FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board
Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council
MINUTES

Call to Order/Welcome

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on January 14, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was located at the Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room #1, Loop Road and Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona, 86515.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Boyne at approximately 10:14 a.m. followed by introduction of the Regional Council, staff, and guests.

Members Present: Martin Ashley, Benjamin Barney, Amelia Black, Grace Boyne, Rhonda Etsitty, Valonia Hardy, Paula Seanez and Jeannette Yazzie; Byrde Nez attended telephonically

Members Absent: Harry Martin

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, Karen Peifer, and Virginia Turner

Call to the Public

There were no calls to public at this time.

Discussion and Possible Approval of November 12, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Ashley that the Regional Council approve the November 12, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried.

Review, Discussion, and Possible Action of the Expansion, Start-Up, and/or Capital Expense Grant Agreement

Regional Director Begay announced a correction to Attachment 02 where SFY2015 was corrected to SFY2014 in regards to the funding timeline for the Expansion, Start-Up, and/or Capital Expense grant agreement with Arizona Department of Education (ADE).

Allowing for expansion of preschool programs in Red Mesa Unified School District, Tuba City Unified School District, and Pinon Unified School District, Regional Director Begay specified that funding would support coaching and technical assistance by Arizona Department of Education (ADE) mentors, licensing or certification fees to apply for Quality First, facility and playground improvements, and/or financial assistance for salaries and benefits for the teaching staff through the planning period. Each school district is currently in different phases of the expansion process: 1) Red Mesa Unified School District, currently without a preschool program, will receive extensive start-up assistance including updating classrooms with improvements and materials, and assistance with the development of job descriptions for personnel recruitment. The Red Mesa preschool program is scheduled to begin enrollment in August 2014; 2) Tuba City Unified School District currently operates one pre-kindergarten classroom located at Tuba City High School. The district has identified space for an additional classroom, and is pending enrollment in Quality First; and 3) Pinon Unified School District is operating a pre-kindergarten classroom that is currently enrolled in Quality First. The district has demonstrated need with a waiting list. The grant agreement with ADE will begin February through June 2014.

The three school districts will use classroom materials that were previously purchased with funding by the Regional Council for Chinle Unified School District (CUSD) preschool classrooms that have since been delayed in opening. Regional Director Begay communicated with CUSD regarding the retrieval and transfer of materials to Red Mesa, Tuba City, and Pinon school districts.

Member Seanez inquired about the process in which the three proposed school districts will provide required preschool special education services. Member Seanez also noted that preschool programs are funded sufficiently through previously established

funding from ADE preschool grants, and supplemental funding provided by the Navajo Nation. Member Seanez asked that efforts be made to ensure integrated preschool special education services.

Member Barney expressed concerned regarding the longevity of the preschool programs within school districts that may not have sufficient funding or support outside of FTF.

Regional Director Begay and Ginger Sandweg, Senior Director for Early Learning, will meet with superintendents of Red Mesa and Tuba City on February 10, and the Pinon superintendent at a later date to address concerns and solutions for sustainability of the preschool programs.

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Council approve the grant recommendation for Arizona Department of Education funded at $200,000 for SFY2014 to support expansion of inclusive preschool programs at Red Mesa Public School District, Tuba City Unified School District, and Pinon Unified School District, seconded by Member Barney. Motion carried.

Presentation on Injury Prevention

Jacey McCurtain, District Injury Prevention Specialist, and Alvina Clark-Joe, Service Unit Sanitarian, presented a PowerPoint presentation for injury prevention on Navajo Nation with emphasis on data for child injuries by improper child restraints in motor vehicles and accidental falls. Ms. McCurtain and Ms. Clark-Joe asked that the Regional Council consider being a partner to begin community education of injury prevention for parents with children birth to five. Regional Director Begay also commented that Ms. McCurtain and Ms. Clark-Joe have been invited to present to Navajo Nation grantees at the grantee coordination on January 29, 2014.

Regional Director Report

a. SFY2014 Quarter One Data and Financial Reports
   Regional Director Begay presented SFY2014 Quarter One data and financial reports and provided updates by goal area for the following strategies and grantees: the Navajo County Public Health, grantee of the Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) Strategy, will soon identify and hire a registered nurse in to provide CCHC services to Quality First centers in Navajo Nation, San Carlos, Navajo/Apache, and White River regions as a part of a multiregional contract; the Home Visitation grantee is continuing to recruit qualified individuals for the Parent Educator position in the Window Rock area; the Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity, Oral Health, and Reach out and Read strategies has established new regional partnerships with health centers; the Recruitment – Stipend/Loan Forgiveness strategy have contracted two speech pathologists in November to provide services to head Start centers within the boundaries of the Window Rock and Cedar school districts' service areas. Additionally, grantees of the Scholarship non-TEACH strategy – Coconino Community College and Northland Pioneer College – report on a semester basis and will have data available in February 2014.

