FIRST THINGS FIRST

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council-Work Group Session

Pursuant to A.R.S. §8-1194(A) and A.R.S. §38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the First Things First - Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council members, and to the general public that the Regional Partnership Council will hold a ***Special meeting open to the public on Monday, September 08, 2014 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Safford First Things First Office, 504 2nd Avenue, Safford, Arizona 85546.*** Some members of the Regional Partnership Council may elect to attend telephonically.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (1), A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (2) and A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (3), the Regional Partnership Council may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, to discuss personnel items, records exempt from public inspection and/or to obtain legal advice on any item on this agenda.

The Regional Partnership Council may hear items on the agenda out of order. The Regional Partnership Council may discuss, consider, or take action regarding any item on the agenda. The Regional Partnership Council may elect to solicit public comment on certain agenda items.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Call to Order** — **Laurie Smith, Chair**

2. **Presentation and Discussion of Regional Assessment, Needs and Assets** — **Shari Elkins, Regional Director**
   A. Summary of 2014 Needs and Assets Report **(Attachment #1)**
   B. Review of 2013-2015 Strategic Direction, School Readiness Indicators and FTF Priority Roles **(Attachment #2)**

3. **2016-2018 Strategic Direction Activity** — **Regional Council Members**

   The Council may request public comment specific to agenda item at this time. Under the direction of the Chair, the Council may have an informal, interactive discussion with the public with respect to this agenda item. Members of the public are reminded to observe proper decorum and only speak when recognized by the Council. Members of the public must also identify themselves each time they speak to assist with the taking of meeting minutes. Members of the public do not participate in any motion or votes.

4. **Adjournment** — **Laurie Smith, Chair**

A person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter by contacting Lacie Crandell, Administrative Assistant II, 504 2nd Avenue, Safford, Arizona 85546. Telephone: Office (928) 428-0193. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Dated this 4th day of September 2014

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Shari Elkins

Shari Elkins, Graham/Greenlee Regional Director

Summary and Conclusions

Key Demographic Findings

- Graham and Greenlee counties have a combined 2013 population of 46,531 people, with approximately 3,725 being children under age five, roughly 8% of the population.
- The Region's birth to five population is projected to increase by 15% to 4,153 children over the next 10 years
- 14% of births in Graham County in 2012 and 8% in Greenlee County were to teen parents, exceeding the state as a whole by 5%.
- 34% of Graham County grandparents and 66% of Greenlee County grandparents that live with their children and grandchildren have assumed primary caregiving responsibility for their grandchildren.

Key Economic Findings

- Between 2008 and 2012, an average of 26% of Graham County's married couple families with children under five years of age were living below the federal poverty level; in Greenlee County 10% of such families were below the federal poverty line. In contrast, 75% of the female-headed households with no husband present and children under five years of age in Graham County were living in poverty.
- 2013, the percentage of students who were economically disadvantaged surpassed 40% in the majority of the region's school districts and charter schools.

- Between 2009 and 2013, the unemployment rate in Graham County decreased from 11.5% to 6.1%. In Greenlee County the unemployment rate also trended downward from a 6-year high of 18.7% in 2009 to 6.7% in 2013.
- In 2011, free or reduced lunch enrollment in school districts in Graham and Greenlee counties ranged from 29% in Morenci to 95% in Fort Thomas Unified School District. Forty percent or more of students were enrolled in free or reduced lunch in that year in eight of the nine districts for which data were available.

Key Education Findings

- A much higher percentage of adults in Graham and Greenlee counties have graduated high school compared to the state and nation as a whole. The percentage of adults 25 years and older in Graham and Greenlee counties that have completed some college also surpasses those for the state and nation. However, both counties lag far behind state and national figures for attainment of higher education such as a Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree.
- In 2013, 72% of Graham County 3rd grade students met or exceeded the standard in mathematics and 80% did so in reading. In Greenlee County, 81% 3rd grade students met or exceeded the standards on the Mathematics AIMS test in 2013 and 86% did so on the Reading AIMS test.
- Five of the region's seven public high schools had a graduation rate of 90% or higher in 2012.

