



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

AGENDA ITEM: Pinal Coordination Update

BACKGROUND: In March 2008, the Early Childhood Development and Health Board defined the strategic direction of First Things First with the adoption of the Strategic Plan Roadmap. Within this document, Coordination is identified as a one of six Goal Areas that will be accomplished by First Things First in order to build the Arizona early childhood system. To accomplish the Coordination goal, First Things First is directed to foster cross-system collaboration efforts among local, state, federal and tribal organizations to improve the coordination and integration of Arizona programs, services and resources for young children and their families.

It is generally believed that by participating in cross-system efforts, organizations will begin to look at how they can change the way they work together so that services are delivered to children and families in new, more effective and efficient ways. Service agencies that work together are often easier to access and are implemented in a manner that is more responsive to the needs of the families. Cross-system efforts may also result in greater capacity to deliver services because organizations are working together to identify and address gaps in service.

A major success in the improvement and coordination of Family Support services within the Pinal Region has been the establishment of a Family Support Network as a point of contact to assist families with referrals to service providers. This has led to increased collaboration among Parenting Education Providers, Home Visiting Providers, Child Care Providers, Health Care Providers, and Parents of children ages birth through five. The end result is to achieve a comprehensive system of early childhood development and health services that meets the needs of families while reducing service duplication. Through the addition of a Regional Program Coordination Specialist, the Regional Council has been able to achieve their desired outcomes around coordination of services within the Pinal Region. This strategy's main goals are to develop and maintain three coalitions focusing on the following areas: Health, Family Support and Early Care and Education.

RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation



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# COORDINATION UPDATE

Pinal Regional Partnership Council

## Strategy Description

The intent of coordination strategies developed by First Things First is to support participant organizations in achieving high levels of coordination that result in significant changes in policies, programs and practices in the delivery of services to families with children birth through age five.

## Coordination Tools and Measures

### Family Support Coalition

Meeting Frequency: Every Other Month

#### Strategic Plan

- **Create combined marketing materials:** Develop some combined marketing materials for use with child care providers, school districts, pediatricians and dentists. These marketing materials would include flyers and a newsletter for support, enrichment, education programs available to families in Pinal County.
- **Develop a system of face to face meetings for line staff:** Line staff needs an opportunity for networking, communication, education and information sharing in order to increase service coordination. In turn, this increase in communication and coordination can be used to filter and standardize information out to the community and families.

#### Activities

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pinal Diaper Drive:** Representatives from six agencies have formed a sub-committee to lead the drive this year. The Pinal Diaper Drive will be held from April 14<sup>th</sup> until May 11<sup>th</sup>. Look for media and marketing as the start date gets closer.

### Health Care Coalition

Meeting Frequency: Every Month

#### Strategic Plan

- **Create an E system for health care information, events, and updates:** Health care organizations need an opportunity for networking, communication, education and information sharing in order to increase service coordination. In turn, this increase in communication and coordination can be used to filter and standardize information out to the community and families.
- **Develop a system for communication with and amongst pediatricians:** Pediatricians need an opportunity for networking, communication, education and information sharing in order to increase service coordination. In turn, this increase in communication and coordination can be used to filter and standardize information out to the community and families.

**Early Care & Education Coalition**

**Meeting Frequency: Every Quarter**

**Strategic Plan**

- **Research and Evaluation of Parent Education:** Research current parent education sources within the Pinal Region. Taking into consideration the following: what is already being done, what has already been tried in the past, what is working or has worked, what is not working or has not worked, what information is being taught, gaps and breakdowns. Develop alternative ideas for more effective parent education for the community.
- **Develop a Series of Webinars:** Develop a series of webinars in order to increase communications within Early Care and Education and marketing outside of the Early Care and Education community to include: School Districts, Hospitals, Pediatricians and Businesses.

**Coordination: Common Activities/Tasks**

- Final Stages of updating the Pinal Family Resource Guide. New guide will be available by March.
- Maintaining the Pinal Community Event Calendar at [http://www.my.calendars.net/ftf\\_coordination/](http://www.my.calendars.net/ftf_coordination/)
- Starting the process for the Pinal County Coordination Assessment that will be conducted over the next several months.