



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Finance Committee December 23rd, 2008 Minutes of a Meeting

Call to Order: The finance committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 23rd, 2008 at the Navajo Dine Education Admin. Building, small conference Room, Morgan Blvd., Window Rock, AZ commenced at 1:43 PM. Paula Curley, chair of the council, was not present to call the meeting to order. Florinda Jackson requested that the council allow her to act as the chair for the meeting in Paula's absence. All members present agreed upon this request.

Florinda Jackson, the Regional Coordinator for First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Members Present: Paula Seanez, Dorothy Yazzie (via phone), and Herb Long

Members Absent: Dr. Paula Curley and Dr. Joe Martin

Staff Present: Dr. Florinda Jackson & Ellen Majure (via phone)

Guests present: Claude Enfield (Northland Pioneer College), Ron Duncan (Head Start)

Meeting Minutes: Paula Seanez motioned to approve the November 26th 2008 finance committee minutes. Herb Long seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Presentations Related to Professional Development: Florinda introduced Claude Enfield, employee of the Northland Pioneer College in Early Childhood Development Education. Claude gave a presentation regarding Northland Pioneer College and their continued work with tribal childcare employees. Northland Pioneer College offers a low tuition rate and offers an education program to help individuals obtain a CDA credential. Claude believes funding of \$1000 per person would encourage students to complete general education classes to help them enter a 4 year college (Northern Arizona University) for their degree.

Discussion and Continued Work on Funding Plan: All strategies (1-7) were discussed during this meeting. Dr. Florinda Jackson reminded the council that the deadline for Funding Plan approval with the First Things First State Board is January 27th 2009 at the State Board Meeting, thus the Funding Plan proposal must be in the hands of the State Board by January 17th 2009 for review. Paula Curly suggested this date be postponed until February 2009; the council still needs to complete the performance measures, evaluation, and funding amount . The finance committee

recommended moving forward with the funding plan. Paula Seanez summarized by stating to see how far the committee accomplished before postponing the due date and believes everything can be accomplished in the next two meetings.

The committee discussed Strategy 1 agreed upon and decided to implement Quality First!. The remainder of the Strategy Funding Plan discussion clarified the direction the Council will be taking on each Strategy and the preliminary funding amounts.

The tentative funding amounts decided upon were as follows:

Strategy 1: Increase number of children receiving quality early care and education through funding for facility improvements: \$500,000.00

Strategy 2: Increase number of children receiving quality early care and education through expanding capacity of existing center: \$500,000.00

Strategy 4: Increase quality early care and education workforce by means of fostering education of those considering entering the field; those pursuing CDA, AA, BA and MA degrees and those currently employed through funding scholarships, incentives or professional development: \$500,000.00

Strategy 5: Increase early care and education workforce for retention of degreed CDA, AA, BA, and MA employment through funding of incentives or wage enhancement in early care and education: \$100,000.00

Strategy 6: Increase quality early care and education workforce by funding MA level faculty and professionals stipends (transportation, per diem, etc.): \$400,000.00

Strategy 7: Support Ke' (extended family/friends) by funding early care and education through home visitations, resources, seminars and hands-on training to improve knowledge and understanding of basic parenting/care giving skills: \$400,000.00

Meeting Adjourned: 4:20 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 30th 2009 at 9:00 PM, MST.