b. Review and Discussion of SFY15 Draft Funding Plan
   Regional Director Begay presented the SFY2015 Funding Plan to the Regional Council for review. The funding plan will be presented to the First Things First State Board on January 21-22 for approval.

c. Timeline for SFY2015 Grant Renewals and New RFGA and Grant Agreements
   Regional Director Begay provided guidelines and timelines for the Grant Renewal, Grant Agreement, and Request for Grant Application (RFGA) processes highlighting the importance of the May 2014 Regular Meeting where applications will be presented for review and possible approval by the Regional Council. Specifically, current grantees of Home Visitation, Oral Health, and Scholarship non-TEACH strategies will be considered for renewal. Regional Director Begay noted that the Home Visitation strategy released through a RFGA process would only be eligible for a ten-percent increase pending Regional Council approval. In addition, the Food Security will be released through a RFGA in January 2014; and the Nutrition/Obesity/ Physical Activity will be release as a grant agreement in March 2014.

   Member Seanez asked that most current information be provided to the Regional Council for renewal considerations. Regional Director Begay reported that Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie is currently developing a video narrative report with current grantees, which will be submitted to the Regional Council in February.

d. Early Childhood Workshop – Learning Begins at Home
   Regional Director Begay reported that the second annual Early Childhood Workshop, "Learning Begins at Home," will take place on April 7, 2013 at Gallup Inn in Gallup, New Mexico. A call for proposal will be released by January 17, 2014. Regional Director Begay invited the Regional Council to distribute the Call for Proposal to interested parties.

e. 2014 Needs and Assets Update
Regional Director Begay informed the Regional Council that tribal programs were invited to discuss the potential use of tribal public data in the 2014 Needs and Assets Report on December 3, 2013 with the vendor, University of Arizona Norton School, and Beverly Russell, Senior Director of Tribal Affairs. The outcome of the meeting was encouragement to seek resolution from respective governing boards for approval. Pending approval by the governing boards and the Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation, the report may experience a delay in approval by the Regional Council and First Things First State Board until tribal approvals are received.

f. Regional Benchmarking Update
Regional Director Begay reported that regional benchmarking for the Navajo Nation region is delayed until 2016 when approval for access to tribal data is received.

Regional Director Begay also provided two additional announcements: 1) Initially approved by the Navajo Nation in 2008, an agreement designating the Navajo Nation boundaries as a region within First Things First is updated every two years. The President of the Navajo Nation will have until March 1, 2014 to provide amendments. If no response is received, existing regional boundaries will remain according to the agreement terms of 2008. 2) Regional Director Begay reported that service terms of various Regional Partnership Council member seats will expire in June 2014; and noted that members of the Regional Council who terms are not expiring may choose to serve on the nominating committee.

Community Outreach Report
The Regional Council received and accepted the written report of Community Outreach Coordinator Memarie Tsosie.

Discussion and Possible Action on SFY2014 Regional Council Meeting Dates and Location
Per the recommendation of the Regional Council, Regional Director Begay invited discussion regarding the relocation of the February, March, and June Regional Partnership Council Regular Meetings. Specifically, Tuba City and Chinle, AZ were recommended as alternative locations for February and March meetings; and Flagstaff, AZ was recommended for the June meeting to coincide with the First Things First State Board meeting. In regards to the April and May meetings, Regional Director asked that the Regional Council consider maintaining the Window Rock location to accommodate regional activities. Meeting venues will be determined as needed by the Navajo Nation regional staff at a later date.

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Council approve to hold meetings on the following dates and location: February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting in Chinle, Arizona at 10:00 a.m.; March 11, 2014 Regular Meeting in Tuba City, Arizona at 10:00 a.m. DST; April 8, 2014 Regular Meeting in Window Rock, Arizona at 10:00 a.m. DST; May 13, 2014 Regular Meeting in Window Rock, Arizona at 10:00 a.m. DST; and June 9, 2014 Regular meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona in the afternoon with attendance by the Regional Council at the First Things First State Board Meeting on June 10, 2014, seconded by Member Yazzie. Motion carried.

Regional Council Member Announcements
Member Seanez announced the retirement of Andrew Tah, Superintendent of the Navajo Nation.

Next Meeting
The next Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting will be held on February 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Chinle, Arizona 86503.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Seanez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Etsitty. Motion carried. Vice Chair Boyne adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2014

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II

Harry Martin, Chair