



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board
San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 16, 2009

Location: San Carlos Education Building, San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, Arizona 85550

Council Members in Attendance

Catherine Steele, Chair
William Belvado
Angelina Burgett
Fred Ferreira
Janell McIntosh
Robert Olivar, Sr.
Delphine Rodriguez
La Toya Tewawina

Council Members Absent:

David Reede, Vice Chair
Vernon Poncho

First Things First Staff

Beverly Russell, San Carlos Apache Regional Coordinator
Mary Courvoisier, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Steele at 1:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Member Ferreira motioned to approve the minutes of March 2, 2009 as written. Seconded by Member Tewawina, motion carried no objection.

Call to the Public

Chair Steele initiated a call to the public. No members of the public were in attendance.

Discussion and possible action relating to a draft Tribal Council Resolution outlining FTF Programming and Data Collection for monitoring and evaluation purpose

Ms. Russell informed the Council that the Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) process is underway for two of the strategies of the San Carlos Apache Region. The Coordinator gave a brief overview of the strategy

performance measures and the need for data collection from First Things First funded programs for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation. She proceeded to present a draft resolution that addressed FTF programming and data collection. She acknowledged that the intent of the resolution is to offer the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council with an understanding of how First Things First dollars will be distributed to the community in addition to seeking their permission for data collection and aggregate reporting. Ms. Russell proceeded to present the draft resolution. (Please see attached resolution)

Chair Steele asked for clarification on the state procurement process that is referenced as a funding mechanism in the resolution.

Ms. Russell explained that the other funding options for strategies include state procurement processes such as a Request for a Quotation (RFQ) or a Request for Vendor (RFV).

Member Ferreira motioned to approve and present the San Carlos Apache Resolution on First Things First programming and data collection to the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council for consideration. Seconded by Member Belvado. Motion carried, 8-0.

Discussion on Potential Home Provider Strategies

Ms. Russell reconfirmed for the Council that the San Carlos Apache Region was allocated an additional \$56,940 of First Things First discretionary dollars is referred to as Frontier Funding. She reminded them that during the last regular meeting, the Council directed her to explore additional strategies regarding home childcare provider quality improvement. In response to their request, Ms. Russell presented two draft strategies relating to the requested topic. The presented strategies were referred to as "Potential Strategy Quality Home Based Care for the San Carlos Apache Region – Option 1 and Option 2". (Please see attached)

In summary, Ms. Russell stated that Option 1 aids home based care providers in transforming their operation into a business by helping them to formalize their operations as an official business. She noted that Option 2 is geared to provide home based providers such as Kith and Kin, neighbors, friends and families, with the opportunity to improve the quality of care they currently offer. She concluded by recognizing that both strategies focus on improving skills and making homes safer for the children that are cared for in home settings.

Member Ferreira stated that both strategies sounded feasible, he also offered a brief summary of a meeting he had attended at the Phoenix Children's Hospital. He specifically provided an overview of a program called Healthy Steps for Children. He informed the Council that the program helps parents to understand disabilities. He mentioned that it appears to be a great program but it is only offered in the metropolitan area at this time. He further mentioned that with respect to the way the program was explained, he believes that there is a possibility that 90% of the children in San Carlos Apache Region could be eligible for this program. Member Ferreira asked Ms. Russell to follow-up on information relating to this program.

The Coordinator encouraged the Council to present any additional topics for potential strategies that could be funded with Frontier dollars.

Member Steele asked for a status update on the services provided by the Developmental Learning Center in Globe. Ms. Russell informed the Council that due to the State budget cuts, the Developmental Learning Center discontinued the payment stipends for the children they service. She further reported that only

Arizona Long Term Care Services eligible children will be able to continue receiving services through the Developmental Learning Center. Ms. Russell indicated that therapy services were discontinued for 22 children from the San Carlos community. She informed the Council that as a result of legal action, services have recently been restored to Developmental Learning Center client base.

