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, December 23, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Due to weather conditions, the meeting was held telephonically.

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at approximately 3:17 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Members Present:
Leslie Meyer, Becky Towle, Rance Pullin, Cathy Taylor, Mary Tyler, Melissa Webb, and Michael Zimmerman

Members Absent:
Tom Barela, Claude Endfield, Mary Hammond, and Margie Tapia

Others Present:
Richie Bast, Shonde Burgess, Kate Dobler-Allen, AdiShakti Khalsa, Rita Logue, Chris Sexton, Maureen Theobald

Member Report and Updates

None

Call to the Public

None

Disclosure of Conflicts

The following potential conflicts of interest were disclosed by the members present:

A. Chair Webb – Employment with Northland Pioneer College (NPC), which could conflict with the ECE/ECD Professional Development Scholarship, Community-based Training, and the Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) Strategies

B. Member Tyler – Employment with Navajo County Public Health Services District, which could conflict with the Early Literacy Strategy

C. Member Taylor – Employment with North Country Health Care, which could conflict with the Healthy Steps Strategy

D. Vice Chair Pullin– Employment with the Navajo County Superintendent of Schools, which could conflict with the Preschool Model

Adoption of Minutes

The November 4, 2009 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Tyler moved that the minutes of the November 4, 2009 regular meeting be approved as presented. Vice Chair Pullin seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Regional Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed her monthly report and the operational plan. Member Towle asked Coordinator Dobler-Allen about the Mommy Preschool she had visited. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated this preschool is in Springerville, has been operating for the past two years, and runs a two-hour program, two days a week. Vice Chair Pullin asked Coordinator Dobler-Allen about the response she receives when she attends outside meetings. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated she gets continual support from the community about First Things First.

Program Updates

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed a report from Dr. Ehmke related to the Lab School and stated this is the planning year for this strategy, which will be presented to the Regional Partnership Council and the First Things First Board, once the model is complete. Coordinator Dobler-Allen had not yet received the updates from the Salvation Army, nor from Northland Pioneer College; but shared with the members that the Salvation Army is continuing to distribute food throughout the Navajo County region. Member Towle asked how grantees are monitored. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated reports are received quarterly for the "emergency" strategies; as for the Government Agreements and RFGAs, both a data and a narrative report are submitted to the finance department quarterly. There is a formal process in place should the grantee not be providing the service per the contract.

Discuss and Approve 2010 Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

After discussion, the members proposed the following dates/sites for the 2010 Regional Partnership Council meetings, all of which are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m., with the exception of the September meeting date, due to a conflict with the FTF Board Meeting. The dates/sites are as follows:

January 13, Holbrook	July 14, St. Johns
February 10, St. Johns	August 11, Show Low
March 10, Show Low	September 15, Snowflake
April 14, Snowflake	October 13, Eagar
May 12, Eagar	November 10, Holbrook
June 9, Holbrook	December 8, St. Johns

Member Taylor moved that the above-listed dates for the 2010 Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Meetings be approved. Member Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Amending the Funding Amount for the Child Care Supply/Demand Study to be conducted by Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Conjunction with the Coconino Regional Partnership Council

Coordinator Dobler-Allen explained that the project with NAU is going to cost more than originally planned and asked the members if they would authorize Coordinator Dobler-Allen to negotiate the contract not to exceed a $25,000 increase. Member Towle raised the question as to the reason for the increase. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated there are no specifics at this point but asked if the members would like to have NAU present the reason for the increase. Vice Chair Pullin moved that the members wait to hear the rationale from NAU for the increase in funding before funds are approved. Member Zimmerman seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Needs and Assets Vendor for 2010 Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Needs and Assets Report

Coordinator Dobler-Allen explained there are four potential vendors and the selection needs to be made by January 15, 2010; the options for the selection process are as follows:

A. The members could create a subcommittee to review the vendors.
B. The members could request Coordinator Dobler-Allen to review the vendors and make a recommendation.
C. The members could all review the vendors to make a determination.

After discussion, Member Zimmerman moved that the members authorize Coordinator Dobler-Allen to proceed with the choice of a vendor and that Coordinator Dobler-Allen could also choose a member to assist with the decision and further that the decision would be brought back to the members. Member Towle seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Additional FY 2011 Strategy for REWARDS

Coordinator Dobler-Allen explained the REWARDS program as an opportunity to provide monetary recognition for employees in the child care field who have completed a certificate or degree. After further discussion, Member Zimmerman moved that the Regional Partnership Council abstain from including the REWARDS program into the FY 2011 Funding Plan until there is more information available from the FTF Board. Member Taylor seconded; the motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Funding Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) Strategy for FY 2011

Coordinator Dobler-Allen explained that this program is for those providers who are not in *Quality First.* After discussion, Chair Webb moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council approve the proposed Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) strategy for FY 2011. Member Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

Discussion Regarding Coordination of FY 2010 Funded Strategies that will Impact Child Care Openings in the Region, Access and Affordability, and Professional Development for the Early Care and Education Community

Coordinator Dobler-Allen gave a synopsis of what has been funded to date. Chair Webb shared her concern for the large amount of money slated for professional development; Member Tyler stated she shared that concern. Vice Chair Pullin stated there is a need for improvement in the quality of child care, which takes time. Chair Webb shared the current registration headcount status at NPC for students in the early childhood field: There are 285 students throughout the NPC area (which reaches beyond the Navajo/Apache Region) and there are 181 in the education field, who could be studying early childhood. The headcount for those currently registered in the CDA (Child Development Associate Credential) module is 158. Member Zimmerman stated the economy is beginning to come back and expressed that the demand will come back as well. Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated that approximately one third of the FY 2011 Funding Plan is slated for professional development; the members concurred this is appropriate.

