Program Updates

Early Learning

- Quality First (Including T.E.A.C.H and Child Care Scholarships)
- Scholarship-non T.E.A.C.H (Pathways)
- Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals
- Expansion: Increase slots and/ or capitol expense (DES Home Recruitment)
- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs
- Pre-K Scholarships

Family Support

- Home Visitation
    - Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents
    - Healthy Families
    - Family Support-Children with Special Needs (YPAT-Special Needs)
    - Yuma Parents as Teachers Program (YPAT-2)
- Family, Friends and Neighbors (The Arizona Kith and Kin Project)
- Food Security
- Parents Education Community Based training (Yuma Early Literacy Program)
- Reach Out and Read

Health

- Child Care Health Consultant
- Oral Health
- Mental Health Consultation (Smart Support)
- Recruitment Stipends/Loan Forgiveness

From: Rudy Ortiz
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 10:55 AM
Subject: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)
Importance: High
Hello FTF Grantee's

I hope all of you are having a great day. At our next council meeting we will be highlighting quarter 2 data. We will also be having a line item on the agenda that will provide an update for each strategy. To enhance your specific strategies update we are providing you the opportunity to submit a paragraph response to each question (that will be included in the program update line item on our March agenda). Here are the questions:

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community.

2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

To have all of your responses ready for our next council meeting on March 21, 2013 please submit your responses before **12pm on March 14, 2013**. I look forward to your responses and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Take care and thank you for you passionate commitment to making sure our families and children are ready school and set for life!

Sincerely,
Rudy

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Rudy J. Ortiz
Regional Director
Yuma Regional Partnership Council

928-343-3020 (office)
602-510-9307 (mobile)
rjortiz@azftf.gov
azftf.gov/yuma

Join the Conversation:

90% of a child's brain development happens before kindergarten.
Think Fast. They Do.

Program Updates

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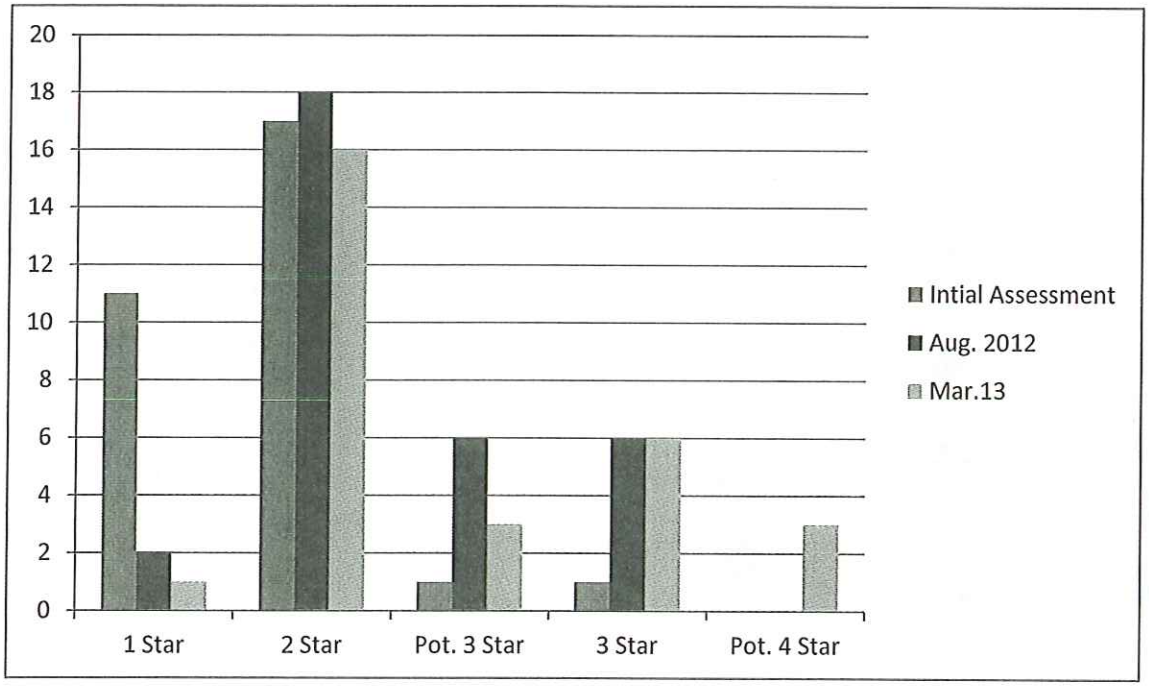
Erica Jimenez
Quality First
3/14/13

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:

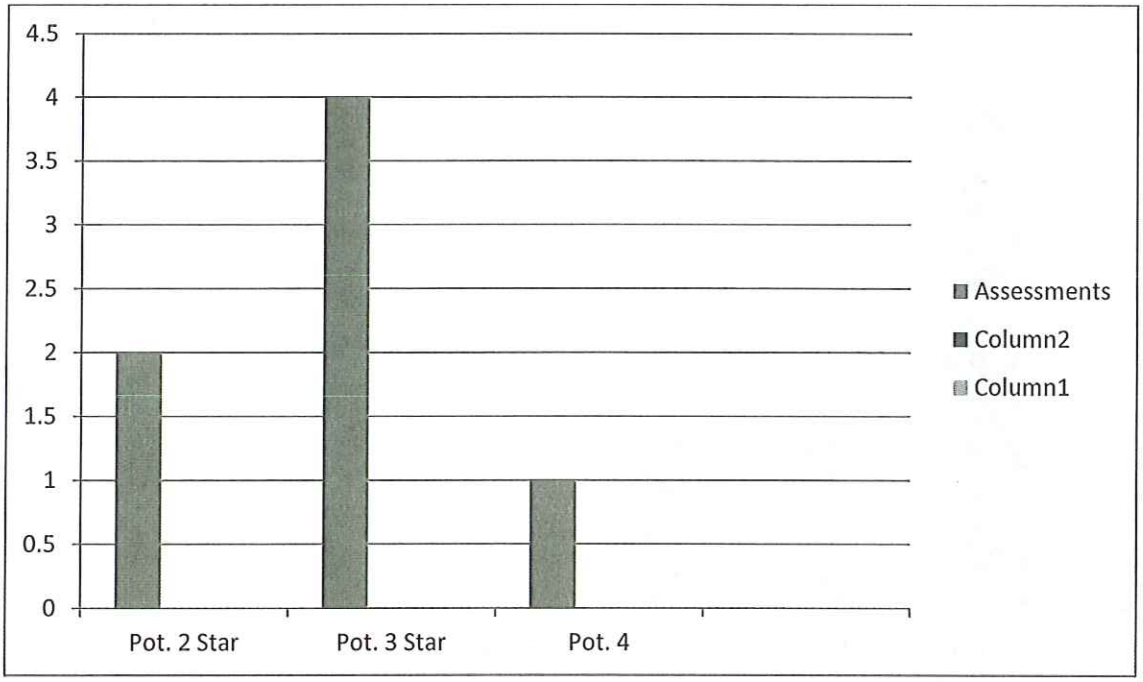
Graph shows representation on most current Data from Initial Assessment to March of 2013. Quality First Full Participation Home and Centers: 18 Homes and 10 Centers Data.



- We currently have one center that is at a Star Rating on 1 Star.
- 9 homes 7 centers at a 2 Star
- 2 homes 1 center that are Potential 3 Stars
- 6 homes that are 3 Stars
- 2 homes 1 center Potential 4stars

Erica Jimenez
Quality First
3/14/13

Graph shows representation on most current data with Rating Only Sites. Quality First will have compete and concrete data on Rating only Sites next quarter.



- 2 Potential 2 Star Rating Only Sites
- 4 Potential 3 Stars Rating Only Sites
- 1 Potential 4 Star Rating Only Site

Success Quality First Stories:

- Yuma County has SIX 3-Star Homes; SEVEN overall homes/centers/districts that are Potential 3 Stars; FOUR overall homes/centers/districts that are potential 4 Stars.
- Family Childcare Providers are viewing themselves as "Professional Teachers" not as babysitters.
- Three star homes/centers have an established schedule of daily routines, positive and rich learning environments with appropriate furniture and materials. Teachers are implementing knowledge gained on the ERS tools and CLASS. Teachers are developing lesson plans with engaging activities to capture children's interests and meet children's need. Activities are driven most importantly by the children and the data collection of screenings/assessment, observations/anecdotal notes, children work samples etc...We are seeing happy children in positive and rich learning environments.

Erica Jimenez
Quality First
3/14/13

2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

- Quality First currently collaborates with ECEI+, CCHC, CPLC, TEACH, Smart Support as a group on a monthly basis. Due to Collaboration Binder's being establish at shared sites the collaboration binder will now occur on a quarterly basis. Next collaboration meeting is scheduled for April 2013. ADE and Az Self Study have been invited to participate in collaboration meeting.
- Quality First and ECEI+ collaborate by conducting a minimum of two onsite joint visits a year with shared sites to review goals, get on the same page and how we can most support each other to obtain maximum positive impact with participant's future goals for success.
- Quality First and ADE collaborate by conducting joint visits with shared sites to review participant goals and how we can most support each other to obtain maximum positive impact. Collaborate with training requirements that are required in the point scale.
- Quality First and CCHC collaborate by conducting various onsite joint visits onsite or office meeting in regards shared sites to review goals and how we can most support each other to obtain maximum positive impact in Health and Safety.
- Quality First and Mental Health collaborate by meeting in person and discuss goals and individualized support provided to specific sites.

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

1. Impact and success the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA is having on the community:

   T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA has provided scholarships to early care and education professionals for over three years. During this time, Yuma has had four CDA graduates and one Associate's Degree graduate.

   The average GPA for scholars statewide working towards an Associate's Degree was 3.4 in 2012 (January through December). In Yuma, the average GPA was 3.55.

   For Fiscal Year 2013, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA projects to award 29 scholarships in the Yuma Region. Currently there are 36 active scholars utilizing 46 scholarships; which is a 58.6% increase.

2. Collaboration efforts within the region:

   The T.E.A.C.H. Program Specialist assigned to the Yuma Region collaborates with Child Care Health Consultants, Quality First Coaches, Smart Support, WACOG, Child & Family Resources, CPLC's Family Child Care Program, and the Early Care and Education Inclusion Program.

   During the year, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA has participated in center director meetings held at Child & Family Resources, First Things First Community Stakeholder Planning Session, Family Fun Day sponsored by Child & Family Resources, and a career fair held at Yuma Proving Ground.

   In addition, the T.E.A.C.H. Program Specialist conducted presentations to students enrolled in child development courses at Arizona Western College.

3. Yuma Family Child Care Story

   "I would like to start off by saying thank you for the opportunity you have given me to further my education in the early childhood field because little by little I have progressed and this has given me the opportunity to one day have a better child care center. I believe that as opportunities become available we should take advantage of them. Even though taking advantage of them means more hard work. Being a mother, having a full time job, studying, and volunteering during my free time at my church is difficult, but undoubtedly worth it.

   Returning to school has been somewhat difficult, but I know that that the children that are in my care deserve a better quality of care. I believe that these children will grow up with a greater sense of security. Their parents feel satisfied to know that I am continuing my education to provide them and their children with great quality service and that is my greatest satisfaction.

   When I was working toward my CDA in Family Child Care and Education, I learned a lot and now that I am finishing my studies in Infant and Toddler Education, I have been able to recall many of the things that I had previously learned. I have also learned many new things that I have been able to put into practice in my own center and that makes me feel very good. "

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: CORRECTION - RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update) - Eight, AZ PBS

Importance: High

From: Kimberly Flack
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 9:42 AM
To: 'Rudy Ortiz'
Cc: barbara.baum@asu.edu; Mark Becker (Mark.Becker@asu.edu)
Subject: RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update) - Eight, AZ PBS

Hi Rudy –
I hope you are doing well!

Here is information about our programs:

The **Yuma Early Literacy Program** has provided service to 780 individuals as of March 14, 2013.

In addition to providing the series of 6 workshops, Eight has collaborated with numerous community partners and other Yuma First Things First Grantees within the workshop setting to offer additional resources to the families, care providers, educators, and children attending. These include: First Smiles screenings and varnishes, Yuma First Things First presentations, Yuma Food Bank voucher distribution, and Reach Out and Read book distribution. Locations for workshop series have also been embedded within community locations, offering participants familiar settings and easy access with minimal transportation barriers: Yuma County Libraries – Yuma Main Library, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Arizona Western College, Chicanos Por La Causa Head Start Center – Yuma Migrant, Somerton, San Luis, Salida del Sol School, Desert View Elementary School, Gila Ridge High School, Yuma Housing Authority, Yuma Civic Center, San Luis Cultural Center, Fernando Padilla Community Center, Antiquia Church, and Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church. Yuma event participation includes the Yuma KYMA Back to School Fair, Sunset Health Fairs in Wellton and Dateland, Angeles Del Barrio, National Adoption Day, Yuma Festival of the Arts, Week of the Young Child, Lettuce Days at Quartermaster Park, U.S. Marine Corps Air Show, Somerton Days, and Cocopah Head Start.

The **Yuma Community-based Professional Development Program** has provided service to 153 individuals as of March 12, 2013.

The series is based on the National Association for the Education of Young Children's book *Developmentally Appropriate Practice* and includes keynote speakers along with breakout sessions in a monthly gathering format held at Arizona Western College. Participants receive certificates with professional development hours earned. The following community organizations Healthy Families, AZ, Yuma Food Bank, Yuma County Association of Young Children and Yuma First Things First has offered information at resource tables. The First Smiles program will be providing dental screenings and varnishes at an upcoming professional development Saturday as well.

Please let me know if you need anything additional.

Thanks so much!

Kim

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

From: Yolanda Renteria
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 8:18 AM
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject: RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

Quality First:
Scholarships

1. **Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:**

The Quality First Child Care scholarships are serving 197 children in 30 home, group and child care centers. Children must meet the income criteria, which falls at the 200 percent line of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG), as well as posess legal residency.

The quality first child care scholarships have assisted children who meet the DES income criteria (which falls at 165 percent of the FPG) and are on the DES waiting list, as well as those with need who do not receive any type of additional support (i.e. food stamps, Medicaid) and would not otherwise be able to afford a quality child care provider.

The scholarships give children in Yuma County the opportunity to attend quality child care environments that would otherwise be out of reach for their families. Evidence shows that parents who cannot pay for child care are more likely to leave children with parents, alone, in the care of siblings or strangers. Often, children are left in environments that are not conducive to learning and unsafe. By the time children reach kindergarten, poor behavior and being behind academically proves to be a disadvantage in many cases. Children are more likely to stay behind academically, and less likely to graduate high school.

The quality first child care scholarships are not only providing quality care for children zero to five, they are also giving children the best chance to succeed later in high school.

2. **Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.**

Since the beginning, we have collaborated with Quality First. Child care providers must be enrolled in Quality First to receive the child care scholarships. We have also been a good resource for programs that provide home visitation, since they refer children in need to quality care sites receiving the quality first scholarships.

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

From: Linda WilliamsTuenge
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 11:51 AM
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject: RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

Hi Rudy, Here is a small bit of information for you regarding the Professional Career Pathway Project.

Linda Williams-Tuenge, Outreach Program Specialist
Recruitment Into the Field & Professional Career Pathway Grants
Central Arizona College ECE Department

From: Rudy Ortiz
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 10:55 AM
Subject: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)
Importance: High

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:

The Professional Career Pathway Project works with 16 community colleges and 10 FTF Regional Councils throughout the state. The funding through DES and First Things First assists many early care and education professionals in obtaining additional education that they would otherwise not receive due to the cost. PCPP participants often remark that they would be unable to take classes were it not for the tuition and book support from the PCPP Scholarship Grant.

AZ Western is a vibrant collaborator in the Professional Career Pathway Project. Judy Watkinson has been a constant promoter of the scholarship to her ECE students.

2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

Participation in the Yuma Regional Council meetings and the grantee meetings are very beneficial for networking with other agencies and providers in the Yuma area who may be able to benefit from the scholarships.

March 14, 2013

DES Home Recruitment

Child & Family Resources

Ana Hernandez

Program Supervisor

Program Update

1. **Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community.**

   The impact of having private child care providers in Yuma County become DES certified child care providers is tremendous especially for children and their family. DES providers are being trained in Developmental Appropriate Practices, child health and safety procedures, CPR and First Aid. The most important part for parents is that all household members of providers are required to undergo Child Protective Service and finger print clearance, proof of immunizations and home inspections by a DES certification specialist. The success is more children are able to receive educational and quality care vs. baby sitting and television.

2. **Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.**

   DES Home Recruitment collaborates with other programs through Community Collaboration Meetings. Sharing upcoming community events with other programs in the community is another way that we collaborate with other available programs. By sharing information about each other's services and makes it possible to better serve community members by making concise referrals for them instead of having them go all over Yuma, and not be able to get help. Collaboration also takes place through our home inspections, as we go through houses we get a glimpse of their living environment and if we see a need we will refer them to a program that may provide help. Most importantly if we all help each other as programs then we will be successful in providing a better future for our youngest community members in Yuma County.

DUE MARCH 14, 2013
PROGRAM UPDATE RESPONSE TO YUMA FTF REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Early Care and Education Inclusion Plus (ECEI+)

How is this program impacting your community?
ECEI+ provides on-site coaching support and training to child care providers on inclusive practices. Prior to ECEI+, child care providers in Yuma County had very little to no support/guidance in serving children with special needs in their learning environments. Providers lacked the knowledge and confidence in communicating with parents children's developmental concerns, referring for special services, and using strategies to meet individual children's needs through inclusion.

Describe the top 3 successes of your strategy implementation.
1. *Providers more open-minded and accepting of children with differing abilities when enrolling children in their programs knowing they now have support*
2. *Providers becoming more aware of the skills and abilities of the children in their care and what to do if they have a concern about a child's development*
3. *Providers learning simple strategies that can be implemented within their daily activities that support the inclusion of all children including children that have developmental delays*

Describe collaborative efforts with other programs in region.
ECEI+ Inclusion Coaches participate in the FTF Child Care Service Providers Collaborative Meetings with other coaches/consultants/specialists from Quality First!, Child Care Health Consultation, Smart Support, T.E.A.C.H. and CPLC (EHS) Family Child Care. Inclusion Coaches also meet one on one with QF! Coaches to support individual child care providers.
Inclusion Coaches collaborate with local school districts and the AZ Early Intervention Program when supporting child care providers in referring children/families for special services.
ECEI+ collaborates with Special Olympics Young Athletes Program (YAP) to support the gross motor development of young children with disabilities through physical activity.

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

Crane Great Beginnings Preschool

1. Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community.

    - Communication skills----many of the children in our program are second language learners, the focus on language in the classroom environment helps children to build their vocabulary and parents become interested in learning English to help their child.
    - Impact on low-income families understanding the importance of reading to their child and engaging their child in conversation during the Parent and Child time held 30 minutes each week.
    - Understanding routines-------coming to school on time and every day.
    - Field trips to parks and to the Library. Students and parents received library cards.
    - Great Beginning's newsletter provides explanations about our early childhood curriculum in English and Spanish.

2. Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

    - Our program shares a site with Chicanos Por La Causa and WACOG Head Start. We share many things, e.g. copier, cleaning, storage rooms. However, the most important item that all three sites share and have had a part in planning is an Emergency Preparedness Plan. Which we have now had 2 occasions to implement!!!
    - Through ECQUIP meetings the head start agencies and some private preschools have come together to share experiences implementing the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment. We are discussing was to make it effective for kindergarten transition.
    - One of our First Things First Classrooms does inclusive activities with Crane's Special Education preschool at Salida del Sol. The parents are very grateful for their children to have this opportunity.
    - Crane is participating in the Smart Support Program sponsored by FTF. This program supports the teacher and the parent concerning behavior issues.
    - Crane is participating in the First Smiles Program sponsored by FTF. This program has parent education and child education workshops.

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

From: Araceli Gamez
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject: RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

Pre-k Scholarships
Harvest Preschool

Hello,

Our program has had a great improvement from collaborating with Quality first and ADE. They have answered every call and replied to every email. Communication has been great between all programs. We could have not gone this far without everyone coming together and helping, it definitely shows how dedicated we all are towards a common goal. We had success in passing both ECERS and CLASS at our Yuma site, now we are just waiting on our point scale results. We have been receiving a lot of calls from parents who would like to enroll their children into our program, a large amount of this is due to the pre-k scholarship; word is spreading fast and parents definitely want in on that opportunity for their family. Overall I am happy with all the help we have been receiving, everyone has been very helpful, we appreciate the time and effort they have shared with us.

Araceli Gamez
Harvest Preschool Coordinator

Pre-K Scholarships:
Preschool Express

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:

We are proud to offer various scholarships and programs to local families because of our affiliation with First Things First. We serve preschool aged children and prepare them for Kindergarten through the Pre-K Program. These scholarships have enabled children, who would otherwise not have had any preschool experiences, to enter a year-long preschool program. In addition to the Pre-K scholarship program, we also participate in the Quality First scholarship program. This program provides childcare to families at an extremely reduced rate and allows them to choose a high quality facility and have secure childcare. All of the children who participate in both scholarships are high risk because of poverty, so these scholarships are enabling low income children to be prepared for school and prepared for life. We also refer families to the various programs offered through First Things First, allowing them to receive dental screenings, food boxes, books, and even healthcare.

2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

We participate in the Pre-K Scholarship Program through the Department of Education, which funds a preschool program for low income children.

Every 3 months, First Smiles visits the Center and provides dental screenings and applies varnish to all of the enrolled children. For some children, this is the only dental care that they have ever received.

We participate in Quality First, which provides the staff with trainings and also purchases much needed toys and supplies to support a high quality early learning center. We also receive Quality First scholarships for low income families to provide childcare.

We are also new to Smart Support, which allows the staff to get advice and strategies from mental health consultants to help deal with challenging behaviors of enrolled children as needed.

Two staff members are part of the TEACH scholarship program and are enrolled in the Associates Degree program for Early Childhood Education.

We refer families with children under 5 to the Yuma Community Food Bank where they are provided with food boxes funded by First Things First.

Our Director is part of the ECQUIP committee at the Crane School District preschool program, in which local Early Childhood professionals collaborate on high quality early learning experiences.

Our program collaborates with Yuma District One to receive hearing and vision screenings for all pre-k scholarship recipients.

Our program attended an event sponsored by Reach Out and Read, in which all children received a free book and got to see behind the scenes at a pediatrician's office.

Pre-K Scholarships

San Luis Preschool

Hi Rudy,

Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:

San Luis Preschool is an inclusion preschool. We are currently servicing 185 students. Out of those 185 students 81 have scholarships from FTF. We prepare our students for kindergarten using best practices and research based strategies. The 81 scholarships we are receiving from FTF allow us to implement an inclusive program.

Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

San Luis preschool has collaborated with WACOG, Chicanos Por La Causa, and district preschools in the Yuma region. We have been invited to participate in a couple EQUIP meetings that have been held by Somerton District. Our main focus was to find different ways we could support our staff in using TSG. We discussed different strategies and developed a plan that would guide teachers in collecting meaningful observations.

Have a great day,

Lizette Esparza

San Luis Preschool Director

Gadsden Elementary District # 32

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

Importance: High

From: Maria Inez Armenta
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:27 PM
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject: Re: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)
Importance: High

Pre-k Scholarships
Somerton School District

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:
Having a FTF Preschool program in our district has provided us with the opportunity to serve preschool age children who needed services, but could not be served through the District's Special Education program. Our program currently has a waiting list of 24 children that did not qualify for Special Ed. preschool services, but who could greatly benefit form being in a preschool classroom. Most of the feedback we received is from parents of participating children. They constantly share with the instructors what a difference for their child coming to school has both in their social interactions with other children, but also how much they have advanced in their acquisition of English and their eagerness to learn and to come to school.
2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.
Our program has established very strong collaborations with other preschool scholarship programs and with other agencies that provide early childhood education such as WACOG and Chicanos por la Causa. These collaborations have strengthen our ECQUIP meetings, and has allowed all participants to maximize resources related to professional development activities for all preschool personnel, learning from each other how to better implement Teaching Strategies Gold, making the transition to Kinder process much stronger, and creating a true community of learners around all issues related to early childhood.

Mia Armenta
Somerton School District No. 11

Program Updates

Family Support

- Home Visitation
  - Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents
  - Healthy Families
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- Family, Friends and Neighbors (The Arizona Kith and Kin Project)
- Food Security
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- Reach Out and Read

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: help!

From: Dede Wolf
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 5:12 PM
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject:

Family Support:
Home Visitation: Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents

1. Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:

Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents has become an affiliate of the Parents as Teachers evidenced based model with the additional Partnering with Teens curriculum. We have served 30 youth and their families to this point. We conduct home visits on a weekly basis to provide support and information on their children's development and health, and to increase school readiness and parent involvement in their children's care and education. We show the young parents how to bond with their children during educational activities. All of our young parents have responded well to the new curriculum and enjoy seeing their child/children learn new things so quickly. For example we have one young mother who was provided a counting activity to do with her son with large colored beads and a bowl. By the time the visit was over he was trying to count with his mom and he had never done this before. She was very surprised at how fast he learned. Just this month this same mom graduated from high school early with a straight "A" average. We will be looking into college opportunities in the near future!

2. Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region:

Every other month Building Bright Futures for Teen Parents have a collaboration meeting/lunch to share ideas with other local community agencies such as Blake Foundation, Cocopah Early Steps, Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma County Health Department, Arizona's Children Association, WACOG, DES Childcare, Yuma Community Food Bank, PBS, Child Protective Services ILP Program, Yuma Private Industry Council as well as internal Child and Family Resources programs including Arizona Early Intervention, Healthy Families, Home Recruitment and Child Care Resource and Referral. We also attend outside collaboration meetings with YPIC Youth Council, Maternal Child Health, Safe Kids and FTF collaborations. We partner with YPIC Youth Services to present every Monday to every youth who applies for YPIC services. We recently participated in the San Pasqual Health and Safety Fair, Wellton Health Fair, the Mainstreet Art Festival and Yuma Play Day at the Civic Center. Our agency also organized the 3rd Annual Family Fun Day on October 13th at the Yuma Palms Mall last fall.
We also regularly refer ineligible families to other resources such as Blake Foundation for services. We refer to all community services listed above as well as several others.

Update for Healthy Families in Yuma

1. Target population: any pregnant or new mother/family with a baby less than 90 days of age who meets eligibility criteria (screen/assessment process, service area, etc.) Our current main referral source is Yuma Regional Medical Center. We also receive quite a few community referrals from Child Protective Services and by word of mouth.

2. Service area: Yuma and 50 perimeters of office; including San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, Foothills, Wellton, and Dateland.

3. Eligibility criteria: mother must consent to contact with a HF staff member, have a positive screen and assessment (psycho-social/risk factors, strengths), live in the service area and be pregnant or have a baby less than 90 days of age.

4. Update on Progress:
    - As of the end of February 2013, the program has served 94% of identified service population
    - As of December 2012, 87% of children in the program were current with immunizations and 98% had Primary Care Physician assigned
    - The program had an average home visit rate of 94% in 2012.
    - 100% of the required Ages and Stages Questionnaire Developmental screenings have been completed
    - The program as continued to obtain community support through relationships with Community Food Bank, United Way, First SMILE Program, Salvation Army, Precious Treasures, AZEIP, etc.

5. Successes:
    - A mother came to a program living in domestic violence relationship. Mother was able to identify damage she was doing to her family; she got support from church, and was able to leave relationship. Mother was assisted by home visitor to become registered Child Care Provider through DES and remain at home to be able to raise her two children and earn money. Family is happily living in a home; family continues to receive counseling from agency referred and support from church. Mother is able to have a positive relationship with father for the benefit of children.

    - A teen mom enrolled in our program during her pregnancy while on probation and living in an unstable environment with domestic violence. When this young mother's safety was threatened by her bad relationship with her mother, she was able to call for help and find support with other family members. Once in a safer home environment, this mom was able to complete a series of classes on preparing for childbirth and

breastfeeding. Mom successfully completed the prenatal curriculum and created items that helped strengthen the bond with her baby, such as a play mat and a mobile reflective of her heritage. Mom delivered a healthy baby, is no longer on probation, has enrolled in an adult education program, and is developing a better relationship with her mother. Dad has started to become more involved gradually since the birth of the baby.

- Mother came to our program after delivering first baby. Home visitor identified possible depression through completion of tools. Mother attended, therapy and medication was prescribed. After a couple of months, mother was able to enroll in school and now she is currently working and continuing with undergraduate school without the need for medication. Mother has a good support system and she has positive hopes for the future. Baby is about 2 years and right on track.

- A 41 year old single mother entered program through a CPS SENSE team case with other agencies involved. Baby was premature; substance exposed, and remained in NICU for 2 months. Mother was told the baby might have brain atrophy, but mother was going to prove the doctor's wrong. Mother remained sober, obtained employment and completed every aspect of her treatment plan. During visits with her home visitor, mother shows excitement, interests and eagerness to learn more about her baby and his development. A MRI was completed when baby was 6 months and there was no sign of brain atrophy. Mother has demonstrated confidence as a single parent and keenness to not go back to her old habits. Mother continues to work fulltime and after care services. Mother is proudly moving forward with her life with little governmental assistance.

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

From: Nohemi Ortega
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 11:17 AM
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject: RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

Family Support Children with Special Needs (YPAT-Special Needs)
Home Visitation: YPAT2 - Typical

Hello Rudy,
Below my answers for the program update, please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:

Yuma Parents as Teachers Program: YPAT-Special Needs: 88 families, 127 children, YPAT2-Typical: 116 families, 141 children have received services. These families have received assessments including ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, Hearing and Vision Screenings, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS), and Life Skills Progression Assessment, all these combined allow for a thorough baseline of the child, parent and family, thus becoming the stepping stone for the beginning of the parent/child/educator relationship. Assessment results have been used by both parent and educator to identify areas of concerns or delay in development, to design home visits, and develop child and parent goals as well as connect families to additional community services as needed.

The impact of the program can be measured in several areas:

1) *Early detection of developmental delays – through YPAT screenings educators are able to identify delays and refer to proper early intervention programs when necessary, or enroll children in YPAT program when delay can be addressed and improved thorough YPAT.*
2) *Improved parenting practices – Though KIPS assessment, educator support, informational handouts parents are empowered in their parenting to be the best parents for their children. Parents have shared comments such as "you remind me of the simple things I have to do with my child that I was not doing before" "you have helped me to be patient with my child"*
3) *Increase in parent knowledge in all areas of development – Consistent developmental screenings and the constant review of developmental milestones allows parents to increase their personal knowledge of development and ensure their children are developing properly.*
4) *As a result of the previous three, children's health is improved, and their levels of school readiness is increased.*

2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

Collaboration with other community programs has been ongoing since inception of the YPAT program with the following organizations:

- *AZEIP – Referrals are received from AZEIP for children who do not qualify for their services. Children who are identified as 50% or more delayed are referred to AZEIP.*
- *PBS Early Literacy Plus Program – Collaboration for families enrolled in YPAT programs to participate in PBS Early Literacy Plus Program workshops. Total of 12 YPAT families attended all 6 workshops. Workshops were conducted at ESBF facility.*
- *First Smiles Program – Collaboration for YPAT enrolled families to receive First Smiles services during Group Connections. Approximately 35 families received service.*
- *Yuma Special Olympics – Collaboration to enroll YPAT Special Needs families in Yuma Special Olympics, total of 5 families enrolled.*
- *Sunset Community Health Center – Collaboration for recruitment of at risk families in all clinics throughout Yuma County.*
- *Department of Economic Security – Collaboration for recruitment of at risk families in all DES offices throughout Yuma County.*

- *Yuma County Library District – Collaboration for recruitment of families in all Yuma County Libraries.*

In addition to these local collaborations, Program Supervisor has collaborated with other Parents as Teachers programs in the state through participation in the First Things First/Parents as Teachers State meeting to connect with other state programs as well as discuss current program issues such as retention rates, PAT requirements, and collaboration among regions.

Also, Program Supervisor has collaborated with other Easter Seals Parents as Teachers Programs in Tucson, Sierra Vista and Casa Grande providing program support during initial implementation of the PAT program in these areas.

Nohemi Ortega,

YPAT Supervisor

Easter Seals Blake Foundation

2603 S. 4th Avenue

Yuma, AZ 85364

Family, Friend and neighbor:

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project is the only program providing services to family, friend and neighbor child care providers (FFN) in the Yuma County Region. The program's target service numbers for fiscal 2012-2013 is 90 FFN child care providers, impacting approximately 198 children. Currently the program has provided services to 61 FFN providers as of Fall 2012 impacting approximately 134 children. With group sessions currently in place for Spring 2013, the program is confident that we will exceed our target service units for the fiscal year.

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project with the collaborative help of First Things First has successfully implemented a training-support group in the Cocopah Tribal Region. Our Yuma Program Specialist has had successful outreach efforts and due to this success the program will continue to provide services for Spring 2013.

Below is a success story about one of our participants from Yuma County.

Ivette, her mother and husband joined the Kith and Kin Project training-support group at Somerton Head Start. Ivette is an Accountant during the day and also provides child care for her nieces and nephews during the evening and weekends, often overnight and for long periods of time. Ivette shared with her Program Specialist that the children in her care were presenting challenging behaviors including physical outbursts directed at Ivette, constant temper tantrums, the children not going to sleep until 11:00 PM or midnight, just to name a few. As her involvement in the Kith and Kin training-support group continued and Ivette continued to share examples about her situation, Rosy Taylor, the Program Specialist delivering the trainings learned about the routines, consistency and schedule that Ivette lacked in her child care environment. As these topics were covered in the weekly trainings, Ivette, her mother and husband began implementing these changes in their home. Ivette shared with Rosy that when she first implemented the schedule with the children, it was extremely difficult but that eventually, her persistence paid off. The children in her care now have a set routine and a schedule, they go to sleep at night much earlier than before and they spend much more time doing activities instead of dealing with challenging behaviors.

In addition, Ivette shares that their previous home situation was having such an impact on the adults in the household that she and her husband were on the verge of divorce. The support they have received and the changes they have created in their home for the nieces and nephews in their care have positively impacted not only the children but also Ivette and her husband who are now working on their relationship.

2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project's model is based on partnerships and collaboration throughout the targeted communities. It is through these partnerships that the program is able to implement training-support group sessions in family, friend and neighbor care provider's own neighborhoods. In addition, community partners also assist the program with outreach and recruitment efforts.

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project continues to have successful collaboration with the following organizations and programs: Yuma United Way, WACOG Head Start, Reach Out and Read, Safe Kids Yuma County, First Smiles, Child and Family Resources, PBS, Early Steps Program for the Cocopah Cohort, Yuma Health Department, Housing Department and local libraries.

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project understands that it is important to have close working relationships with local organizations to help with the success of the program. These partnerships are essential to the success of the program by helping us identify program participants, barriers and challenges that the community faces, existing resources for these families as well as provides support with the use of a facility where weekly trainings are held.

YUMA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK-"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

GRA-RC023-12-0313-01-Y2
Q2 Response to Questions/Program Update
March 14, 2013

This report will highlight Q2 data and will provide an update on the strategy of "Food Security" as it relates to service delivery of the First Things First, Yuma Region-Family Support Activity.

Submitted by: Ann-Jeanette "AJ" Mosqueda
3/14/2013

YUMA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK-"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

GRA-RC023-12-0313-01-Y2
Q2 Response to Questions/Program Update
March 14, 2013

1) **Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community**

For the Months of Jan-March 2013 The YCFB has distributed 126 Boxes which have served 122 families (which includes 184 children 0-5 yrs of age).

Yuma Community Food Bank staff is concerned about the number of boxes that have been distributed thus far, in contract year. Based off of current food insecurity rate for children in Yuma County (children 42.9%), as well as countywide participation in FREE/Reduced school feeding programs within the public school system, food insecurity in our children is grave. The need is clearly there, however current food security strategy (mode of delivery) is not meeting the needs of children (0-5 years of age).

Thus, going forward for the remainder of the contract year, the Yuma Community Food Bank will be much more aggressive in its outreach and awareness of availability of food boxes (voucher system). YCFB staff intent will focus on outreach with an overarching goal of increasing voucher distribution. Strategy of outreach will include expansion in South County (namely San Luis and Somerton), as well as East County (in partnership with Sunset Community Health Care. YCFB staff anticipates much higher participation by Q4 end.

2) **Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region**

3)

The Yuma Community Food Bank has expanded previously established relationships with a multitude of other community based non-profits, as well as other municipal and state run programs with a goal of ensuring that FTF, food security strategy of food box availability (through voucher system) is known by the community and utilized. Following are some examples of stated relationships: Child Family and Resources, Inc; Easter Seals Blake Foundation; Yuma County Health Department; WACOG'S Head Start Program, as well as The Kith and Kin Program from the Association for Supportive Child Care. These are a few examples of how the YCFB has collaborated with other programs in order to help ensure hunger relief of Yuma County children whom are birth to 5 years of age.

Program Update-

On Tuesday, March 12, 2013 YCFB staff (Operations Director, Director of Development and Customer Service Manager) and FTF Regional Director-Yuma met to discuss program success, goals and impact and arrived at a collective agreement that current mode of service delivery (exclusive use of vouchers -Food Box once per year) is not meeting the true needs of our communities children.

Going forward, to help ensure the successful attainment of reducing childhood hunger (birth-5 year of age populace) in Yuma County, the Yuma Community Food Bank would like to respectfully request FTF, Yuma Regional Partnership Council consideration in amending the Food Security Strategy currently being utilized.

The Yuma Community Food Bank, in partnership with the Somerton School District, began a pilot backpack program with a goal of providing weekly backpacks to 75 children whom have been identified as food insecure (by school administration and school staff). Since its inception as a "pilot" program in 2009, program need has ballooned to serve over 750 children in South and East Yuma County. Backpacks are distributed to food insecure children on Friday before school is dismissed to ensure that identified children have consistent, sufficient and nutritious food on weekends when other food sources **ARE NOT** consistently available. The Yuma Community Food Bank's Backpack Program differs from any other child hunger activity that exists in Yuma County as it directly benefits the child. Program delivery strategy is deliberate and intentional as it not only helps relieve hunger, but does so in a discreet and non-threatening manner. Program focus conveys nutrition (to the child); whereas the children do not know that it focuses on their hunger and poverty. Distribution takes place in a positive, respectful non-threatening atmosphere that preserves the child's dignity.

With regard to FTF Family Support-Food Security Strategy, the Yume Community Food Bank proposes the following amendment to strategy/mode of delivery in reducing childhood hunger (birth-5 year of age populace) in Yuma County (beginning FY 13/14):

-Continue to target 294 Yuma County children (birth 0-5 years of age)
-Partner with FTF, Pre-K Scholarship Programs for identification of children
-Earmark 32.928K for a 16 week (bi-monthly) distribution of age appropriate, nutritious food for target age group
-Earmark 17.072K for the continued distribution of FTF Food Box certificates (for emergency situations that arise in the family)

The Yuma Community Food Bank appreciates and value FTF partnership and welcomes the opportunity to better provide for the hunger needs of our communities most vulnerable population....children of Yuma County whom are food insecure (target being children birth to 5 years of age).

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: CORRECTION - RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update) - Eight, AZ PBS

Importance: High

From: Kimberly Flack
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 9:42 AM
To: 'Rudy Ortiz'
Cc: barbara.baum@asu.edu; Mark Becker (Mark.Becker@asu.edu)
Subject: RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update) - Eight, AZ PBS

Hi Rudy –
I hope you are doing well!

Here is information about our programs:

The **Yuma Early Literacy Program** has provided service to 780 individuals as of March 14, 2013.

In addition to providing the series of 6 workshops, Eight has collaborated with numerous community partners and other Yuma First Things First Grantees within the workshop setting to offer additional resources to the families, care providers, educators, and children attending. These include: First Smiles screenings and varnishes, Yuma First Things First presentations, Yuma Food Bank voucher distribution, and Reach Out and Read book distribution. Locations for workshop series have also been embedded within community locations, offering participants familiar settings and easy access with minimal transportation barriers: Yuma County Libraries – Yuma Main Library, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Arizona Western College, Chicanos Por La Causa Head Start Center – Yuma Migrant, Somerton, San Luis, Salida del Sol School, Desert View Elementary School, Gila Ridge High School, Yuma Housing Authority, Yuma Civic Center, San Luis Cultural Center, Fernando Padilla Community Center, Antiquia Church, and Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church. Yuma event participation includes the Yuma KYMA Back to School Fair, Sunset Health Fairs in Wellton and Dateland, Angeles Del Barrio, National Adoption Day, Yuma Festival of the Arts, Week of the Young Child, Lettuce Days at Quartermaster Park, U.S. Marine Corps Air Show, Somerton Days, and Cocopah Head Start.

The **Yuma Community-based Professional Development Program** has provided service to 153 individuals as of March 12, 2013.

The series is based on the National Association for the Education of Young Children's book *Developmentally Appropriate Practice* and includes keynote speakers along with breakout sessions in a monthly gathering format held at Arizona Western College. Participants receive certificates with professional development hours earned. The following community organizations Healthy Families, AZ, Yuma Food Bank, Yuma County Association of Young Children and Yuma First Things First has offered information at resource tables. The First Smiles program will be providing dental screenings and varnishes at an upcoming professional development Saturday as well.

Please let me know if you need anything additional.

Thanks so much!

Kim

Family Support:

Reach Out and Read Yuma

1) ***Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community.***
Reach Out and Read Yuma County has already exceeded our Target Service Units Goal of 3 New ROR Sites. We have 6 new active sites, 1 site awaiting approval and 2more in the recruitment process. We believe the growth is due to the Physicians sharing the success of this program with their colleagues and because families are asking for this program at their Doctors office. With just the current Reach Out and Read Sites they are expecting to give out over 8,000 books thru out Yuma, Wellton, Somerton and San Luis this year.

2) ***Share how your program has collaborated with other Programs in the region.***
Reach Out and Read has collaborated with Yuma County Public Libraries. They currently donate gently used books to all our waiting room areas inside the Reach Out and Read Clinic Sites. In return flyers and calendars with the Library classes and events are given out to families at these sites. We also have collaborated with WACOG Head Starts. We have presented in some of their Parent Meetings as well as been Guest Readers in their classrooms. We have also collaborated with PBS on a few Community Events like the Yuma Festival of the Arts and most recently the MCAS Air Show. Because of this collaboration Thousands of families has been given Early Literacy information as well as books for their young children. Another agency we have collaborated with is Cenpatico a Mental Health Agency in Yuma County. We were invited to present at one of their Stakeholders Meetings. Because of this, Cenpatico became aware of the importance of Early Literacy and the necessity of it in our community. They graciously awarded Reach Out and Read a grant that will purchase children's books dealing with social-emotional issues to distribute to all Yuma County Clinic Sites.

Program Updates

Health

- Child Care Health Consultant
- Oral Health
- Mental Health Consultation (Smart Support)
- Recruitment Stipends/Loan Forgiveness

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

From: Mayra Montano
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject: RE: By March 14, 2013 (Program Update)

Quality First:
Arizona Department Of Health Services
Child Care Heath Consultation

1) Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community.

Based on the second quarter report, here is our local CCHC's success story for the Yuma County Public Health District.
Sandra is our only CCHC currently and is working with a caseload of 30 providers and is employed part time. She has been fortunate to serve 18 of those 30 in spite of her limited work hours. In this last quarter 4 of her child care providers received a score of more than 3 points and 2 of her providers received a score of more than 4 points on their Progress Assessment Evaluation. We attended a CCHC Update meeting in Globe, AZ on 3/13/13, at this updates meeting it was noted by the Assessors that Arizona has one of the best Hand washing Procedures.

2) Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.
The Health District's CCHC has a close relationship with the Quality First coaches, she also collaborates with First Smiles, Easter Seals Inclusion Program, Tobacco and many more. Her most recent collaboration was with Amberly's Place to have someone present to her providers on the topic of "Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Rudy Ortiz

Subject: FW: March 14th Program update

From: McNeece, Megan E - (meganmcneece)
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 5:13 PM
To: Rudy Ortiz
Subject: March 14th Program update

Health: Oral Health
First Smiles

Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:
First Smiles makes children excited about taking care of their teeth. Parents who have reported their child having a bad dental experience are surprised when we are able to complete a dental screening on their child. Kids are excited to have "their turn" and one little boy repeated "I did it. I did it!" Children can also recall how long and how often they are supposed to brush their teeth. Parents are learning that it is important to start routine dental care at an earlier age, not just when there is a problem. Parents also learn what they need to do at home to reduce the prevalence of cavities in their children. All centers are offered the resources to implement brushing in the classroom. Some centers are now implementing classroom brushing or adopting new practices to improve brushing. In addition, some centers who offer financial assistance for children with no dental insurance have noticed a decrease in spending on dental services and correlate this decrease to the services that First Smiles provides. First Smiles has been hard at work building trusting relationships with the children, families, centers, and the community.

Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.

When First Smiles began about one year ago, we met several different programs within our region who were eager to help us get started. One of our first collaborations was with the Yuma Early Literacy Program. We continue working together to provide families with services efficiently. Families who are participating in their classes are offered child care; and during child care First Smiles is able to offer screenings and fluoride for the children. First Smiles has also worked closely with Easter Seals, Child and Family Resources, and the Kith and Kin Program. Classes on oral health have been provided to the families of these programs as well as screenings and fluoride for the children. First Smiles has established great relationships with WACOG Head Start, Chicanos Por La Causa, and various preschools throughout Yuma County. Sunset Community Health Center has also been a key player including the First Smiles program in various health fairs throughout the community.

Megan McNeece

Smart Support Program Update for

First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council

Date: 03/13/13

Program Supervisor: Albie Abrahams, LMSW

Mental Health Consultant: Claudia Lara, LAMFT

1) **Please highlight the impact and success your program is having in the community:**

After participation in the Smart Support Mental Health Consultation Program, Childcare Providers are reporting a better understanding of the reasons behind children's behaviors. They are learning how great an impact their relationship with each child has on that child's social and emotional development and thus are taking steps towards building stronger relationships with the children in their care (i.e., taking the time to acknowledge each child, being more intentional about nonverbal communication, etc.).

We have seen a shift in the teachers' focus from diminishing challenging behaviors to building positive relationships (which in turn has helped diminish children's challenging behaviors). One example of this is a young girl who had difficulty making friends due to her aggressive behaviors towards the other children in the room… she now engages positively with the other children, asking them to play with her and even identifying some as her "friends".

Teachers are also learning about the importance of engaging parents in order to best support the children by having everyone caring for the child on the "same page". We have also seen an improvement in teachers' confidence in managing their classroom and their ability to address challenging behaviors (including a decrease in statements about "not knowing what to do").

2) **Share how your program has collaborated with other programs in the region.**

The Smart Support Mental Health Consultant has met with both Quality First and Early Care and Education Inclusion Program supervisors to not only discuss the best ways of collaborating as part of the Quality Improvement Team but also to discuss specific centers they have in common and ways they can better support those providers. The Mental Health Consultant also attended the First Things First Grantee Collaboration Meeting to begin looking at ways to partner with other community programs as well.

Health:
Recruitment Stipends/Loan Forgiveness

Hi Rudy,

Thank you for providing clarification regarding the recent application for the bilingual SLP. I will notify the therapist that there is currently no funding available for Speech and Language pathologists in the Yuma Regional. I will let her know she may want to stay in contact in case funding changes for the region near the end of the current fiscal year.

As I mentioned during our phone conversation, we have used a variety of marketing strategies for therapists' recruitment and retention, including:

- Making presentations at university training programs
- Exhibiting at university career fairs
- Email blasts to Student Services Directors and administrators of local school districts
- Direct outreach to contracted early intervention therapy providers
- Direct outreach to therapy provider associations
- Exhibited and advertised the program at State and National Professional Associations such as the American Speech and Hearing Sciences Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, the Exceptional Student Council Convention
- Created an Ambassador Program made up of University training program faculty and other stakeholders interested in connecting therapists to the Early Childhood Therapist Incentives Program
- Communicate quarterly with all contracted therapists and schedule yearly face to face meetings to gather feedback and provide support

Currently we have 5 contracted therapists providing services in the Yuma Region, including 4 speech therapists and 1 occupational therapist. We will continue to strive to fill both therapy positions in the Yuma Region through focused marketing.

Thank you,

Sherry Haskins, MPA
Early Childhood Therapist Incentives Program Manager
Bureau of Health Systems Development
Arizona Department of Health Services