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Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First—Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at Northland Pioneer College, Room NLC-142, 2251 North Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona 86025.

Chair Barela called the meeting to order at approximately 3:20 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Members Present:
Tom Barela, Sheila Chairez, Michael Downs, Claude Endfield, Leslie Meyer, Cathy Taylor (arrived at 3:25 p.m.), and Michael Zimmerman

Members Absent: Margie Tapia and Becky Towle

Others Present:
DeLeine Charette, Kate Dobler-Allen, Rhonda Etsitty, Lannie Gillespie, Brent Hays, Michelle Pansulla, and Maureen Theobald

Member Reports and Updates

Member Chairez announced she is expecting their second child. Member Endfield shared that she attended the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference last week, which was excellent. Member Zimmerman stated that Executive Director Rhian Evans-Allvin refused his resignation from this Regional Partnership Council and has also asked Member Zimmerman to be on the State Board's Finance Sub-Committee. Member Downs expressed elation about the defeat of Proposition 302 on the November 2, 2010 ballot.

Call to the Public

None

Disclosure of Conflicts

Member Cathy Taylor submitted a disclosure form for Agenda Item 10 (Healthy Steps) since she works for North Country HealthCare.

Discussion and Possible Adoption of October 13, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 13, 2010, of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council. Member Endfield moved that the Regional Council approve the minutes of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council regular meeting, held on October 13, 2010 reflecting Member Zimmerman's absence during the October 13, 2010 meeting. Vice Chair Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

Quality First! and T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arizona Program Update

Ms. DeLeine Charette, Association for Supportive Child Care, shared that there are a total of four participating sites in the Navajo/Apache Region (two centers and two family child care homes); she also described the implementation of the Quality First Improvement supports within the region. The Regional Partnership Council discussed the statewide funding decrease in fiscal year 2013 for the improvement aspects of Quality First and the impact that this will have within the Navajo/Apache Region.

Regional Coordinator's Report

a. Monthly Report: Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the Regional Coordinator's report and added three items:

i. Coordinator Dobler-Allen attended the Navajo/Apache Workforce Investment Board meeting today, November 10, 2010 regarding the Regional Council's ECE/ECD (Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Development) Professional Development strategy.

ii. Coordinator Dobler-Allen plans to attend a Capacity Building in Social Services Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, on November 16, 2010.

iii. Coordinator Dobler-Allen also plans to attend the Zero to Three Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, from December 8-11, 2010. Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that First Things First will also sponsor two attendees from this Regional Partnership Council. Members should let Coordinator Dobler-Allen know of their interest in attending this conference by the end of the day Friday, November 12, 2010.

b. Operational Plan: Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the current status of the Operational Plan.

c. Community Outreach Liaison Update: Community Outreach Liaison Pansulla reviewed her monthly report and offered clarifications as needed.

d. First Things First Board Administrative Approval Update: Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the Regional Council that the First Things First Board approved at the September 2010 meeting a formal process for Executive Director Evans-Allvin to approve specific changes to funding plans and strategies. The implementation mechanics of this approval process are under development.

Presentation and Discussion of Statewide First Things First Programmatic Funding in Fiscal Year 2012 and Navajo/Apache Regional Implications

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the Statewide, Multi-regional and Competitive Strategy Costs and Contacts report, outlining costs for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012. Significant discussion followed surrounding the regional impacts resulting from reductions in statewide funding.

Review and Discussion of 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Data, Identified Community Needs and Implications for Fiscal Year 2012 Funding Plan

Coordinator Dobler-Allen indicated there are no new identified needs; however, there are shifts in priority of needs. Regional Council discussion followed. Member Endfield discussed the lack of individuals applying for professional development programs.

The Regional Council directed Coordinator Dobler-Allen to meet with Member Endfield and Rhonda Etsitty to discuss current barriers that child care staff and directors are experiencing in their attempts to obtain professional development support.