Discussion and Possible Approval of FY 2011 Funding Plan

The members reviewed the Funding Plan line by line and made the following determinations:

A. Child Care Lab School/Preschool Model
   1. Conflicts: Vice Chair Pullin: Employment with the Navajo County Superintendent of Schools
   2. Member Zimmerman motioned that the Child Care Lab School/Preschool Model strategy be approved with a funding level of $300,000 for FY 2011. Member Towle seconded; the motion carried.

B. ECE/ECD Professional Development Scholarship
   1. Conflicts: None
   2. Member Towle moved that the ECE/ECD Professional Development Scholarship strategy be approved with a funding level of $21,551 for FY 2011. Member Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

C. TEACH
   1. Conflicts: None
   2. Member Zimmerman moved that the TEACH strategy, slated for FY 2011, in the amount of $27,000 be defunded for FY 2011. Member Taylor seconded; the motion passed.

D. Professional Development Pathway
   1. Conflicts: None
   2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Community-based Training be approved for $15,000 for FY 2011. Member Towle seconded; the motion passed.

E. Employer-sponsored Child Care Research
   1. Conflicts: None
   2. Member Towle moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council approve the Employer-sponsored Child Care Research strategy for FY 2011 in the amount of $25,000. Member Zimmerman seconded; the motion passed.

F. Child Care Supply/Demand Study with Coconino Regional Partnership Council
   1. Conflicts: None
   2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council allocate the amount of $75,000 to be held as a placeholder to implement a strategy in FY 2012 based on the findings of the Child Care Supply/Demand and Barriers to Quality Studies that will be conducted in FY 2010. Vice Chair Pullin seconded; the motion passed.

G. Child Care Health Consultant
   1. Conflicts: Member Tyler: Employment with the Navajo County Public Health Services District
   2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council continue the Child Care Health Consultant Strategy and allocate $60,000 for FY 2011. Member Towle seconded; the motion passed.

H. Oral Health, Dental Varnish
   1. Conflicts: Member Tyler: Employment with the Navajo County Public Health Services District
   2. Member Towle moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council continue the Oral Health strategy and allocate $20,000 for FY 2011. Member Meyer seconded; the motion carried.

I. Healthy Steps
   1. Conflicts: Member Taylor: Employment with North Country Health Care; Member Tyler: Employment with the Navajo County Public Health Services District
   2. This strategy had to be tabled since there was no longer a quorum due to conflicts of interest.

J. Nutrition Education and Outreach
   1. Conflicts: Member Tyler: Employment with the Navajo County Public Health Services District

2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council adopt the Nutrition Education and Outreach strategy in the amount of $95,000 for FY 2011. Member Towle seconded; the motion passed.

K. Early Literacy and Parent Education

1. Conflicts: None
2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache RPC continue the Early Literacy and Parent Education strategy and allocate $31,930 for FY 2011. Member Taylor seconded; the motion passed.

L. Expanded Home Visiting

1. Conflicts: None
2. Member Towle moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council continue the Expanded Home Visiting strategy and allocate $195,000 for FY 2011. Member Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

M. Capacity Building

1. Conflicts: None
2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council place an internal hold on the Capacity Building strategy for FY 2011, and that a placeholder in the amount of $75,000 be allocated to this strategy. Once fully developed, this strategy will come back to the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council for approval. Vice Chair Pullin seconded; the motion passed.

N. Director Mentoring

1. Conflicts: Chair Webb: Her role at Northland Pioneer College
2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council adopt the Director Mentoring strategy for FY 2011 and that it be approved with a funding level of $85,000 for FY 2011. Member Taylor seconded; the motion carried.

O. Expanded Early Literacy Programs

1. Conflicts: Member Tyler: Employment with the Navajo County Public Health Services District
2. Chair Webb moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council adopt the Expanded Early Literacy Programs strategy and allocated $50,000 for FY 2011. Member Towle seconded; the motion carried.

P. Child Care Scholarships

1. Conflicts: Member Meyer: Employment with the United Way of NORTHERN Arizona
2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council approve the Child Care Scholarships strategy and allocate $180,000 for FY 2011. Member Towle seconded; the motion carried.

Q. Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP)

1. Conflicts None
2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) strategy be approved with a funding level of $27,000 for FY 2011. Member Meyer seconded; the motion carried.

R. Communication

1. Conflicts: None
2. Member Zimmerman moved that the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council allocate a total of $25,000 for FY 2011 toward the Communication strategy, with $15,000 being contributed to the statewide Communications Plan, and $10,000 being available for region-specific Communications efforts. Member Taylor seconded; the motion carried.

As a summation, all strategies for the FY 2011 Funding Plan passed with the exception of the Healthy Steps strategy, which could not be voted upon due to a lack of quorum.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. There being no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:50 p.m.

Melissa Webb, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator