



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Finance Committee December 30th, 2008 Minutes of a Meeting

Call to Order: The finance committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 30th, 2008 at the Navajo Dine Education Admin. Building, small conference Room, Morgan Blvd., Window Rock, AZ commenced at 9:25 AM. Paula Curley, the Chair for First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Members Present: Dorothy Yazzie (via phone), Joe Martin (via phone), Paula Seanez, Paula Curley, and Herbert Long

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dr. Florinda Jackson & Cristi Mallery (via phone)

Guests present: None

Meeting Minutes

Joe Martin motioned to approve the December 23rd 2008 finance committee minutes. Dorothy Yazzie seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Discussion and Continued Work on Funding Plan

Funding Plan must be submitted by January 6th for approval. Strategies will be refined one by one by the Finance Committee (FC) and recommend to the NNRPC for final approval.

Strategy 1 (Quality First!): The FC recommends to allocate \$500,000 to this strategy and to place the. After determining 10 medium-sized centers would cost 321,000, there would be a remainder of 178,750 which the FC decided should be divided by 19 centers at a cap of 10,000. The FC determined strategy 1 should target centers for the first year under Quality First! until they have had a chance to assess the needs of homes and possibly address homes in year 2 if deemed necessary. Proposed service numbers for this strategy included 10 centers in FY 2010, 10 in 2011 and 10 in 2012.

Strategy 2: The FC designated \$500,000 for this strategy to increase number of children receiving quality early care and education through expanding capacity of existing centers. After much discussion, the FC agreed that \$75,000 should be removed from this strategy and placed in strategy 3 for an increase in number of children receiving quality early care and education through funding of homes to be licensed. This leaves strategy 2 with a total funding amount of \$425,000. Strategy 2 will fund existing centers and implement indicators similar to

Quality First! yet allowing centers to select individual indicators based on center needs and to apply for different areas of quality improvements separately; if Centers wish to apply for all areas, they should apply for Quality First! funding in strategy 1. Strategy 3 will fund homes to be licensed with a total funding of \$275,000. Both strategies are in need of an agency or entity to carry out the infrastructure and fiscal responsibilities; a New Mexico model will be used with no additional monies required.

The FC recommends to combine strategy 4 (professional development) and strategy 6 (faculty) to consider a higher education conduit at a central site to serve needs of those in pursuit of degree or certification, offering coursework through distance education and articulation of early childhood education needs. Strategy 4 will fund a developmental infrastructure of scholarships, faculty, and faculty materials for a total allocation of 500,000 for four semesters.

The FC agreed to leave strategy 5 (wage enhancement and incentive) by itself. It was determined that salary incentive bonus will be funded for those who have certificate and degree completion for a total of \$100,000. In addition, there will be research and a mirror of FTF State wage enhancement initiative for systematic reform at no additional dollars.

Strategy 6 (home visitation): This strategy, which focuses on the home visiting model, is an excellent means of incorporating a health portion to the funding plan. The FC decided they must find out how many children this will serve rather than the number of families served for this strategy and believe they cannot utilize \$100,000 for a cap as they are uncertain how many this strategy will serve. The committee also deemed transition from home to school as an important requirement added to this strategy. A bullet will be added regarding social emotional behavior.

Strategy 7 (early literacy models and dual language): The FC recommends to dedicate funding towards two age categories and a clearinghouse using a broad approach for RFGA to define the literacy activities, in areas of: \$150,000 for children birth to age 3, \$150,000 for children ages 3 to 5 and \$101,940 to clearing house development and operations.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:03 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6th, 2009 at 1:00 pm at Dine' For Our Children conference room, Window Rock, Arizona.