



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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 June 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was located at the Flagstaff Unified School District Family Resource Center, Literacy Room B, 4000 North Cummings Street, Flagstaff, Arizona 86004.

The meeting was called to order by Member Seanez at approximately 2:17 p.m. followed by introduction of the Regional Council, staff, and guests.

Members Present: Benjamin Barney, Amelia Black, Rhonda Etsitty, Valonia Hardy, Paula Seanez and Jeannette Yazzie

Members Absent: Martin Ashley, Grace Boyne, Harry Martin, and Byrde Nez

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, Ellen Majure, Angela Mussi, Rana Simms, Memarie Tsosie and Virginia Turner

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public at this time.

Discussion and Possible Approval of May 20, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Yazzie that the Regional Council approve the May 20, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Etsitty. Motion carried.

Presentation on the New Statewide Strategic Communications Plan and Role of Community Outreach

Angela Mussi, Senior Director of Community Outreach at First Things First (FTF), and Rana Simms, Community Outreach Director at FTF, presented to the Regional Council the SFY2014 to 2016 Strategic Communications Plan emphasizing the importance of maintaining consistent and comprehensive FTF communication strategies including community outreach and awareness, and the importance of combining statewide and regional efforts to create effective and measurable outcomes for FTF communications strategies. In addition, Ms. Mussi presented the three goals of the SFY2014 to 2016 Strategic Communications Plan: 1) raise awareness of, and build public support for, the importance of early childhood; 2) position First Things First as a recognized and trusted voice in early childhood; and 3) build awareness of early childhood programs and services, particularly First Things First statewide initiatives and locally supported programs among priority audiences; and associated objectives and benchmarks. Ms. Mussi asked that the Regional Council consider components for a regional community awareness implementation plan, which would be discussed with Community Outreach Coordinator, Memarie Tsosie.

Member Barney noted that with much of communication strategies being internet based Navajo Nation Arizona may not have access to the communication strategies due to limited access or no internet, and inquired about approaches taken to address the lack of access. Ms. Tsosie indicated that telephonic contact is maintained with people who do not have access to internet, and that additional effort is made to provide materials to individuals to share with others in more rural communities that do not have internet access.

Member Black also commented on other challenges that Regional Council members encounter when translating FTF core messages to community members. Ms. Tsosie offered to review FTF core messages with Regional Council members as needed.

Member Seanez inquired of action needed by the Regional Council to begin drafting the SFY2014 to 2016 Strategic Communications Plan. Ms. Tsosie indicated that one-on-one sessions will be scheduled with each Regional Council member for additional discussion to ultimately create a Community Outreach Regional Implementation Plan.

Overview and Discussion of Coconino Regional Partnership Council's Priorities and Strategies

Ellen Majure, FTF Coconino Regional Director, and Kevin Brown, FTF Coconino Regional Council Chair, presented common regional strategies of the Navajo Nation and Coconino Regional Councils, and asked the Regional Council to consider strategic collaboration to increase program access for more rural Navajo populated communities across regional boundaries. Ms. Majure identified prioritized needs, school readiness indicators, and regionally funded strategies of the Coconino Regional Council that serve Navajo families in Page and Winslow, Arizona, and provided comparisons of the Oral Health and Home Visitation strategies for Navajo Nation and Coconino Regional Partnership Council.

Member Etsitty inquired about programs available for young teens within the Coconino region. Ms. Majure indicated that the Healthy Steps program within Flagstaff Medical Center provide support for all new parents and makes referrals to other programs.

Virginia Turner, FTF Senior Northeast Regional Director, further noted that other Regional Councils have held discussion about how to leverage funding and have implemented cross regional collaboration to provide support services to all families and children.

Member Black inquired about special education services offered with the Coconino region. Ms. Majure indicated that although there is some involvement in Child Find events there are no strategies specifically funded to provide special education services.

Member Seanez expressed interest in furthering conversation regarding cross regional collaboration and alignment of strategies to meet the needs of children throughout the Northeast region.

Member Etsitty requested that the Navajo/Apache Regional council be included in conversation as well.

