



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.

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 a shared community resource referral form:** This strategy is now combined with the Health Care Coalition and representatives from both groups are working together to finalize the initial version of the form for testing purposes.
- **Develop a system of face to face meetings for line staff:** This strategy will be implemented in May/June with the first of these meetings for line staff.

Activities

- **2nd Annual Pinal Diaper Drive:** The drive is getting close! The Pinal Diaper Drive will be held from April 14th until May 11th. Thank everyone for their support of this effort!

Health Care Coalition

Meeting Frequency: Every Month

Strategic Plan

- **Create an E system for health care information, events, and updates:** This strategy is moving forward and the next step is to set up the Amazon SNS text subscription service.
- **Create a shared community resource referral form:** This strategy is now combined with the Family Support Coalition and representatives from both groups are working together to finalize the initial version of the form for testing purposes.

Early Care & Education Coalition

Meeting Frequency: Every Quarter

Strategic Plan

- **Research and Evaluation of Parent Education:** This strategy is currently being implemented. Parent Education Survey's for both parents and providers went out on March 1st. The evaluation of the survey results is set to begin in July/August.
- **Develop a system of networking for child care providers:** This strategy is still in its development stage but some great ideas are being generated and further evaluation should be moving forward soon.

Coordination: Common Activities/Tasks

- The new version of the Pinal Family Resource Guide is now available in print and online at www.azftf.gov/pinal
- Working with FTF Communications department to add a Pinal Community Event Calendar to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council webpage.
- Attending the Smart Start Conference in North Carolina at the end of May to increase my knowledge of System Building.
- Currently working with LeCroy & Milligan on the Pinal County Coordination Assessment that will be completed by June 2013.