



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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

Call to Order/Welcome

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on March 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was located at the Dine College, Tuba City Campus, 600 Edgewater Drive, Tuba City, Arizona 86045.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Boyne at approximately 10:12 a.m. followed by introduction of the Regional Council, staff, and guests.

Members Present: Benjamin Barney, Grace Boyne, Rhonda Etsitty, Valonia Hardy, and Paula Seanez; Byrde Nez attended telephonically

Members Absent: Martin Ashley, Amelia Black, Harry Martin, and Jeannette Yazzie

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Ellen Felty, and Virginia Turner

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public at this time.

Discussion and Possible Approval of February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Etsitty that the Regional Council approve the February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes. Member Barney requested a word correction in second paragraph of the second page. The motion was then seconded by Member Hardy. Motion carried.

Review and Discussion on SFY2014 Quarter Two Data and Financial Reports

Regional Director Begay provided a brief overview of the SFY2014 Quarter Two Data and Financial Reports by goal area including Community Awareness, Evaluation, Family Support, Parent Outreach and Awareness, Family Support, Health, Professional Development, and Quality and Access. Specifically, Regional Director Begay noted that the Native Language Preservation strategy will not be awarded in SFY2014; Navajo County Public Health Service District – grantee of the Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity strategy – is in the final year of grant agreement and will soon respond to new scope of work; and Dine College – grantee of Scholarship non-TEACH strategy – is currently in the first quarter of the grant agreement and has not expended any funding. In addition, the recent hire of a Child Care Health Consultation based in Show Low, Arizona will serve Quality First centers within the Navajo Nation, Navajo/Apache, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and San Carlos regions. In regards to the Expansion: Increase slots and/or Capital Expense strategy, Pinon Unified School District elected forego expansion of additional preschool classrooms due to low population of preschool children, and unavailable qualified child care professionals. Regional Director Begay indicated that any allotted funds that are not expended will be moved into the Carry Forward.

Member Seanez and Member Etsitty requested additional discussion to further clarify the Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense, and Quality First strategies in regards to regional participants. Member Barney requested a presentation to further explain the funding plan process and Quality First star ratings. Member Seanez also requested additional information regarding use of Quality First warmlines, and trends of expenditures for each grantee to better inform the Regional Council.

Discussion and Work Plan Development for System Building Theme, “To Coordinate and Influence Shared Vision Among Early Care Providers”

Regional Director Begay presented the Navajo Nation Regional System Building Work Plan with the Regional Council’s prioritized theme, “To coordinate and influence shared vision among early care providers.” Influenced by the FTF goal area of Early Learning,

Regional Director Begay noted that Navajo Nation school readiness indicators 1, 2, and 10 will also be addressed by the selected theme. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council consider activities or efforts that would help to improve communication and coordination among all early learning partners, help reduce issues through a shared vision through identifying common goals and objectives, and improve continuity of services that will produce desired outcomes and impacts.

Member Seanez commented that the Regional Council should first identify and consider the outcomes in previous regional Funding Plans to inform outcomes and impacts for System Building. Member Seanez also indicated that discussion surrounding a redefinition of child care that would encourage concepts of early literacy and quality early learning, and varying early childhood needs throughout the region will impact discussion by Regional Council regarding System Building within the Navajo Nation region. Focus groups were recommended to assist discussion.

Member Barney recommended that the rules and regulations for other programs be considered in planning as well as information regarding operations of other programs.

Regional Director Begay encouraged the Regional Council to consider aligning System Building actions and discussions with current or future planning of the Regional Council, including the FY2016-2018 Strategic Plan.

Regional Director's Report

Regional Director Begay provided updates for the 2014 Early Childhood Workshop: Learning Begins at Home on April 7 in Gallup, NM, the Strategic Planning for SFY2016 to 2018, and public tribal data for 2014 Needs and Assets Report. In regards to the Strategic Planning process for SFY2016 to 2018, Regional Director Begay provided an updated timeline including notes of April presentations by Navajo Family and Children Services and Growing In Beauty to assist in the evaluation of regional services. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council continue to consider previous and current challenges, strengths, and resources when moving forward in Strategic Planning process. As for the tribal data approvals for the 2014 Needs and Assets Report, Regional Director Begay is in the process of obtaining approval from the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation health board. July was also recommended for the New Member Orientation for new Regional Council members.

Presentation on Dentistry

Mary Tyler, Assistant Director of the Navajo County Public Health Services District, provided a presentation overview of the Tele-Dentistry program, where screenings are completed in mobile units by hygienists in rural areas and transmitted to dentists to develop a treatment plan. Specifically, Ms. Tyler provided step-by-step information regarding the tele-dentistry experience as well as information about tools and technology that are used by hygienists and dentists to provide services. Surveys are also provided to parents/caregivers to ensure quality of program, which continue to be positive for the program. Ms. Tyler reported that the program continues to create healthy early experiences with dentist, and receive education about good oral hygiene to ensure that children ages birth to five are healthy.

Member Seanez inquired about the possible development of partnership with Navajo Head Start to provide services to children within centers. Regional Director Begay indicated that SFY2015 is the planning year to begin conversation about tele-dentistry with regional health care centers and other so that services are made available to children and families across the Navajo Nation region.

Regional Council Member Announcements

There were no member announcements at this time.

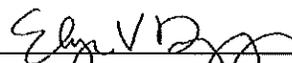
Adjournment

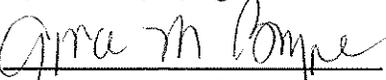
Due to loss of quorum, the Regional Council did not motion for adjournment. The meeting ended at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2014

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council


Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II


Grace Boyne, Vice Chair