Key Early Child Care Findings

- Six out of seven of the region's child care centers and three of the region's child care homes are enrolled in First Things First's Quality First rating program. It is hoped that a recently opened child care center in Greenlee County will soon enroll in the program, keeping the region's participation rate for child care centers in Quality First at 100%.
- The number of available slots in child care facilities licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services increased from 523 in 2011 to 707 in 2103, a 35% increase.
- The number of children in the Graham/Greenlee region eligible for child care assistance from the Arizona Department of Economic Security decreased from 148 in January 2011 to 120 in July 2012. The number of children receiving such assistance steadily increased from 117 in January 2011 to 125 in January 2012 but decreased to 108 in July 2012.
- The number of families on the child care assistance waiting list increased from 25 in July 2011 to 39 in July 2012. The number of children ages 0-5 on the list increased from 39 to 52 over the same period.
- In 2014, the Graham/Greenlee region provided incentives to 20 early care educators through First Things First's Professional REWARD$, a program that offers stipends to early childhood educators who advance their education or maintain a designated length of continuous employment. In 2015, the region will provide such incentives to 30 early care educators. In addition, six early care educators in the region received T.E.A.C.H. scholarships in 2014 through FTF statewide Quality First support.

Key Family Support Findings

- The Healthy Families home visitation program, formerly only operating in Graham County, is now serving families in Greenlee County. This increased home visitation in Greenlee County by 34%.
- A total of 1,215 service visits were provided in 2012 to 36 children ages 0-5 with developmental disabilities through AzEIP in both counties.

Key Health Findings

- The percentage of children that completed vaccination series in Graham County increased steadily from 2010 to 2012. However, the completion rate for all of the years was well below the statewide rate. The percentage of Greenlee County children ages 12-24 months that completed the series was higher that of the state as a whole in two of the three reported years.
- Enrollment in KidsCare/KidsCare II increased from 56 in February 2012 to 194 in February 2013. However, the program ended on January 31, 2014. Some children formerly served by KidsCare will enroll in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) but some parents that receive health insurance through their employer may not be able to afford the additional cost of adding their children on to their plan.

- In Graham County the percentage of women who had 9-12 prenatal visits increased steadily from 32% in 2008 to 43% in 2012; women who had 13 or more such visits increases from 6% to 13% over the same years. In Greenlee County, the percentage of women who had 9-12 prenatal visits increased from 30% in 2008 to 53% in 2012; those with 13 or more prenatal visits similarly increased over the period, from 4% in 2008 to 17% in 2012.
- In 2012, 12% of the births in Graham County and 11% of the births in Greenlee County were pre-term. This compares to a statewide rate of 9%.
- In four of the five years from 2008 to 2012, the percentage of low birth weight babies born in Graham County has exceeded the statewide rate. In 2012, the Graham County rate was 7.6%, as compared to 6.9% for the state as a whole. In Greenlee County, the percentage of low birth weight babies was lower than the statewide rate in three of the five years. In 2012, 5.3% of the babies in Greenlee County were low birth weight, as compared to the state rate of 6.9%.
- Developmental screening is another essential family health practice to ensure that children grow and develop optimally. Regionally in 2012, children ages 0 to 2.9 who receive developmental disability services had a total of 477 service visits; children ages 3.5 to 5.9 who receive developmental services received 738 service visits.

2013-2015 Strategic Direction, School Readiness Indicators and FTF Priority Roles

Regional Priority to be addressed	**School Readiness Indicators** Correlated to the needs and priority roles	**FTF Priority Roles** in the Early Childhood System	**SFY13-15 Strategies**
Limited access to quality, affordable early care and education Inadequate access to parenting information and resources to support children's healthy growth and development Limited Access to Health Services for Young Children Lack of Community Awareness of Services Available as well as the Importance of Early Childhood Development and Health	**1. #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical** **2. #/% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars** **10. % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being**	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. 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. Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services- Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families. Building Public Awareness and Support - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public	Quality First (including CCHC, CC Scholarships, TEACH) Additional CC Scholarships FTF Professional REWARD$ (SFY14 & SFY15) Home Visitation Parent Outreach and Awareness Reach Out and Read Food Security Oral Health Recruitment Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (SFY14) Community Awareness Community Outreach Media Statewide Evaluation