache and Navajo Counties.

Ms. Elaine Salmi, Vernon Elementary School District, informed the attendees that it is very hard to find start-up money to fund preschools and further stated there are currently a minimum of 12-15 children in need of services in her area. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated she would contact Ms. Salmi to discuss this further after the meeting.

#### **Adoption of Minutes**

The October 14, 2009 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Endfield motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Member Meyer seconded the motion; the motion passed.

### **Disclosure of Conflicts**

The members declared their status as follows:

- A. Mary Tyler stated she may have a possible conflict with the proposed Strategy 18, Expanded Early Literacy Programs and the proposed Strategy 20, Nutrition Parent Education Campaign.
- B. Member Endfield stated she will have a conflict with Item 10 on the agenda (FY 2011 Funding Plan) because of the grant presently held by Northland Pioneer College (NPC) for Community-based Training.

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

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed her monthly report and the operational plan and stated the funding plan will be presented for approval during the December meeting and will then be presented to the FTF Board on January 26, 2010.

### **Awarding of Council Member One-Year Pins**

Executive Director Hibbs awarded pins to the members present who had attained one year as a Regional Partnership Council Member: Chair Webb, Vice Chair Pullin, and Members Barela, Endfield, and Taylor. Members Hammond, Tapia, Towle, Tyler, and Zimmerman will be presented with their pins during the December meeting.

During this time, Executive Director Hibbs asked the members if there were any questions he could answer. Member Barela shared his concern that the grant process is daunting for the average small business owner. Executive Director Hibbs informed the members of the steps FTF is taking to hopefully streamline that process:

- A. Executive Director Hibbs stated FTF recently hired Linda Cannon & Associates to review the RFGA process in order to evaluate the entire RFGA process, and to make a set of recommendations to the Board for a revised process.
- B. Executive Director Hibbs further stated that FTF is exploring a potential partnership with the Arizona Non-Profit Association to provide a system of supports for capacity building within FTF regions.

Member Endfield asked Executive Director Hibbs if he had received any responses to the letter regarding the increase in licensing fees; Executive Director Hibbs stated he received about 30 responses, the majority being in support of FTF assisting providers with payment of the fee increase.

### **Statewide Strategy Update**

Dr. Jillyn Stevens, Early Education–Senior Policy Specialist, reviewed a summary hand-out of FTF Statewide Strategies, and gave a verbal update on the status of each.

### **Council Discussion of Proposed Child Care Licensing Fee Increase, Possible Action, Possible Council Statement**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed FTF's position statement. Member Zimmerman extrapolated the potential daily cost to parents, which is minimal; however, Chair Webb noted the fee is based on capacity not enrollment. Executive Director Hibbs noted the average child care center is at 46 percent attendance currently. Executive Director Hibbs stated the FTF Board did not respond to DHS (Department of Health Services) because there are many issues— the FTF Board position is that the Arizona State Government is obligated to provide the safety net for Arizona families, as well as to invest in the future of Arizona. FTF's revenues are declining; however, FTF is obligated by statute to build a system to address early childhood development and health. Coordinator Dobler-Allen asked if the members of the Regional Partnership Council wish to support and/or sign the letter that the FTF Board is drafting related to this; Council members indicated support for this statement.

### **Council Discussion and Review of Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Plan Update**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the following proposed strategies:

- A. Strategy 16, Capacity Building – Because of the RFGA process review being done by Linda Cannon & Associates currently, Coordinator Dobler-Allen recommended that this be placed on hold until the completion of

Linda Cannon's work, as well as the parameters of the training and supports available through The Arizona Non-Profit Association. A placeholder will be identified. Members agreed.

B. Strategy 17, Director Mentoring – Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted this will target the business skills of owners/administrators of child care businesses, who will also earn credit for their coursework at NPC. Attendee Dr. Ehmke shared that this will help move child care owners/directors toward national accreditation; Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated she will add this to the strategy's outcomes. The members agreed.

C. Strategy 18, Expanded Early Literacy Programs – Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that this may be an IGA (Inter-Governmental Agreement) with the libraries in Southern Apache and Navajo Counties. Member Tyler requested that this program be something greater than a typical "Mommy and Me" program; Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated there will be standards of practice that will address family-centered early literacy. The members agreed.

D. Strategy 19, Child Care Scholarships – Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the criteria for being eligible for this strategy. Dr. Stevens recommended recipients utilize a part-time slot while seeking employment and then a full-time slot once a job is found; Chair Webb and Coordinator Dobler-Allen confirmed the majority of recipients will be utilizing part-time scholarships. It was noted that recipients can be on the DES waiting list and the administrative home will monitor this. The members agreed.

E. Strategy 20, Nutrition Parent Education Campaign – This will involve Apache and Navajo County WIC programs, and the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension, who has the available curriculum. The members agreed.

Coordinator Dobler-Allen then reviewed the budget for FY2010-2012 and asked that any further input related to this be given to her by Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

#### Adjournment

The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 3:00 p.m., at Northland Pioneer College, 578 N. Main St., Eagar, AZ 85925. There being no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:35 p.m.



Melissa Webb, Chair



Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator