



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 September 10, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time). 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 Chair Martin at approximately 9:20 a.m. followed by introduction of the Regional Council, staff, and guests.

Members Present: Benjamin Barney, Amelia Black, Grace Boyne, Rhonda Etsitty, Harry Martin, Paula Seanez, and Jeannette Yazzie

Members Absent: Martin Ashley, Valonia Hardy, and Byrde Nez

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, Charlene Surber, Memarie Tsosie, Karen Peifer, Christine Stein, and Virginia Turner

Call to the Public

Barbara Gordon, Program Manager for the Association for Supportive Childcare, provided program updates for Quality First including recently hired coaches and expressed gratitude to Vice Chair Boyne for the recent enrollment of new early care providers.

Requesting continued funding from the Regional Council, Trudy Billy of the St. Jude Food Bank provided information regarding food insecurity on Navajo Nation, current regions served, current and future service methods, and a potential expansion in service area for the mobile food unit. Ms. Billy also indicated that services include an educational component for healthy living.

Discussion and Possible Approval of July 9, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Boyne that the Regional Council approve the July 9, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried.

Presentation on Early Childhood Caries on Navajo Nation

Dr. Richard Champany, DDS, MPH, provided a PowerPoint presentation on early childhood dental decay including prevalence across Navajo Nation regions for children ages one to five, causes of tooth decay, and current prevention methods/initiatives that increase access to treatment.

Member Seanez inquired about mobile dental units. Dr. Champany indicated that mobile units are used throughout the Navajo Nation through Indian Health Services to provide sealants to children one to five years old.

Community Outreach Report

Community Outreach Coordinator Tsosie presented the FY2014 community outreach implementation plan of goals, benchmarks, target audiences, and tactics to further support and engagement in First Things First and early childhood development across Navajo Nation Arizona; and further indicated that community collaborations and partnerships have been vital in advancing the goals and mission of First Things First.

Per inquiries from Member Seanez regarding a scale for evaluation and effectiveness of outreach, Community Outreach Coordinator Tosie will plan to provide data to the Regional Council indicating the number of people and regions throughout the state that are receiving outreach. Member Seanez also recommended that outreach efforts be directed to early childhood dental care on Navajo Nation Arizona with consideration of information provided by Dr. Champany and the new grantee of the Home Visitation strategy.

Review and Discussion of 2014 Needs and Assets Data Source and Collection Plan

Regional Director Begay presented the updated 2014 Needs and Assets Assessment Data Plan submitted by the University of Arizona Norton School highlighting recently identified tribal data sources, and reported recent efforts for additional data collection by First Things First Senior Director of Tribal Affairs, Beverly Russell, and Senior Management Analyst of Navajo Nation Division of Health, Sonlata Jim-Martin, from Navajo Nation Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Navajo Area Indian Health Service. Regional Director Begay directed the Regional Council to refer to discussion during the July 2013 Work Group in which permission to access and use public tribal data would be requested by letter from the Regional Council chairs to Navajo Nation agency directors. The Regional Council was asked to provide additional recommendations for additional or different tribal data sources not yet considered in the data plan.

Seanez recommended the use of Navajo Area Indian Health Service data, and inquired about the best process to obtain the information. Dr. Champany indicated that letters must be submitted to all health facilities on Navajo Nation Arizona to obtain data.

Presentation from the Home Visitation Program, Parenting Arizona

Katherine Mike, Parent as Teachers (PAT) Coordinator for the Chicano Por La Casa Parenting Arizona program, presented an introductory PowerPoint presentation to the Regional Council as the new grantee of the Home Visitation strategy identifying strategic goals, current curriculum, recently attended professional development trainings, and program staff. Ms. Mike specified that the PAT program will serve 150 children in FY14 by four Parent Educators located in Kayenta, Chinle, Ganado, and Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Member Seanez asked about the referral process for families seeking enrollment into the Parenting Arizona program. Ms. Mike indicated that she would provide regional contact information for referrals.

