



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

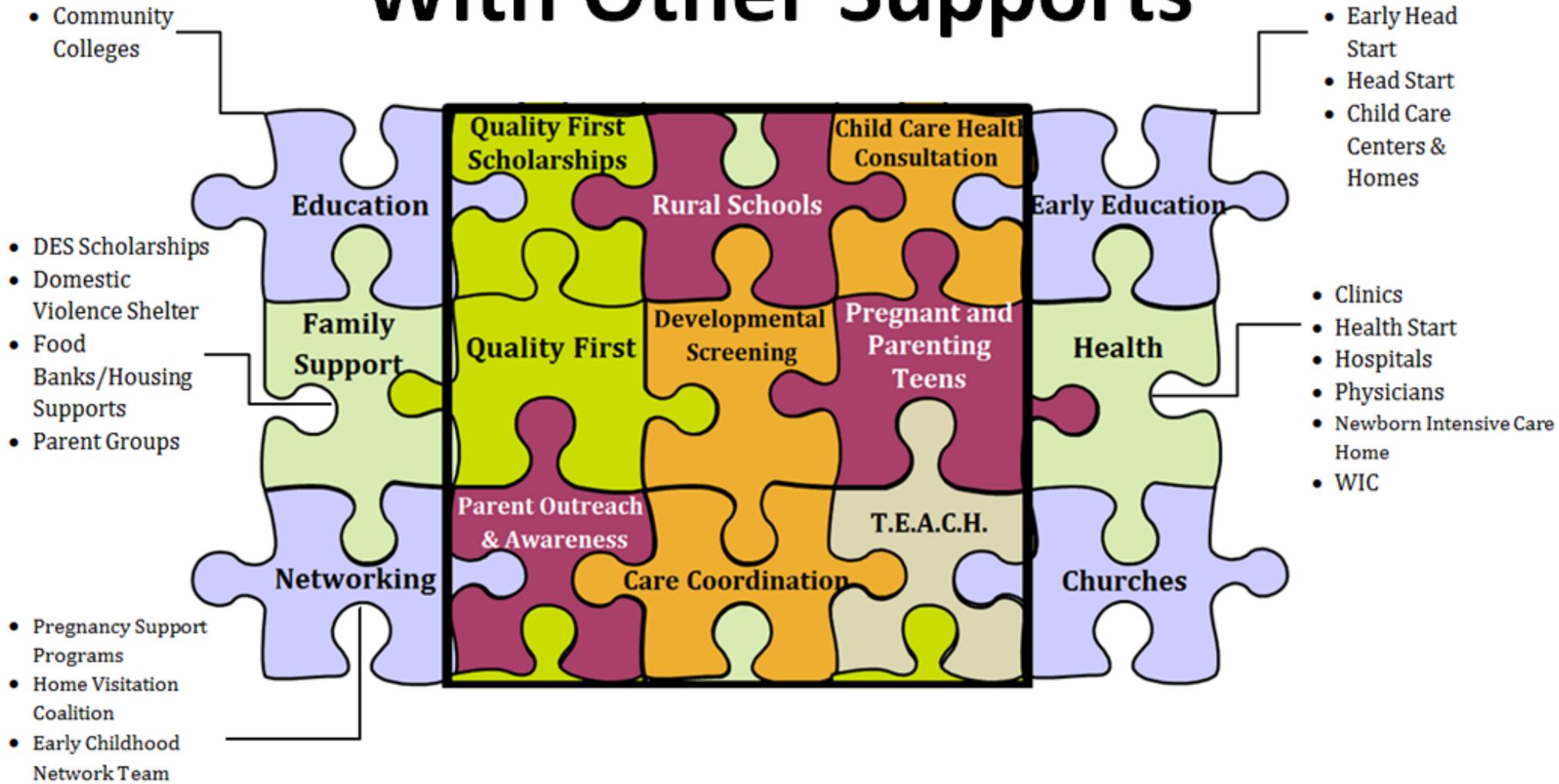
AGENDA ITEM: Systems Building Discussion

