



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on Regional Priorities and System Building

BACKGROUND: The funding plan process resulted in a systematic approach to determining the strategies that will be implemented in the Cochise region's service delivery network for children and families. The chosen strategies link to past accomplishments and continue to: build on each other, support the State Board's priority roles; impact school readiness indicators at a local and state level; and influence the elements needed to create a sustainable early learning system. In the region, access to early care and education, family support and oral health are the primary focus areas.

The recognized need to continue building community awareness and support collaborative efforts are integrated into the structure.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director presents this as informational purposes only and to engage feedback from the Council on different ways to incorporate and build consensus within the County with key stakeholders, elected officials, business leaders, K-12 education, higher education, non-profits and others – to truly build the early childhood system within Cochise County.



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Regional Council System Building Planning Tool

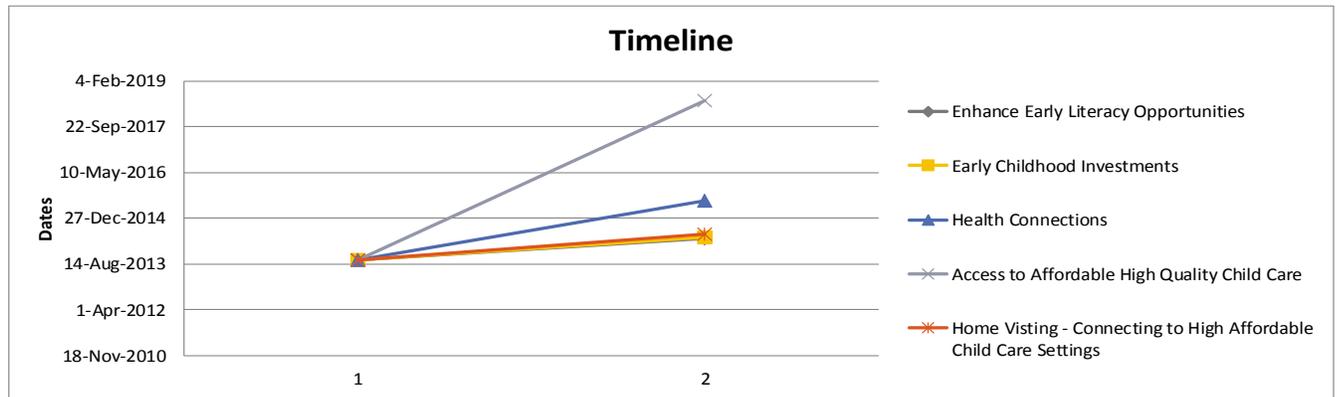


System Building Themes Primary	System Building Secondary Themes	Cochise Regional Examples of System Building Approaches	Level of Prioritization
Context	Connections	Community Awareness on the Importance of Early Childhood Education and Health	6 = Overall imbedded in the action steps throughout themes.
Components			
Connections	Infrastructure	Early Childhood Investments	2
	Scale	Home Visitation Participants attending Quality First Centers/Homes	5
	Components and Context	Enhance Literacy Opportunities	1
	Components	Health Connections * Oral Health, Physicians, CCHC, Health and Nutrition Programs	3
Infrastructure			
Scale	Infrastructure	Access to Affordable High Quality Child Care	4



Cochise Regional Partnership Council - System Building Tracking **FIRST THINGS FIRST**
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Project Name	Project Type	Estimated Start	Estimated Finish	Estimated Days	Estimated Months
Enhance Early Literacy Opportunities	Connections/Components	25-Sep-2013	14-May-2014	229	8
Early Childhood Investments	Connections/Infrastructure	25-Sep-2013	30-May-2014	245	8
Health Connections	Connections/Components	25-Sep-2013	30-Jun-2015	635	21
Access to Affordable High Quality Child Care	Scope and Scale/Infrastructure	25-Sep-2013	30-Jun-2018	1715	57
Home Visiting - Connecting to High Affordable Child Care Settings	Connections/Scope and Scale	25-Sep-2013	30-Jun-2014	275	9



Theme:	Objective	Outcomes/Impact	Goal Area	Indicator	Activities
Enhance Early Literacy Opportunities	Coordinated approach for Literacy opportunities and foster collaboration within all organizations that provide a service regarding literacy.	Clear system for families on Literacy opportunities/services/programs – coordinated approach throughout entire county.	Family Support	1 and 10	Create database/spreadsheet of all related Literacy services/program within Cochise County. Contact info and type of service/program. Establish a community partner to convene partners on a regular basis and commit to Read On Arizona. Communications Division – on opportunities to create awareness on Literacy and the importance of the message. Tie to 3 rd grade reading scores. Convene Stakeholders and Leaders throughout the County to leverage and expand Literacy services.
Early Childhood Investments	Community Members to understand the importance of early childhood development and health and the critical reasons why to fund programs/services birth to five.	Leverage dollars and expand services	Quality and Access	1 and 10	Obtain guidelines from State Board on Public Private Partnerships (PPP) – inform Cochise Regional Partnership Council on intent/activities of the approved plan. Communication Division on the importance of funding early childhood programs – research fact sheets and talking points on new strategic plan. Solidify facilitator to come and present on best practices to secure funding locally – ideas on whom/where to go based on State Board guidelines/plan. Engage in conversations with agencies/individuals on securing funding.
Health Connections	Create a system for families on all agencies providing a health service.	Leverage and expanding knowledge with Oral Health grantee, physicians, CCHC, and all agencies providing a service of health.	Health	1, 8, 9 and 10	Create a roadmap of health services throughout Cochise County and create linkages to programs/services. Communication Division on the importance of health in an early childhood setting– research fact sheets and talking points on new strategic plan. Health forums throughout Cochise County.
Access to Affordable High Quality Care	Continue to expand child care providers in the Quality First Program	All children enrolled in a high quality affordable child care.	Quality and Access	2,3 and 4	Provide opportunities to expand slots for all child care providers that choose to enroll in the Quality First Program. Engage Communication Division and market Quality First website. Secure PPP dollars to expand slots. Maintain a strategic direction during the funding plan cycle to create opportunities with limited funding.
Home Visiting – Connecting to High Affordable Child Care Settings	Connecting home visiting participants to high quality affordable child care settings.	Home Visiting participants enrolled in high quality affordable childcare settings.	Family Support	1 and 2	Create a database on all home visiting programs (FTF funded and non-funded by FTF). Home Visitation forum to explain and expand on the Quality First Program and how to access website. Engage the Communications Division on marketing home visitation – Quality First as steps in the system for young children within Cochise County. Monitor Indicator #1 – KDI and if children are moving through the system.