



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

### **Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Meeting** **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Northland Pioneer College Learning Center Room 139, 1611 S. Main Street, Snowflake, Arizona 85937.

#### **Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order**

Chair Mannis called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. The Chair then welcomed the members and members of the public to the meeting and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Members Attending: Chair Mannis, Vice Chair Meyer, Kristalei Baskins, Claude Endfield, Kirk Grugel, Betsy Peck, Margie Tapia, Linda Thompson.

Members Absent: Jeffrey Northup, Cathy Taylor

Others Attending: Kate Dobler-Allen, Virginia Turner, Krista Beazley, Michelle Pansulla, Kathy Bunker, Elaine Bradford, Rhonda Etsitty, Becky Benda-Dodd, Marina Beerli, Sarah Nolan, Linda Williams-Tuenge, Joyce Alves, Mary Tyler, Kim Hayden and by telephone Charlene Surber.

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

Chair Mannis asked for reports or updates from members. Member Endfield informed the members that the upcoming schedule of courses for the Fall semester is published and distributed flyers. Member Grugel reminded the members about the upcoming Kradle 2 Kindergarten Court Team meeting on October 30, 2012. Ida Rose Florez from First Things First will be presenting a program entitled The Science of Early Brain Development: Implications for Policy and Practice. He encouraged everyone to attend. The meeting is in Holbrook at the Northland Pioneer College Tiponi Community Center from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Kirk. Member Tapia told the council about an upcoming Resource Fair in Springerville at Head Start featuring several businesses on October 26, 2012 from 10 am to 1:00 pm., and invited all to attend.

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

There were no calls to the public received.

#### **Disclosure of Conflicts**

There were no disclosures.

#### **Discussion and Possible Adoption of September 12, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Chair Mannis asked for a motion of approval of September 12, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes. Member Grugel moved for approval of the September minutes. Vice Chair Meyer seconded. Motion passed.

#### **State Fiscal Year 2013 Navajo/Apache Grantee Program Updates**

Chair Mannis moved to the program updates and called on Deborah Lewis to give the first report. He asked the people who are reporting to please stand at the front so all can hear their report. Regional Director Dobler-Allen asked the presenters to keep their reports to 3 minutes in order to allow time for all to report.

##### **Care Coordination/Medical Home – Healthy Steps North Country Healthcare**

Ms. Lewis is a developmental specialist with Healthy Steps. Ms. Lewis reported that they have served about 1000 families in Navajo and Apache Counties. Part of their work is with parents and child care providers to provide answers as children go through “stages” to understand if it is normal, and at the right age. She said they are now working with many other grantees to coordinate care and also to get the word out about First Things First. She reported that all families are greeted by Healthy Steps trained personnel when they come in to a North Country Healthcare clinic and provided with additional support as they need it. The main challenges she reported are lack of services in the area and connecting families to Access.

### **Summit Regional Healthcare**

Sarah Nolan gave the report for Summit Regional Healthcare Healthy Steps. Ms. Nolan reported that their program is an evidence based model. She said they provide child development services and support to families regarding normal child development. They also provide lactation support, and child development screening on schedules. Other services include newborn observation to help build relationships between newborns and their parents, and they also work with other grantees and programs to connect families to resources. Ms. Nolan reported a challenge of a lack of a central area for resources.

### **Newborn Follow-Up**

Mary Tyler from Navajo County Public Health reported that the Newborn Follow-up program is now staffed by Kathleen Hansen who brings years of experience to the position. This is a one/half full time employee position. This program works with families of newborns at Summit Health Care where Arizona Early Intervention Program will not pick up. They will also be providing the Arizona Parent Kit to all newborns which includes First Things First information.

### **Child Care Health Consultation**

Mary Tyler from Navajo County Public Health continued with the Child Care Health Consultation report. She announced that Kathleen Hansen will also be staffing this position as one/half full time employee. This program focuses on child care centers to address health concerns. The majority of the centers are Quality First centers.

### **Oral Health and Dental Varnish**

Mary Tyler from Navajo County Public Health also gave the report for the Oral Health Strategy. She reported that Oral Health is now in the beginning of the fourth year and has been expanding since its inception. The screenings let providers and parents know of issues. The program is now provided in most of Navajo County from Joseph City to Pinetop. They primarily do the screenings in child care centers and head start, and are also providing training for staff at these centers. The program is also doing dental varnishes and providing dental kits. Ms. Tyler reported that the primary concern is that they are still not reaching all families in Navajo County. Member Tapia commented that the training in her head start center was very good.

### **Professional Career Pathways Project**

Linda Williams Tuenge, Outreach Specialist from Central Arizona College provided a report on the Professional Career Pathways Project strategy, better known as Scholarships-Non-TEACH. Ms. Tuenge informed the Council that the strategy was started to help give child care providers the means to enhance their training. This program pays for early childhood courses and corresponding books. The program will also help to pay for the Child Development Associate assessment fee and mentoring. Ms Tuenge said she works with the 16 community colleges and other regional councils participating in the strategy, and she also works with T.E.A.C.H to help students take advantage of both programs at different times.

### **Recruitment into the Field**

Marina Beerli from Northland Pioneer College Early Childhood Program recruitment reported that the total fall 2012 enrollment is 53. Ms. Beerli said the program provides individualized recruitment and planning with prospective students. They have created a new brochure to help reach more students and get the word out.

### **T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Arizona**

Rhonda Etsitty from Association for Supportive Child Care, along with Elaine Bradford gave the report for the Teacher Education And Compensation Helps program. This program involves Educational Scholarships, Formal Education, Compensation incentives and Commitment to remaining in the field. Qualified early childhood teachers and providers may be eligible to participate. Ms Bradford reported that for SFY2013 there will be a pool for unused T.E.A.C.H scholarships that may be divided between Quality First sites. She also reported that one goal is to have a bachelor program in each Regional Area.

### **Parent Awareness and Outreach**

There was no report for Parent Awareness and Outreach.

### **Presentation, Update, and Discussion of University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education State Fiscal Year 2013 Strategy and Contract Amendment**

Chair Mannis recognized Margine Bawden. Ms. Bawden gave a brief description of the program, they provide nutrition information and assistance in child care centers, as well as doing food nutrition demonstration classes. They use SNAP however those funds were cut by 40% and they can no longer provide nutrition classes in non-SNAP sites. Because they do not want to lose those sites they are requesting additional funds to provide the food and materials as well as additional funding to bring one salary for a nutrition instructor to full time. Chair Mannis asked how much they are requesting. Ms. Bawden said they are requesting an additional \$5000 for SFY13. Ms. Bawden and Regional Director Dobler-Allen provided some additional information about what sites are affected and what would be cut. Director Dobler-Allen explained that the Council will have this item on the agenda next month for possible approval.

### **Quality First Model and Policy Update and Discussion**

Chair Mannis asked Regional Director Dobler-Allen provide an update on the Quality First Model and Policy changes the State Board approved. Regional Director Dobler-Allen explained that data shows that the largest group of providers is now at a two star rating. The philosophy is to increase quality in child care. Starting in SFY2014 only Quality First participating sites will be eligible for the Quality First scholarships, and wait list sites will no longer be eligible. Beginning in SFY2015 only sites with a 2 star or higher rating will be eligible, and in SFY2016 only sites with a 3 star or higher rating will be eligible.

### **Presentation and Discussion of State Fiscal Year 2014 Strategies and Funding Plan**

After a short break, Chair Mannis re-convened the meeting and asked Regional Director Dobler-Allen to proceed with agenda item number 9. Regional Director Dobler-Allen used a projection of the play book for the council to follow as she went through the current funding for SFY2013 and the proposals for funding for SFY2014.

#### **Learning Lab**

Funded for SFY2013 – 15 with expected 20% reduction for SFY2014 and SFY2015.

#### **Recruitment into the Field**

Level funding for SFY2014 and SFY2015. This would not increase unless there was a need to add another position.