BACKGROUND: First Things First and the Gila Regional Partnership Council have invested significant time and resources in building a comprehensive early childhood system to provide greater opportunities for all children five and under in Arizona to grow up ready to succeed. The Gila Regional Partnership Council is continuing system building discussions over the next meetings. At the February Regular Meeting the Regional Council agreed to focus on the development of the Inspiration Project as the hub of the region's southern area and the online developmental screening as a region wide system approach. The Regional Council also suggested early literacy as another system building goal. At the April Regular Meeting further discussion of these priorities was held and discussion input was incorporated into this document. The strategic planning discussion was tabled due to time at the May and June Regular Meeting, although the discussion on benchmarks identified a potential strategic goal regarding healthy weight. System building discussion was tabled at both meetings

RECOMMENDATION: An open discussion will be held between Regional Council Members, grantees and community stakeholders to further develop these areas with the intent to complete a systems building plan by late summer. System building discussions will continue over the next few meetings. Work plans will be developed for each of the identified strategic goal areas.

Let's Look at How FTF Interacts

With Other Supports



Regional Priorities to be addressed	School Readiness Indicators Correlated to the needs and priority roles	FTF Priority Roles in the Early Childhood System	SFY 2013-2015 Strategies	System Building Areas and Questions <i>that are relevant and align to the funding plan and discussion that have occurred/not occurred with the regional council</i>
<p>Limited access to quality, affordable early care and education</p> <p>High number of children living in poverty</p> <p>High number of pregnant and parenting teens that lack the skills needed to raise successful children.</p> <p>Children arriving at school with significant undiagnosed delays</p> <p>High number of single and first time parents that lack the skills needed to raise successful children</p> <p>High number of Grandparents raising their Grandchildren that lack supports necessary to raise successful children.</p> <p>Limited access to parent education and information</p> <p>Limited knowledge and information about the importance of early childhood development and health</p> <p>Children arriving at schools with limited language and literacy skills.</p> <p>High number of Incarcerated Parents</p> <p>Small rural areas and Tonto Apache Nation have limited access to FTF programs.</p> <p>Large number of Parents with Drug and Alcohol abuse issues impacting their ability to parent.</p>	<p>#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical</p> <p>#/% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars</p> <p>% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being</p> <p>New Indicators*</p> <p>#/% of children ages 2-4 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)</p> <p>#/% of children receiving at least six well-child visits within the first 15 months of life</p> <p>*The Regional Council voted to add two School Readiness indicators for SFY2014. The Gila Regional Council determined that the two indicators would be appropriate to measure the effectiveness of the Care Coordination/Medical Home Strategy.</p>	<p>Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation – Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the education system.</p> <p>Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum and Assessment – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments.</p> <p>Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive and affordable early care and education programs.</p> <p>Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.</p> <p><i>Note: Not all FTF Priority Roles are associated with indicators. A Regional Council may consider additional FTF Priority Roles to their plan not associated with indicators but which reflect their Regional Priorities.</i></p>	<p>Quality First</p> <p>Parent Education - Community Based Training:</p> <p>Parent Outreach and Awareness – Early Literacy</p> <p>Care Coordination-Medical Home</p> <p>Community Awareness (Funded for SFY2013 only – Unfunded strategy in SFY2014-15)</p> <p>Media (Funded for SFY2013 only- Unfunded strategy for SFY2014-2015)</p> <p>Statewide Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the overall scope of the work that we need to accomplish? • What are our priorities? • What is the starting point and sequence for our actions? • What projects, operations, or programs must we design? • What activities and processes must we integrate into the daily operations? • What resources will we need?? • What will be the impact of these actions on our internal organization? • Who are the sponsors and stakeholders whose interests are affected? How will we measure results against our targets? • How will we monitor and document progress? • What will the impact be on our target groups or customers? • How will we know that it is worthwhile? • How will we analyze and explain that we are on or off track? • How will we make necessary corrections during implementation?

System Building

Gila Regional Partnership Council



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Regional Council System Building Planning Tool



System Building Themes Primary	Themes Definitions	System Building Secondary Themes	Gila System Building Approaches	Level of Prioritization
Context	Changing the political environment that surrounds the system and affects its success	Connections	Healthy Weight	
Components	Establishing high-performing and quality programs and services	Infrastructure and Scale	Expansion of access to Quality Care and Early Learning	
Connections	Creating strong and effective linkage across the system	Infrastructure and Scale	Early Literacy	
Infrastructure	Developing the supports the system needs to function effectively and with quality	Connections, Scale	Developmental Screening	
Scale	Ensuring the system is comprehensive and works for all children			

Possible Questions:

- Is there an area of System Building in our Region that we have not discussed?
- Are there other linkages between the Regional Council discussion and community activities?
- Given the list of System Building discussion points, is there a priority(s) for the Regional Council?

