



FIRST THINGS FIRST
ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD
NAVAJO NATION REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on September 15, 2020. The meeting was held via **Zoom video conference**. Chair Yazzie called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05am. (DST). Administrative Assistant Ellen Felty called roll call.

Members Present by Phone:

Benjamin Barney
Rhonda Etsitty
Cotillion Sneddy
Dawn Yazzie
Victoria Begay
Phefelia Nez
Paula Seanez (10:10 a.m.)

Members Absent

Quincy Natay
Yvonne Kee-Billison

Call to the Public

None

Approval of the September 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #3 was the approval of the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Chair Yazzie called for a motion to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Member Barney moved to accept the minutes as presented. Member Begay seconded. Motion carried. 6-0 approved.

SFY 2020 Quarter Four Reports

Data and Narrative Reports

Financial Report

Agenda Item #4 was the SFY 2020 Quarter Four Reports. Chair Yazzie turned this agenda item over to Regional Director Memarie Tsosie. Ms. Tsosie provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the SFY 2020 Quarter Four Data, Narrative and Financial Reports. When reviewing the Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment (COPE) grantee's implementation of the Food Security Strategy, Vice Chair Etsitty inquired about whether the amount of vouchers could increase as families need more support during the pandemic. Regional Director Tsosie indicated she would connect with the grantee and the FTF Program Specialist to request further information. When reviewing the Child Care Health Consultation Strategy, Vice Chair Etsitty inquired about the capacity of the grantee, Navajo County Department of Health, in terms of

providing technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic and asked if more support was needed. Regional Director Tsosie suggested to place this topic on the October meeting agenda to discuss further.

Navajo Nation Early Childhood Summit

Agenda Item #5 was the Navajo Nation Early Childhood Summit. Chair Yazzie turned this agenda item over to Rodina Jordan-Dahozy, Program Coordination Specialist. Ms. Jordan-Dahozy provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019 Summit Report including the successes, challenges, gaps and opportunities shared by stakeholders in regards to the topics of Navajo Culture & Language, Health, Education, Family Support and Policy. Ms. Jordan-Dahozy also gave an update on the planning and registration for the 2020 Virtual Summit occurring on September 29.

Regional Council Survey Results

Agenda item #6 was the Regional Council Survey Results. Chair Yazzie turned this agenda item over to Regional Director Memarie Tsosie. Ms. Tsosie shared the Regional Council Survey results specific to the Navajo Nation Region. Ms. Tsosie asked for council member feedback regarding comments made in the survey in reference to meeting times, topics and sharing of attachments. Vice Chair Etsitty responded that the current meeting times are good and the attachments being shown on the screen were appreciated. Members agreed they would like to proceed with quarterly reports and the current depth of details provided. Ms. Tsosie asked for council member feedback regarding comments made in the survey regarding managing time and ensuring everyone's voice is heard. Vice Chair Etsitty asked if council members could propose topics for future agenda items and those may also be sent to Ms. Tsosie. Chair Yazzie suggested using the chat option to express concerns as a "Parking Lot" option or use the "Raise Hand" option when wanting to speak. Ms. Tsosie proposed moving the agenda item Council Member Updates to the front of the agenda for future meetings. Council members agreed with those suggestions and proposals. Member Barney commented that the Chair and Vice Chair have the responsibility of managing the time of the meetings and can notify members when time is running out. Member Barney further requested that members who specialize in early childhood or specific areas of expertise should have the floor to speak more as they are the content experts and can help build the knowledge of other council members.

Regional Director Report

Agenda Item #7 was the Regional Director Report. Chair Yazzie turned this agenda item over to Regional Director Memarie Tsosie. Ms. Tsosie gave an update on the Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaborative Team meetings, Navajo Nation Early Childhood Coalition meeting, grantee check-ins, SFY 2022 Funding Plan preparation and the hiring of a new Administrative Assistant II.

