



FIRST THINGS FIRST

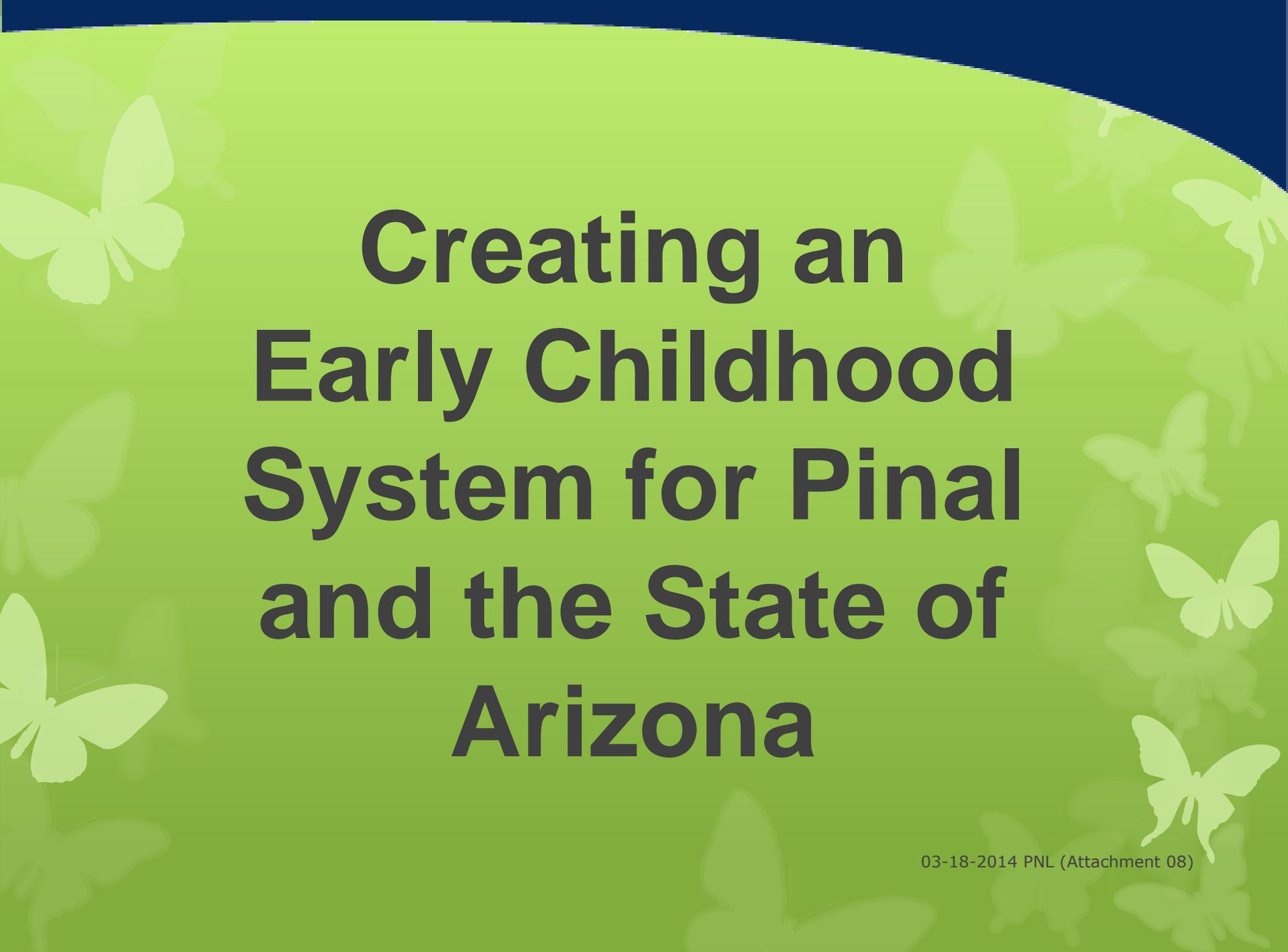
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Agenda Item: System Building Update and Discussion