Addressing the top two system building priorities:

- What approach does the Council want to take? (utilize 'approach' definitions)
- Are there other groups working on system building for the priority? Do other people/groups need to be part of the discussion? (see 'determining who' section of chart)
- Are there perceived barriers or resistance to addressing the issue?
- Who is affected? (consider- within the priority area and/or from the barrier perspective)
- Are there additional resources that could be utilized?
- Are there current or past initiatives that have been used with the system building priority that could help inform the discussion and action plan?

System Building – Developmental Screening - DRAFT

Gila: As systems approach, the Regional Council wants to increase the number of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical development.

System Building Areas Addressed: Context work is to integrate funding streams and resources across numerous program areas. Components work includes expanded program and project coverage. Connections work will provide joint planning with representation from organizations including medical providers, County Health Department, Head Start Centers, Schools, Child Care Centers/homes, First Things First programs and other Early Childhood Providers. Infrastructure building will work to ensure roles are defined and support is provided for increasing the number children receiving regular Developmental Screening and early intervention services.

Approaches Addressed: Broad system building

Regional Council need: To impact Kindergarten readiness across the Region. To identify children who would benefit from more intensive early programs.

Actions Taken:

- During funding plan discussions, the Regional Council identified the need to improve kindergarten readiness with an approach that could be utilized across many programs and result in better test results for 3rd graders
- The target audience is children birth through five.
- The request to identify early, children birth through five, which would benefit with a comprehensive early intervention program. The Gila Regional Council has funded the Developmental Screening and Care Coordination, through regionally funded strategies as well as engagement of other community supports and services focused on early intervention.
- The combination of the On-line Developmental screening with the Healthy Steps program will create opportunities for parents to early identify developmental concerns and receive support to enhance the child's developmental progress.
- No funding was allotted to the larger goal of reaching all children; conversations are to begin with a coalition approach to expand reach of the Developmental Screening.

Successes:

- The two regional strategies are currently being implemented and expected to achieve targeted service units by early FY2014.
- An organizational meeting is scheduled to discuss forming a Developmental Screening Workgroup.
- More civic groups are becoming interested in the topic and have inquired into assisting with getting information out to the community about the importance of developmental screening and early intervention.

Challenges and lessons learned:

- The initial conversations have begun, but more support is needed in order for the work to have a broad impact.
- New council members are unaware of the conversation
- Implementation plan for Developmental Screening must be developed.
- Geographically, the workgroup cannot serve the whole region; a planned approach for each area should be developed including potential partners located in each area and an assessment of their interest in promoting regular developmental screening.

- Local leader, business and school engagement needs to be increased as the project positively impacts their community and economic growth

Discussion Steps (Summary from April Meeting)

- Convene a task force with all possible screening facilities staff to discuss and develop a plan for Region wide implementation.
- Develop permission that meet all HIPPA requirements that would allow multiple programs, facilities serving the same child to access data on the child and follow the child's progress.
- Healthy Steps will serve as the lead agency and coordinate all screening sites participating in the On-line Enterprise System.
- Need for agencies to be willing to join resources and let go of control.
- Develop common goals between participating partners.
- Important to use the data collected through this system to develop focused child directed interventions, but also to look at the overall data obtained in the region and use that data in program, strategy design, planning and system integration.
- Very important to get the hospitals (OB Directors) involved in helping all families understand the importance of regular screening so it become normalized just like immunization and well child checks. Consider having the parent complete a registration card that would allow parents to be contacted when screenings are due while still in the hospital setting
- Very important to work with foster parents, CASA, judges and other community programs that work the most at risk families to help them access the developmental screening process.

Lead Agency – Gila County Health Department – Healthy Steps

Potential Partners

- Gila County Health Department
- First Things First Grantees
- Head Start Programs – Globe, Miami, Payson, Hayden/Winkelman
- School Districts and Pre-kindergarten Classrooms (Globe, Miami, Payson, Tonto Basin, Young, Pine/Strawberry, Winkelman)
- Child Care Centers
- Child Care Homes
- Physician's offices
- Canyonlands Clinic
- Payson Christian Clinic
- Cobre Valley Hospital
- Payson Hospital
- Pregnancy Centers

Timeline for Activities

Date	Activity	Who is responsible	Current Status
October 2012	Administrative Home Selected	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	Contract effective October 1, 2012 – Staff hired April-June 2013
June 2013	Purchase of the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE Enterprise System	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	System on Order
June 2013	Purchase the Parent Access capacity to interface with the Enterprise System	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	System on Order
June 2013	Training for staff using the Enterprise and parent access systems	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	Training will be scheduled late June 2013
June 2013	Set up unique URL for the Parent Access system including URL that will be followed up by the Healthy Steps program as well as unique URL for families served by physicians, clinics, County, Head Start Programs, Schools, etc.	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	
June/July 2013	Organize meeting with stakeholders in Payson and Globe to talk about building the system to allow children to be screened wherever they come in contact with the Early Childhood System.	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps- Lead Invited to meetings are Pre-K, Quality First Centers, Head Start, Physicians, Clinics, Hospitals, First Things First Grantees, Schools, Behavioral Health agencies and other community stakeholders serving children birth to five.	
July 2013	Set up authorized user and security authorizations	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	
July 2013	Develop forms, letters, HIPPA release documents	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	
July 2013	Healthy Steps begins screening using the system	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	
August 2013	Healthy Steps assists other County programs to implement the program or set up a referral procedure to assist families to use the Family Access or be screened by Healthy Steps	Gila County Health – Healthy Steps	
September 2013	First Things First funded programs begin using the system		
October 2013	Phase 1 programs added		
October 2013 (Revised date)	Developmental Screening implementation report due to Gila Regional Council	Healthy Steps – Gila County Health Department	

Goal and outcome to be achieved:

Measure results/document progress.

Data and comprehensive report submitted by Healthy Steps

Scope and reach of the enterprise partners

Minutes/Sign in Sheets for community stakeholders meeting

Impact anticipated

Increase in the number of children receiving timely and regular developmental and social emotional screening.

Better coordination between community programs serving children birth to five which allow identification and intervention with children experiencing delays.

Obtain current and comprehensive information regarding the children of the region that would allow for targeted planning for integration strategies.

Evaluation of success, analyzing when we are off track, course corrections

Potential Sponsorship/stakeholders

Additional resources needed:

Regional System Building Work Plan

Date Completed	7/15/2013	
Regional Director	Hazel Chandler	
Regional Council	Gila	
Senior Director	Cindi Alva	
Regional Area	Gila	
Identified System Building Approach	Developmental Screening	
System Lever	Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Context - Changing the political environment that surrounds the system and affects its success <input type="checkbox"/> Components - Establishing high-performing and quality program and services <input type="checkbox"/> Connections - Creating strong and effective linkages across the system <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure - Developing the supports the system needs to function effectively and with quality <input type="checkbox"/> Scope and Scale - Ensuring the system is comprehensive and works for all children
Identified Goal Area	Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordination <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Public Awareness <input type="checkbox"/> Quality and Access
Identified Indicator	#1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical <input type="checkbox"/> 2. #/% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars <input type="checkbox"/> 3. #/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars <input type="checkbox"/> 4. #/% of families that spend no more than 10% of the regional median family income on quality care and education with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars <input type="checkbox"/> 5. % of children with newly identified developmental delays during the kindergarten year <input type="checkbox"/> 6. #/% of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education

		<input type="checkbox"/> 7. #/% of children ages 2-4 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI) <input type="checkbox"/> 8. #/% of children receiving at least six well-child visits within the first 15 months of life <input type="checkbox"/> 9. #/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay <input type="checkbox"/> 10. % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being
Source of Approach	Grantee takes the lead with the support of Council Community and staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Community <input type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Fill in
Regional Staff Role	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Convener <input type="checkbox"/> Partners <input type="checkbox"/> Participants <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Fill in
Regional Council Role	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Convener <input type="checkbox"/> Partners <input type="checkbox"/> Participants <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Fill in

System Building Work Plan

Objective	To develop a comprehensive online developmental screening system that is available across the region wherever the families access services
Anticipated Completion Date	System will be fully implemented during the FY2014 year. The Scope and Reach will continue to expand until all children in the region birth through five receive screening on a regular basis and target follow-up services.