Regional Council Updates

Agenda Item #8 was the Regional Council Updates. Chair Yazzie asked if council members had any information to share. Member Seanez announced the Project Manager resigned from Project LAUNCH, and her last day would be on September 30. There are now two openings available with the Project LAUNCH program. Vice Chair Etsitty announced that she was recently appointed to the Quality First Advisory Committee. Further, Chair Etsitty announced the Association for Supportive Child Care is hosting a virtual professional development training on COVID-19. Member Barney asked for an update on current staff and regional partnership members with First Things First. Regional Director Tsosie provided a quick update. Member Sneddy announced that

Rough Rock Community School will be hosting the next cohort of Professional Development for Early Childhood Professionals sessions virtually.

Future Agenda Items and Announcements

Agenda Item #9 is Future Agenda Items and Announcements. No discussion.

Next Meeting

Agenda Item #10, Chair Yazzie announced the next Regional Partnership Council meeting will be on October 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Daylight Savings Time.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:07p.m. Daylight Savings Time.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Navajo Nation Region

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

October 2020

NEW CONNECTIONS

A few of our recent initial awareness-building efforts include:

- Community Outreach Coordinator was invited to present on the BABES Facebook Live Forum, which included Alberta Curley from the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral & Mental Health Services. Presented the Early Childhood Every Day training, Baby Brain Video, and shared the resources web link from the First Things First website. There was 3000 viewers and 32 viewers shared the Facebook Live Forum. Rodina Jordan-Dahozy, Program Coordination Specialist, also co-presented.
- Led a Digital Tools training for the Navajo Nation Early Childhood Coalition group. Presented FTF Ages and Stages and the Brain Video along with parent resources, blogs, media, the Take Action Page, Navajo Nation Region information and newsletter articles. A follow up will occur with each person by sending links to digital video downloads, digital parent kit, FTF Blog and call to action to connect on a training/or staff presentation.
- Led a Digital Tools training for the Tuba City Networking group and presented ways to incorporate into their current work. Follow-up will occur with Aurelia Yazzie, Tuba City Regional Health and Eva Bighorse, Tribal Liaison with Arizona DES. Marlo is working to better support these individuals by initially providing training and guidance regarding Educational Reinforcement Item distribution. The links to FTF digital video downloads, digital parent kits, FTF Blog, Ages and Stages, Brain Video were provided to those in attendance.



FTF SUPPORTER AND CHAMPION CORNER

Community Outreach has continued to expand on relationships built with the **Office of Miss Navajo Nation** over the past years. **Miss Navajo 2019-2020, Shaandiin Parrish**, has been a great **Supporter** of early childhood throughout the Navajo Nation. To support her, Marlo has had a one-on-one meeting and she has committed to partner on bringing awareness to the Navajo Nation communities. She will utilize her platform to share early childhood messaging, early childhood reinforcement items and books at events that she attends. Miss Parrish has partnered with FTF in the past by attending and providing Mistress of Ceremonies duties at the 2019 Diné Early Childhood Summit.



“Early education resources support our families to build stable foundations for our children during their most impressionable years of life. ‘First Things First’ makes it easy to connect to essential outlets that will contribute to a child’s healthy development. We need to invest in our children now so that they may grow up to be strong, educated, and passionate leaders.”

-Miss Navajo 2019-2020, Shaandiin Parrish

TAKE ACTION

Use your trusted voice.

You are all influential in your communities, both professionally and personally. Use your voice to help move the needle on engagement for early childhood.

To really utilize your voice, you can:

- Take an Awareness Card with you to your next personal and professional meeting
- Talk to others about why you serve on the Navajo Nation Regional Council
- Visit the FTF Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn and share a post that is meaningful to you
- Invite your Community Outreach Coordinator to present to one of your professional or personal groups
- Share a validator statement voicing your support for children and FTF.

Keep track of any action you've taken and report back at the next Council meeting.

Each of you are trusted voices in your circles, and each of you occupy many different circles. Just as you may be better engaged in learning that comes from the recommendation of someone you trust, your colleagues and friends will be more engaged in learning opportunities that come from you.

Thank you to each of the council members for meeting one on one, your feedback and ideas on how to keep the community outreach and awareness work going is very much appreciated. Thank you to Regional Council Chair **Dawn Yazzie** for providing a validator statement during our one on one. Your statement will help to reach others in and across the Navajo Nation.



"How you raise your children now will influence how your grandchildren and future generations will be raised." Dawn Yazzie

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Navajo Nation Regional Director Report

Diné Early Childhood Virtual Summit

MORNING SESSION

Highest number of attendees: 167

Number of evaluations submitted to date (October 5): 70

92% Satisfied with Morning Speakers (Overview, Welcome Address & Opening Plenary)

95% Relevant to their job or role as a parent/guardian

88% Satisfied with the Morning Session Content (Breakout Sessions)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Highest number of attendees: 162

Number of evaluations submitted to date (October 5): 58

89% Satisfied with the Keynote Speaker

98% Relevant to their job or role as a parent/care provider

86% Satisfied with the Afternoon Session Content (Breakout Sessions)

**Rodina will share more details including feedback from the Virtual Summit during the November meeting.*

Monthly Report: Recent Events & Meetings

9/15	Baby College 101: Courses for Ałchíní Yázhí Advisory Meeting
9/15	Changing Woman Initiative Board Meeting
9/18	Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaboration Team Meeting
9/18	Phoenix – Pick up PPE for Navajo Nation Quality First Centers
9/21- 9/25	Onboarding with Navajo Nation Region AAll
9/25	Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaboration Team Meeting
9/25	Facilitate Regional Round Table – Leading Conversations: Regional Needs & Assets
9/29	Diné Early Childhood Virtual Summit
10/2	Regional In-Service
10/5	Grantee Check In – Navajo County Dept. of Health (Child Care Health Consultation)
10/5 -10/9	Zero to Three Virtual Conference



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AGENDA ITEM #06a: Child Care Health Consultation

BACKGROUND:

The intent of the evidence-based Child Care Health Consultation strategy is to provide health and safety consultation specific to early care and education settings for children birth through age 5. The expected results are improved overall quality of care, reduced illness, and increased school readiness by supporting best practices that increase provider knowledge and promote behavior change, policy development and improvements in program environments. Early care and education programs offer significant opportunities to promote the health and wellbeing of children and families. However, these programs also present inherent health risks, such as COVID-19 which was recently declared a pandemic in March 2020. Best practices minimize health risks and enable out-of-home care programs to promote healthy behaviors and link families to community-based health and development services.

A Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) is a specially trained health professional that provides advice and support to early childhood program staff through education and the identification of site-specific health and safety needs. The CCHC can provide support by working with participants and individual children and families by delivering comprehensive technical assistance for the program staff. CCHCs provide this valuable health technical assistance through:

- Guidance and consultation;
- Staff training on health and safety licensing requirements and evidence-based best practices;
- Assistance in the development of health and safety-related policies and procedures;
- Referrals to community resources;
- Information to share with parents and children

First Things First was awarded a one-year grant from the PNC Foundation to provide a CCHC warmline for child care programs that do not have access to CCHC services. Child care staff will have the option to call/email a CCHC to ask questions and seek guidance around COVID-19 implementation practices in child care. The CCHC State Liaison will also have the capability to schedule 1:1 virtual meetings to provide technical assistance for programs that are in need of more intensive targeted support, this includes a focus on tribal programs.

At the September 15, 2020 Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Meeting, it was recommended to discuss CCHC capacity due to COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director recommends this for discussion.



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AGENDA ITEM #6b: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

BACKGROUND:

The intent of the evidence-informed Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) strategy is to support the social and emotional well-being of children by building the skills and capacity of early care and education professionals, home visitors and/or family, friend and neighbor (FFN) programs to effectively interact with and support children and their families. Currently, the Navajo Nation Regional Council does not fund ECMHC for the Family, Friend and Neighbor strategy.

In early care and education settings, the expected results include prevention, early identification, and reduction of challenging classroom behaviors; improved emotional climate and improved teacher skills. Further expected results are a decrease in negative outcomes for children, such as expulsion from preschool programs. As providers are navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic, ECMHC technical assistance has become a vital resource in the Navajo Nation Region to support ongoing social and emotional development of young children.

In home visiting and Family, Friend and Neighbor programs, the expected results include an increase in the acquisition of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors that support the social and emotional well-being of children.

All early care and education centers have been closed to in person services since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most child care services have since shifted to informal, home-based care by kith & kin (Family, Friend and Neighbors).

Due to this shift in the early childhood system, an additional need for ECMHC has been identified.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director recommends this for discussion.