

Creating an Early Childhood System

Adapted from Karen Ponder, February 9, 2010 presentation to the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force



An organized, inter-related network of elements, programs and services for all children.



Purpose of System Planning in Arizona

To get measureable results for Arizona's young children and their families



Why is a System Important?

- Affecting school readiness requires comprehensive approaches and involvement from all sectors: health, mental health, family support, early care and education, parents, higher education, faith communities, business, the media and many others



Why is a System Important?

- To maximize resources including multiple funding streams with their own regulations and requirements
- To improve the performance of multiple systems impacting young children and their families



Why is a System Important?

- There are individual variations in the circumstances and needs of children and their families
- There is duplication of services and a lack of coordination and many children are not being served



Why is a System Important?

- To reduce turf issues through a shared vision and agreed-upon goals and objectives
- Helps to secure needed policy changes and improvements
- Better communication among partners



Characteristics of an Effective System

- Comprehensive
- Accessible for children and families
- Scalable
- Outcome focused
- Accountable



System Areas to Consider

- Context—successfully building a political context that leads to resources
- Components—establish effective programs and services
- Connections—create better linkages between components
- Infrastructure—create supports that enable continuous improvement
- Scope and Scale—the system can produce broad impacts for system beneficiaries



Next Steps

In future meetings, the Council will have further discussion on systems building within the North Phoenix Region.