Activities		Person Responsible	Outcomes/Impact
			<input type="checkbox"/> Short Term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium Term <input type="checkbox"/> Long Term
1	Administrative Home Selected	Gila County Health Department – Healthy Steps	Short Term Contract effective October 2012 – Staff hired April-June 2013
2	Purchase of the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE Enterprise System	Gila County – Healthy Steps	Short Term June 2013
3	Purchase the Parent Access capacity to interface with the Enterprise System	Gila County – Healthy Steps	Short Term June 2013
4	Training for staff using the Enterprise System	Gila County – Healthy Steps	Short Term and ongoing as staff and participants change June-July 2013

5	Set up unique URL for the Parent Access system including URL that will be followed up by the Healthy Steps program as well as unique URL for families served by physician's offices, clinics, County, Head Start Programs, Schools, Etc.	Gila County – Healthy Steps	Short term July-August 2013
6	Organize meetings with stakeholders in Payson and Globe to talk about building the system to allow children to be screened wherever they come in contact with the Early Childhood system	Gila County – Healthy Steps Invited to the meetings are Pre-k, Quality First Centers, Head Start, Physicians, Clinics, Hospitals, First Things First Grantees, Schools, Behavioral Health agencies and other community Stakeholders serving children birth to five	Medium Term August – September 2013
7	Set up authorized user and security authorizations	Gila County – Healthy Steps and community partners	Medium Term August – October 2013
8	Develop Forms, Letters, HIPPA Release Documents	Gila County – Healthy Steps and community partners	August – October 2013
9	Healthy Steps begins screening using the system	Gila County – Healthy Steps	July 2013
10	Healthy Steps assists other County programs to implement the program or set up a referral procedure to assist families to use the Family Access or be screened by Healthy Steps.	Gila County – Healthy Steps	August – October 2013
11	First Things First Funded programs begin using the on-line screening program	Gila County – Healthy Steps and FTF Grantees	October – December 2013
12	Phase 1 programs added		October – December 2013
13	Developmental Screening implementation report due to Gila Regional Council	Gila County – Healthy Steps – Regional Council	October 2013
14	Developmental and Social Emotional screen completed on children every six months with appropriate follow-up to insure children receive the services that they need.		
15	Community Task Forces work on data sharing between agencies tracking children as they process through the early childhood system and enter school ready to learn.		

System Building – Early Learning - Inspiration Workgroup - Draft

Gila: As systems approach, the Council wants to increase the number of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, motor and physical development. They further want to increase the number of children that have access to a Quality Early Learning Program.

System Building Areas Addressed: Context work is to integrate funding streams and resources across numerous program areas. Components work includes expanded program and project coverage. Connections work will provide joint planning with representation from organizations including medical providers, Schools, Cities Government, Community Stakeholders, County Health Department, Head Start Centers, Child Care Centers/homes, First Things First programs and other Early Childhood Providers. Infrastructure building will work to ensure roles are defined and support is provided for increasing the number children receiving quality child care an early learning experiences.

Approaches Addressed: Broad system building as well as developing public/private partnerships.

Regional Council need: To impact Kindergarten readiness across the Region. To identify children who would benefit from a more intensive early programs.

Actions Taken:

- During funding plan discussions, the Regional Council identified the need to improve kindergarten readiness with an approach that could be utilized across many programs and result in better test results for 3rd graders
- The target audience is children birth to five.
- The Regional Needs and Assets identified a lack of quality child care in the Globe/Miami area as a priority need. The funded Quality First Centers and Scholarships are concentrated in the Payson area. The Regional Council identified the need to encourage the opening of a Quality First Center to provide affordable Quality Child Care and early education services in the area.

Successes:

- A community Inspiration Workgroup has been established with participation of key community stakeholder including Schools, Cities, Community Colleges, Boys and Girls Club, Business leaders, community stakeholders.
- Gila Regional First Things First Council has increased the number of Quality First Centers to allow expansion to cover the Inspiration Community Education Center.
- The Inspiration Workgroup has formed a Board of Directors and is in the process of establishing a 501C-3 status to operate the program.
- Miami Unified School District has committed to leasing the building to the non-profit group for \$1 per year.
- The Inspiration Workgroup has submitted an application to Freeport McMoran for funding to allow renovation, setting up the classrooms and a director's salary for six months.
- More civic groups are becoming interested in the topic and have inquired into assisting i getting information out to the community.

Challenges and lessons learned:

- The initial conversations have begun, but more support is needed in order for the work to have a broad impact.
- Local leader, business and school engagement needs to be increased as the project positively impacts their community and economic growth
- Funding must be obtained for development and operation of the facility.

Discussion Steps (Summary from April Meeting)

- Need to balance accessibility of services across the region
- Potential for universal referral system
- Advocacy to expand early learning services in a variety of venues
- Opportunity to work with school districts and other partners to explore opportunities to expand pre-k in the public and charter school programs.

Lead Agency – First Things First Directed building the General Early Learning System**Inspiration Workgroup for the Globe/Miami specific Inspiration Community Education Center Project****Potential Partners**

- Gila County Health Department
- First Things First Grantees
- Head Start Programs – Globe, Miami, Payson, Hayden/Winkelman
- Boys and Girls Club
- Community College
- City Governments
- Foundations and funding agencies
- Canyonlands Clinic
- Cobre Valley Hospital
- Freeport McMoran
- Businesses

Timeline for Activities**Goal and outcome to be achieved****Measure results/document progress.****Impact anticipated****Evaluation of success, analyzing when we are off track, course corrections****Potential Sponsorship/stakeholders****Additional resources needed:**

System Building – Early Literacy - Draft

Gila: As systems approach, the Council wants to increase the number of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, motor and physical development.

System Building Areas Addressed: Context work is to integrate funding streams and resources across numerous program areas. Components include expanded collaboration and coordination between First Things First, program, grantee and community stakeholders, parents and caregivers regarding the importance of the Early Literacy Program. Connections work will provide joint planning with representation from organizations which include schools, libraries, medical providers, Schools, City Government, Community Stakeholders, County Health Department, Head Start Centers, Child Care Centers/homes, service organizations, churches, First Things First programs and other Early Childhood Providers. Infrastructure building will work to ensure roles are defined and support is provided for increasing early childhood and family literacy.

Approaches Addressed: Broad system building as well as developing public/private partnerships.

Regional Council need: To impact Kindergarten readiness across the Region. To identify children who would benefit from a more intensive early programs.

Actions Taken:

- During funding plan discussions, the Regional Council identified the need to improve kindergarten readiness with an approach that could be utilized across many programs and result in better test results for 3rd graders.
- The target audience is children birth to five.
- The Regional Needs and Assets identified early literacy as a priority need for the area. For the past three years the Regional Council has funded an Early Literacy – Dolly Parton program with Gila County Library.

Successes:

- Currently approximately 80% of the Regions Children are served by the Dolly Parton program and over 35,000 books have been distributed across the Region.
- The Regional Council has given over 1,500 books to children at community events with information on the importance of early reading.
- The Globe Lions Club has identified Early Literacy as a priority project area.
- More civic groups are becoming interested in the topic and have inquired into assisting in getting information out to the community.

Challenges and lessons learned:

- The initial conversations have begun, but more support is needed in order for the work to have a broad impact.
- Local leader, business and school engagement needs to be increased.

Discussion Steps (Summary from April Meeting)

- Need to work with families to enhance adult reading skills as well as early literacy
- English as a second language
- Lions Club and Rotary interested in Early Literacy
- Need to continue to get the word out about the importance of early literacy
- Potential to use the Dolly Parton list of kids and families for targeted approach

- Legalities of merging into a mailing or e-mail list to communicate with families in the region.
- Need to look at ways to combat electronics and encourage continued use of books.

Lead Agency – Gila Regional Partnership First Things First

Potential Partners

- Gila County Library District (County, Globe, Miami, Payson, Tonto Basin, Hayden, Young, Pine/Strawberry)
- First Things First Grantees
- Head Start Programs – Globe, Miami, Payson, Hayden/Winkelman
- School Districts and Pre-kindergarten Classrooms (Globe, Miami, Payson, Tonto Basin, Young, Pine/Strawberry, Winkelman)
- Child Care Centers
- Child Care Homes
- A Stepping Stone
- Other Adult Literacy programs
- Physician's offices
- Canyonlands Clinic
- Payson Christian Clinic

Timeline for Activities

Goal and outcome to be achieved

Measure results/document progress.

Impact anticipated

Evaluation of success, analyzing when we are off track, course corrections

Potential Sponsorship/stakeholders

- Potential to partner with Read On Community Program

Additional resources needed:

System Building – Healthy Weight-Nutrition and Fitness - Draft

Gila: As systems approach, the Council wants to increase the number of children maintaining a healthy weight.

System Building Areas Addressed: Context work is to integrate funding streams and resources across numerous program areas. Components include expanded collaboration and coordination between First Things First grantee, schools, Head Start Centers, cities, community stakeholders, parents and caregivers regarding the importance of good nutrition and physical activity in maintain a healthy weight. Connections work will provide joint planning with representation from organizations which include schools, libraries, medical providers, Schools, City Government, Community Stakeholders, County Health Department, Head Start Centers, Child Care Centers/homes, service organizations, churches, First Things First programs and other Early Childhood Providers. Infrastructure building will work to ensure roles are defined and support is provided for increasing nutrition, physical activities and education regarding maintaining a healthy weight for children birth to five.

Approaches Addressed: Broad system building as well as developing public/private partnerships.

Regional Council need: The Regional Council has chosen School Readiness Indicator #7 regard increasing the number/percent of children at a healthy weight as a priority indicator for the Region.

Actions Taken:

- During funding plan discussions, the Regional Council identified the need to increase the number of children at a healthy rate was important to the region and the Regional Council added this indicator to the funding plan.
- The Regional Council has funded the Healthy Steps strategy which has a component to educate parents on good nutrition and physical exercise as well as to monitor children health status as it relates to weight and growth data.
- Regional data on Healthy Weight has been collected and the Regional Council is in the process of setting benchmarks for this School Readiness Indicator.

Successes:

Challenges and lessons learned:

- The initial conversations have begun, but more support is needed in order for the work to have a broad impact.
- Local leader, business and school engagement needs to be increased.

Discussion Steps (Summary from May 2013 Regional Council Meeting on Regional Benchmarks)

- Benchmark worksheet has been developed and will be further discussed at the June 2013 meeting.
- Potential to partner with the Gila County Health Department and the cities to sponsor health and fitness activities.
- Need to continue to get the word out about the importance of fitness, good nutrition and maintenance of healthy weight for children birth to five.
- The Empower program is now in place in all of the Quality First centers/homes in the region.
- Head Start programs are focusing on healthy weight and a monitoring children's weight throughout the year. The program reports significant success in meeting healthy weight goals.

Lead Agency – Gila Regional Partnership First Things First or Gila County Health Department (Healthy Steps)

Potential Partners

- First Things First Grantees
- Gila County Health Department
- Head Start Programs – Globe, Miami, Payson, Hayden/Winkelman
- School Districts and Pre-kindergarten Classrooms (Globe, Miami, Payson, Tonto Basin, Young, Pine/Strawberry, Winkelman)
- Child Care Centers
- Child Care Homes
- Physician's offices
- Canyonlands Clinic
- Payson Christian Clinic
- Payson Hospital
- Cobre Valley Hospital
- Behavioral Health Agencies
- WIC Programs
- Farmers Markets

Timeline for Activities**Goal and outcome to be achieved****Measure results/document progress.****Impact anticipated****Evaluation of success, analyzing when we are off track, course corrections****Potential Sponsorship/stakeholders**

- Potential to partner with nutrition and fitness activities being plan through partnership between Gila County and local cities/towns.
-

Additional resources needed:

Other potential system building opportunities

System Building – Home Visitation/Family Support

Discussion from April 19 meeting

- Gila County Health Department (with funding from Arizona Department of Health) is organizing a Home Visitation Collaborative. This would provide an opportunity to work with an existing effort.
- Important to have a central phone number and web-site to screen calls and facilitate referrals
- Look into Central Referral systems (Oregon's system, Several in New York, South and Central Maricopa programs)
- Universal referral
- Universal authorization /Releases
- Common intake form