

Strategy #2: Establish and Facilitate an Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative

The goal of the Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative is to ensure that all families in the San Carlos region have the information and support they need to be effective parents by creating a coordinated network of services. Currently, the San Carlos community has no mechanism to identify and address gaps in service, reduce duplication, or to ensure that families are referred to the services that best fit their needs.

During the process of formulating the San Carlos Apache Regional Needs and Assets Report, it became apparent from the lack of data and/or access to such data, that no cross-tribal, state and federal program coordination efforts were in place to expand or enhance the coordination and integration of regional data, programs, services and resources for young children and their families. The absence of such a mechanism was also evident during the dialogue of the community discussions hosted by the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council. In a community wide discussion, the participants of the group identified tribal programs and resources as strength; however, the lack of partnerships amongst programs for children and families was identified as one of the top four weaknesses in the region.

Research demonstrates that early childhood coalitions linking local, tribal, federal and state partners have made great impacts on policy and funding for early care and health issues. This is best demonstrated by the work of the New Jersey State Better Baby Campaign. Additionally, the formation of coalitions increases the opportunity for all partners to network and reap the benefits of technical assistance, advocacy strength and program and fund development. It is the intent of the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council to mirror the success of such a campaign to benefit the children of the San Carlos region.

The San Carlos Early Childhood and Health Collaborative will meet at least quarterly. The Collaborative will be charged with making a report to the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council within 6 months and annually thereafter of the existing family support services, gaps in service (taking into consideration availability of services by location and to all target populations) and recommended improvement strategies. The Collaborative will also develop a community newsletter and calendar on early childhood issues and events in the San Carlos Apache community.

It is also envisioned that within the Collaborative there will be sub-committees to address service coordination within particular service sectors. The following sub-committees or coalitions will be developed: Parenting Education Coalition, Home Visiting Coalition and Child Care Coalition.

The Parenting Education Coalition will be responsible for coordinating parenting education programs; identifying existing programs and recommending changes so there are programs that address the unique needs of teen parents, families with Court or CPS referrals, families living in outlying communities, and other target populations identified by First Things First; and increasing awareness of programs by developing a monthly Parenting Education Calendar.

The Home Visiting Coalition will be responsible for developing a comprehensive home visiting system by convening home visiting program managers, developing methods to coordinate home visiting programs to ensure the needs of the most at-risk families are addressed; coordinating outreach activities; reviewing referrals; and gathering and reviewing data.

The Child Care Coalition will be the forum for bringing child care providers together to identify issues affecting access to quality early care and education and to develop approaches to increase quality and access.

Each Coalition will work to develop methods to improve service delivery, maximize resources, and meet the needs of families throughout the region.

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council intends for this collaborative to be a three year project. In year two and three this collaborative will develop and maintain a tribal wide resource center on regional early childhood issues.

Research Notes:

(2008) Literacy Powerline "Coalition Fact Sheet" <http://www.literacypowerline.com/faq.html>

(2007) Zero to Three Policy Center "Moving the Infant-Toddler Policy Agenda Forward Together: Strategies to build Successful Coalitions" <http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/CoalitionBuilding.pdf?docID=4421>

(2004) Campaign New Jersey "Better Baby Care-Building the Foundation" Annual Report

Lead Goal #13: FIRST THINGS FIRST will lead cross-system coordination efforts among state, federal and tribal organizations to improve the coordination and integration of Arizona programs, services, and resources for young children and their families.

Goal #11: FIRST THINGS FIRST will coordinate and integrate with existing education and information systems to expand families' access to high quality, diverse and relevant information and resources to support their child's optimal development.

Goal #14: FIRST THINGS FIRST will collect and disseminate accurate and relevant data related to early childhood development and health.

Key Measures:

1. Total number and percentage of public and private partners' who report they are satisfied with the extent and quality of coordination between public, private, and tribal systems

Target Population:

Family support agencies and programs, including parenting education programs, home visiting programs and child care providers.

	SFY2010 July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010	SFY2011 July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	SFY2012 July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
Proposed Service Numbers	6 participating organizations in each group, 12 meetings each group	10 participating organizations in each group, 12 meetings each group	All organizations participating in each group, 12 meetings each group

Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012:

1. # of partners satisfied with quality of coordination
2. #of partners able to appropriately refer families to services
3. Quarterly meetings held (3 groups, 4 meetings each)

- 4. Newsletter produced and distributed
- 5. Strategy recommendations delivered before November 2009, for Regional Plan 2011

- How is this strategy building on the service network that currently exists:

Currently most family support programs operate independently. While there are many excellent programs, there is no coordinated service network. This strategy will develop a service network where one currently does not exist. The coalitions will establish MOUs between participating partners. The coalitions will work to eliminate the barriers families sometimes face in accessing services by creating a cross resourcing protocol, application and information processing which can cross agencies.

- What are the opportunities for collaboration and alignment:

By providing consistently scheduled and facilitated Collaborative and Coalition meetings this strategy will create numerous opportunities for participants to collaborate. The meetings will provide the forum for service providers to share information, reduce duplication, maximize resources, and address service gaps. Recipients of First Things First funding to provide family support programs will be required to participate in the Family Support Collaborative.

SFY2010 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy (How much of the total allocation will go to this strategy)

Population-based Allocation for proposed strategy	\$ Unfunded
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Budget Justification: Staffing to support the quarterly Collaborative meetings will come from the FIRST THINGS FIRST San Carlos Apache Regional Office staff. Support will also be provided to Coalition meetings during the start-up phase, with the goal of transitioning Coalition operations to their membership.