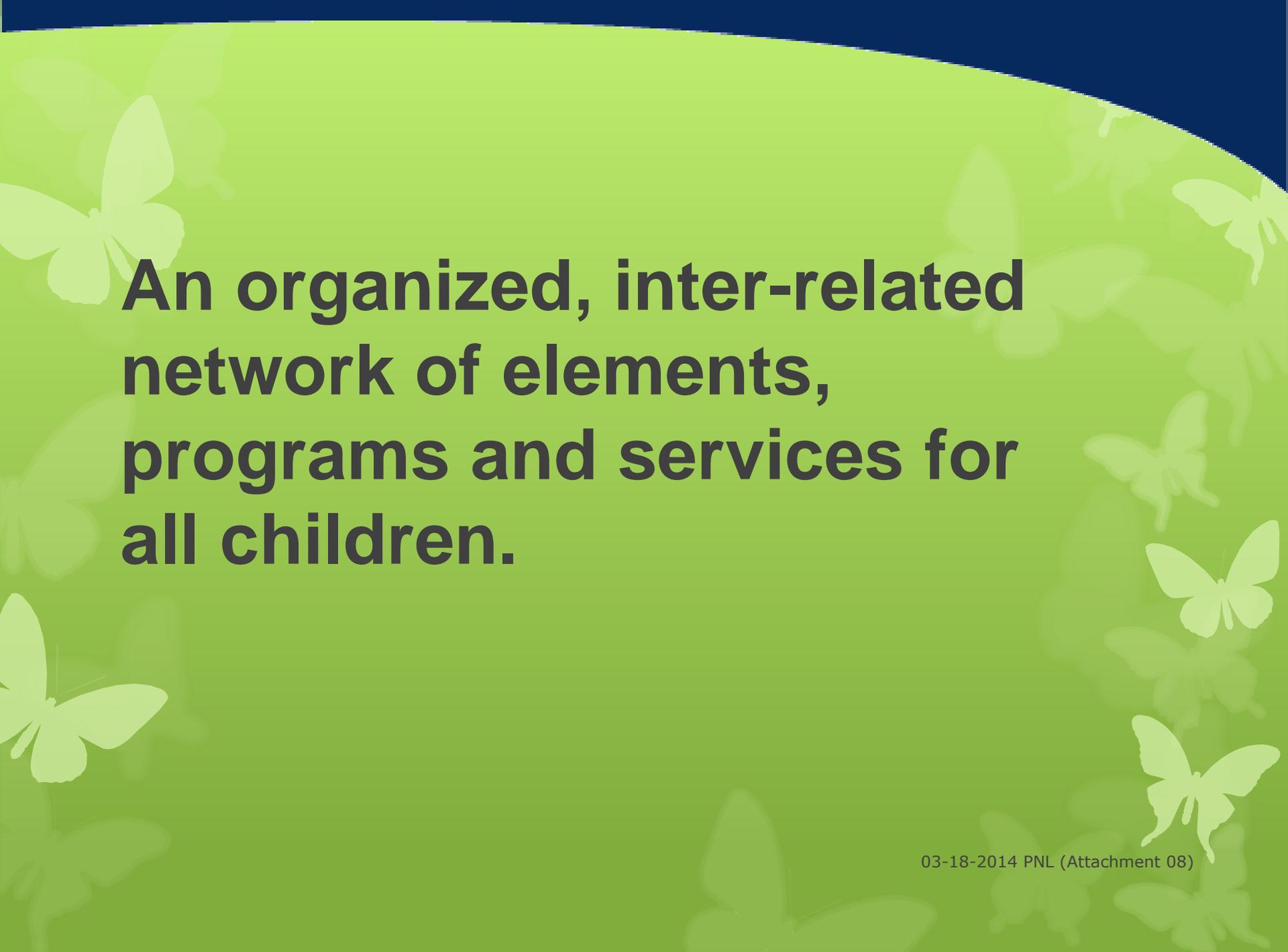
Attachment: System Building PowerPoint - Creating an Early Childhood System (Attachment 08)

Background: First Things First is designated with leading cross-system efforts among state, federal and tribal organizations to improve the coordination and integration of Arizona's programs, services and resources for young children and their families. An important step in this process is the collaboration among First Things First, state agency partners and community stakeholders to identify the components, assets, gaps and necessary pieces to build our desired Arizona early childhood development and health system. The outcome of this activity is a system framework and a five-year plan, with annual benchmarks of our progress.

Recommendations : The Regional Director provides this as informational purposes only.

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Creating an Early Childhood System for Pinal and the State of Arizona

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

Purpose of System Planning

To get measureable results
for Pinal'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

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