RFGA Process Update

Ms. Russell reported the following information relating to the RFGA Process:

- The San Carlos Apache Region Pre-Application Conference occurred on March 16th at the Apache Gold conference center from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- There were a total of 4 individuals in attendance.
- The Coordinator reminded the Council to refer all questions relating to the RFGA to grants@azftf.gov.
- April 16, 2009 is the due date for the San Carlo Apache Region grants being accepted locally at the Globe Regional Office located at 1600 E. Ash Street, Suite 1, Globe, Arizona 85501.

The Coordinator shared information relating to the composition of potential grant review committees' members for the Health Intervention and Parent Education strategies. She indicated that each committee will be comprised of one Regional Partnership Council Member, one content expert and one interested community member.

Coordinator's Report

Ms. Russell reported that she had submitted an agenda request on March 2, to the Tribal Administration for the approval of the dissemination and publication of the San Carlos Apache Needs and Assets Report. She also mentioned that during this meeting the Chair of the Arizona Early Childhood and Health Board will make a "Check Presentation" to the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council. This check will be symbolic of the regional allocation. Ms. Russell asked all members to be present.

Ms. Russell went over Quality First reporting that San Carlos has one slot available for center-based early care and education and one slot for home based early care and education. The region has not received any applications thus far. Ms. Russell informed the Council that she has reached out to Apache Kid Care, Head Start and DES certified home care providers to provide information and offer assistance with the Quality First application process.

Ms. Russell addresses the FTF and the State Budget stating that HB 2051 2008-2009; Appropriations; Budget Revisions has passed both the House and the Senate. She reported that this bill will allow the Department of Economic Security to accept and appropriate \$18,200,000 from the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant to maintain existing child care services. The interest funds that were swept from First Things First were not restored. There has been a meeting requested by the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board with the Governor and the Legislature to discuss this matter.

Ms. Russell provided an update on the FTF Emergency Response Package. She indicated the following:

- 23.3 million dollars was allocated statewide for childcare scholarships.
- The San Carlos Apache Region will receive funding estimated at \$67,987. The allocation is based on population and poverty level and estimates funding for about 33 child care scholarships.

- The administrative home for this initiative has been identified as follows: The Valley of the Sun United Way, United Way of Northern Arizona and the United Way of Tucson Southern Arizona.
- The United Way of Northern Arizona will serve as the administrative home for the San Carlos Region.
- The administrative home will identify providers, enroll providers. The providers will find the parents/families in need of service.
- The qualifications are that the participating programs must be regulated, and must be accredited or applicants of Quality First.
- Eligible Children will be 200 percent of the poverty level or below and not receiving or eligible to receive other sources of aide. Child Care Scholarships are scheduled to roll out by April 1, 2009.

On the Emergency Food Boxes Ms. Russell reported the following:

- \$500,000 will be allocated among 31 regions, according to the following formula: A minimal dollar amount will be allocated to each region (\$1,100) about 50 emergency food boxes in the region.
- The remaining portion of the \$500,000 will be allocated among the regions based on the number of children age 0-5 living in poverty in the region.
- Each region will need to identify local food bank or similar providers who could distribute food to families with children ages 0-5 in their region.
- FTF staff will work with statewide food banks and providers to compile a list of potential providers.
- The local providers will be asked to complete a mini application which will be used by local review committee to decide how to distribute the allocation among providers in the region.
- Applications will be accepted by providers who address the immediate and emergency food needs of children 0-5 who are at risk for hunger.

Ms. Russell informed the Council about the upcoming Meet and Greet with the Gila Regional Partnership Council on Monday, May 18, 2009 to be held at the Apache Gold Casino from 10:00 -11:30 a.m. with a brunch. Following each Council will go to its prospective meeting.

Adjourn

Member Ferreira motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Member Tewawina. Motion carried 8-0, meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Beverly Russell, San Carlos Apache Coordinator

Date

Approved:

Catherine Steele, San Carlos Apache Regional Council Chair

Date