Review and Discussion of SFY2014 Quarter Three Data and Financial Reports

Regional Director Begay presented regional strategy updates for data and financial reports to the Regional Council with assurance that all grantees have or will meet the contracted service units (CSU). Regional Director Begay reported that Arizona Department of Education, grantee of the Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense strategy, reported that Pinon Unified School District will no longer be participating in expansion due to challenges in identifying certified early care professionals. In addition, classroom materials previously purchased for the Chinle Unified School District (CUSD) that had been stored by the school district will be provided to Tuba City Unified School District and Red Mesa Unified School District. Regional Director Begay reminded the Regional Council of funding previously allocated to CUSD to open additional pre-kindergarten classrooms and purchase classroom materials; however, delays within the school district have since postponed the addition.

Regional Director Begay also reported that ten home based providers were recently certified as a part of the Family, Friends, and Neighbors Strategy; Parenting Arizona, grantee of the Home Visitation strategy, has met more than ninety percent of their CSUs and will continue with current recruitment efforts and strategic coordination with FTF health grantees; the Navajo County Public Health Services District is developing a referral process with Tuba City Regional Health Care as a part of the Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity Strategy; Quality First currently has eleven centers awaiting approval including the Tsehootsoo Integrated Preschool, the Indian Wells Preschool, and nine Navajo Nation Child Care and Development Fund centers; Reach Out and Read data reports, previously including the number of books donated, have been revised to include only CSUs of books purchased with FTF funding; and the Arizona Department of Health Services is currently finalizing an application for another therapist as a part of the Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness Strategy.

Member Etsitty asked that staff of CUSD be notified that classroom supplies will be redirected to other school districts.

Review and Discussion of "To Coordinate and Influence a Shared Vision Among Early Care Providers" Work Plan

Regional Director Begay reintroduced the theme, "To Coordinate and Influence a Shared Vision Among Early Care Providers," and presented outcomes and impacts previously developed by the Regional Council for reconsideration and discussion. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council to consider activities that could assist with implementation of the theme.

Member Barney clarified an outcome regarding development of a possible Navajo traditional child care standard where providers assist in reinforcing child's tribal knowledge.

Member Seanez further recommended that components of quality care should include Navajo teaching standards.

Member Etsitty expressed concern regarding income restrictions for parent who are not able to access quality early care centers.

Member Black asked that quality educator be defined.

Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council continue to consider outcomes and impacts to further the implementation of the theme, and indicated that the Regional Council will be contacted to schedule future meetings with stakeholders.

Regional Director's Report

Regional Director Begay reported that lengthy approval processes for Holbrook Unified School District (HUSD) to build two preschool classrooms in Indian Wells, Arizona has prevented disbursement of FTF funding. However, FTF will be able to provide funding for classroom materials as needed through a government to government agreement with HUSD. HUSD intends to participate in Quality First.

Regional Director Begay also provided an overview of a Quality Assurance site visit for Scholarship non-TEACH grantee Coconino Community College (CCC). Regional Director Begay reviewed the Standards of Practice for Quality Assurance, and informed the Regional Council that CCC is in alignment. Two strengths identified during the visit were the connection and collaboration with the Early Childhood Education teacher at Tuba City High School (TCHS), and the thorough support provided to the TCHS students including necessary learning materials.

Regional Council Member Announcements

Member Barney recognized Member Yazzie for her service and dedication provided to the FTF Navajo Nation Regional Council and the children of the region, and presented a gift upon departure of the Regional Council. Member Yazzie expressed gratitude to FTF and members of the Regional Council during her four year term.

Member Yazzie announced that Chinle Hospital is Baby Friendly certified.

Member Etsitty announced that Arizona Department of Administration providing presentations for Quality First updates and asked that the Regional Council review the presentation.

Member Barney provided notice of attendance at the FTF Faith Representatives Forum on June 3, and requested feedback from the Regional Council regarding faith communities within the region that may be interested in discussing early child care practices.

Member Black announced that Diné College summer courses will include coursework for endorsement of child care degrees.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Black to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Barney. Motion carried. Member Seanez adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m.

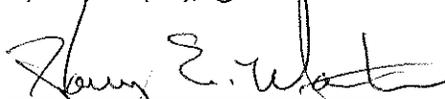
Dated this 12th day of June, 2014

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council



Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II



Harry Martin, Chair