#### **Scholarships non-TEACH**

This is Professional Career Pathways. Propose level funding.

#### **Quality First**

Propose increase Quality First sites to 4 for 3 centers and 1 home, to include Lab School as a Quality First site.

#### **Child Care Health Consultation**

Increase to cover 4 Quality First sites, 3 centers and 1 home.

#### **Scholarships TEACH**

Regional Director Dobler-Allen recommended to remove additional TEACH scholarships since they are not being utilized and since extra scholarships are available within Quality First.

#### **Quality First Child Care Scholarships**

Increased to cover included Quality First scholarships and 11 additional scholarships.

#### **FTF Professional REWARDS**

Increase the amount to meet the increased number of applications received by the Grantee.

#### **Care Coordination/Medical Home**

Healthy Steps. Level fund both contracts however suggest increasing Contract Service Unit's to be in line with SFY2013 Q2 performance since both have exceeded their contracted CSUs.

#### **Newborn Follow-Up**

Level fund. May see data justification for increase in SFY2015.

#### **Oral Health**

Level fund in SFY2014. This will be the first year of tele-dentistry implementation. The equipment and staff are in place for SFY2013.

#### **Parent Outreach and Awareness**

There will be a new contract needed for this strategy. The suggestion is to wrap Nutrition/Obesity/Physical activity into Parent Outreach and Awareness. The proposal shows the requested increase as well as increasing the total for Parent Outreach to also include early literacy, nutrition education, and injury/drug use prevention.

Director Dobler-Allen explained that the renewal could be accomplished by either a Request For Grant Application or a Request For Proposal for a Government to Government agreement. Either one could have more than one entity or more than one contract awarded.

#### **Community Awareness**

Level funding. For materials to give away such as books and Educational Reinforcement Items.

#### **Community Outreach**

Propose maintain with increased cost to cover a three-quarter full time employee.

#### **Media**

For radio, billboards, etc. Propose to level fund.

#### **Statewide Evaluation**

The increase is based on the First Things First Board adopted Statewide Evaluation Plan and represents Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council's 90% portion.

### **School Readiness Indicators, FTF Roles, Prioritized Needs**

Regional Director Dobler-Allen provided an overview of the School Readiness Indicators, the FTF Roles the Council identified, and the needs as prioritized by the Council. Changes could be made to the rolls or priorities at this time, however they currently reflect the Council's directions so no changes should be needed. The Council will use these to set the school readiness benchmarks in SFY2015.

### **Regional Director's Report**

#### **Monthly Report**

Regional Director Dobler-Allen shared with the Council that she will be presenting at the Statewide Lion's Club conference in Prescott on November 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding the Oral Health program. The Heber-Overgard Lion's Club is proposing the Lion's Clubs of Arizona adopt Oral Health as a focus and they want to partner with First Things First.

#### **Financial Reports**

Regional Director Dobler-Allen went over the carry forward and how to answer the question of why does First Things First have so much money. Per state statute First Things First can only spend tobacco tax revenue two years after it is collected. Due to program ramp up and funding concerns over the ballot issue in 2010, there were fewer funds being expended until the contracts really began to be fully implemented in SFY2012. Per statute these unexpended funds were put in carry forward. Now that programs are in place these funds are beginning to be spent down. Regional Director Dobler-Allen also went over how the funds that the Regional Council has allocated to them are determined. She noted the State Board is intending that the Regional Councils spend down most of their carry forward over the next two years.

#### **Community Outreach Report**

Community Outreach Coordinator Michelle Pansulla encouraged everyone to take advantage of the speaker's training and reported that she is working with more businesses to increase awareness. One example is that she is working with florists by providing books that can be included with bouquets for new mothers.

### **General Discussion**

Chair Mannis asked if there was any other discussion. There was none so he asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Thompson moved to adjourn, Member Meyer seconded, motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**The next meeting scheduled for November 14, 2012 in Springerville.**

**ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD  
NAVAJO/APACHE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

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**Kalman Mannis, Chair**

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**Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Director**