Review and Discussion on SFY14 and SFY15 Funding Plans

Regional Director Begay presented SFY2015 funding plan strategy allocation projections with respect to the SFY13 fiscal year end, SFY14 budget updates, and projected carry forward. Due to model changes, the SFY15 funding plan will include an adjustment to the regional cost of the Quality First Child Care Scholarships as early care providers and number of scholarships will increase. Regional Director Begay asked that the Regional Council consider other centers that may be enrolled so that scholarships are included in projected strategy cost for SFY15 funding plan.

Member Etsitty inquired about the zero number of scholarships identified for COPE Center of the Kayenta Unified School District. Regional Director Begay clarified that the center can receive scholarships. However, the center does not require parental contribution.

Member Black inquired about requirements to enroll in Quality First, and whether elementary pre-kindergarten programs qualify. Regional Director Begay confirmed that pre-kindergarten can receive scholarships pending their star rating and licensing.

Update and Discussion on SFY14 and SFY15 Strategies

Regional Director Begay informed the Regional Council of progress updates for Expansion, Start-Up, and/or Capital Expense; Family, Friends, and Neighbor; and the Native Language Preservation strategies in SFY2014 and SFY2015. The Expansion, Start-Up, and/or Capital Expense strategy will fund two government to government grant agreements: 1) Holbrook Unified School District – capital expense for two new preschool classrooms for Indian Wells Elementary School, and 2) the Arizona Department of Education – expansion with technical assistance for Chinle, Pinon, Tuba City, and Red Mesa school districts. To avoid interruption in program services, the Regional Council approved continued SFY2015 funding for the Family, Friends, and Neighbor strategy. The strategy will fund training and financial incentives to in-homes early care providers to become regulated with intent to enroll in Quality First. Grant agreements and scopes of work will be provided to the Regional Council for review and approval. Regional Director Begay also reported that the Office of Standards, Curriculum, and Assessments – formerly Office of Dine Culture, Language, and Community Service – will continue to implement the Native Language Preservation Strategy. Due to internal capacity issues, the grant agreement will identify three phases including a year of planning in which the grantee will meet with key stakeholders.

Regional Director Reports

Regional Director Begay provided the SFY13 Quarter 4 data reports for Regional Council review, and discussed recent activities and impending meetings including the current status of the Recruitment Stipend/Loan Forgiveness Strategy, the 44th Annual NIEA Convention and Trade Show to be attended by Regional Director Begay and FTF staff members, the 67th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Baby Contest where Members Yazzie and Hardy served as panel judges, the free Childcare Health Consultation Training on September 23 to 25 at the Twin Arrows Casino, the launch of QualityFirstAZ.com, and the Tribal Consultation on August 15th. Regional Director Begay reported that a performance improvement plan is in development with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), current grantee of the Recruitment Stipend/Loan Forgiveness Strategy. ADHS is continuing recruitment of two therapists to work within the region, and will collaborate with First Things First to establish part-time therapist positions as well as their ambassador program and the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance. Monthly progress reports will be provided by ADHS to Regional Director Begay.

Regional Council Member Announcements

Chair Martin reaffirmed with the Regional Council an allotted meeting time of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Chair Martin also reported updates from the August Chair/Vice Chair including discussion surrounding the SFY2015 funding plans and the Quality First website launch. The Regional Council was asked to consider a potential decrease in regional allocations due to a decline in tobacco sales and sales tax; and any intentions for the regional discretionary funding based on recommendations by the ad hoc committee.

Speaking to the First Things First 2013 Early Childhood Summit, Regional Council member individually expressed gratitude for presenters and information provided.

Next Meeting

The next Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting will be held on October 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time) at the Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room #1, Loop Road and Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

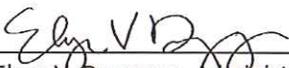
Adjournment

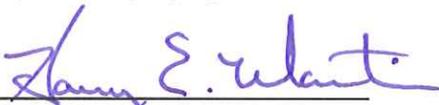
A motion was made by Member Seanez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Boyne. Motion carried. Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2013

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council


Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II


Harry Martin, Chair