A short break was taken between 5:00 p.m. and 5:13 p.m.; Chair Barela then moved to Item 11 on the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Strategy Amendment, and Related Contract Amendment, to Expand Oral Health and Dental Varnish in Fiscal Year 2011

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the Oral Health Screens and Varnish strategy and the three proposals supplied by the Navajo County Public Health Services District for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012:

a. Proposal 1: Includes a Health Educator and sustained 1,000 Fluoride Varnish Applications per year at $40,503 in Fiscal Year 2011 and $58,813 in Fiscal Year 2012

b. Proposal 2: Includes a Health Educator and increased Fluoride Varnish Applications in Fiscal Year 2011 to 1,060 and in Fiscal Year 2012 to 1,200, requiring funding of $41,103 in Fiscal Year 2011 and $60,013 in Fiscal Year 2012

c. Proposal 3: Includes only Fluoride Varnish Applications (with an increase of 60 applications in Fiscal Year 2011 and 200 applications in Fiscal Year 2012) at a cost of $20,600 in Fiscal Year 2011 and $25,000 in Fiscal year 2012.

After discussion, Member Downs moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council accept Proposal 3 above. Member Taylor seconded; the motion did not pass. Member Endfield then moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council adopt Proposal 2 above. Member Zimmerman seconded; the motion passed.

Chair Barela then moved back to Item 10 on the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Strategy Amendment, and Related Contract Amendment, to Expand Healthy Steps in Fiscal Year 2011

Member Taylor declared a conflict of interest with this agenda item. Based on Fiscal Year 2010 programmatic data submitted, Coordinator Dobler-Allen proposed a strategy increase, and related contract increase, for an additional FTE in Fiscal Year 2011; and to sustain this in Fiscal Year 2012 with two FTEs. After discussion, Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council amend the Healthy Steps strategy to increase the funding for Fiscal Year 2011 from its current funding of $66,000 to $120,000 and a subsequent contract amendment to increase the level of service. Member Downs seconded; the motion passed.

Chair Barela then moved to Item 14 on the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Recommendations for Government Agency to Partner with for Lab School Implementation in Fiscal Year 2011

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the history of this strategy. Those involved in the proposed partnership include: Navajo County Superintendent of Schools Education Service Agency, Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology, Northland Pioneer College, a private educational consulting firm, and possibly two local school districts.

After discussion, Member Zimmerman moved that First Things First staff move forward with the development of a scope of work for the necessary program definitions for the Lab School, specific deliverables, and the agreement document itself with the Navajo County Superintendent of Schools Education Service Agency. Member Endfield seconded; the motion passed.

Chair Barela then moved to Item 13 on the agenda.

Presentation and Discussion of Possible Home Visiting Models, Costs and Implementation Elements in the Navajo/Apache Region

Member Zimmerman moved to table this agenda item pending further information from the staff. Vice Chair Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

Staff was directed to prepare and submit to the Regional Council a memo outlining the points and issues that the Regional Council needs to consider in planning for a home visitation strategy in Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012.

Chair Barela then moved to Item 12 on the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Strategy Amendment, and Related Contract Amendment, to Increase Child Care Scholarships, in Fiscal Year 2011

Coordinator Dobler-Allen discussed options for sustaining this strategy since increases in funding were just made for both the Healthy Steps and Oral Health strategies.

Member Endfield had to leave the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

After significant discussion, Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council remove $129,000 from the Expanded Home Visiting strategy for Fiscal Year 2011 and place these funds in Un-allocated funds. Member Taylor seconded; the motion passed. Member Downs then moved that the Child Care Scholarships strategy funding remain at $180,000 for Fiscal Year 2011. Member Chairez seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion of Fiscal Year 2012 Funding Plan by Goal Area and Strategic Direction

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was tabled.

Discussion and Possible Adoption of Kindergarten Transition Strategy to Support KinderCamp Expansion in Navajo/Apache Region in Fiscal Year 2012

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was tabled.

Presentation, Discussion and Possible Adoption of REWARD$ as a Strategy in Fiscal Year 2012
Due to time constraints, this agenda item was tabled.

Adjournment
The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at Little Colorado Behavioral Health Center, 470 West Cleveland, St. Johns, Arizona 85936. There being no further business, Chair Barela adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:16 p.m.

Thomas Barela, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator