

COCONINO & NAVAJO/APACHE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCILS

Summary

The Regional Boundary Task Force initially reviewed potential boundary modifications for the current Coconino and Navajo/Apache regions. Specifically, they sought to address the question:

- Would the rural community of Winslow, currently included in the Coconino region, be better served by moving to the Navajo/Apache region, where the community is geographically located?

Based on data review and community feedback the Regional Boundary Task Force recommends maintaining Winslow as part of the Coconino region and keeping both Coconino and Navajo/Apache regional boundaries the same.

Process & Data

As with La Paz/Mohave, data for Coconino and Navajo/Apache was gathered to ensure guiding principles were adhered to and that community feedback was included on the potential impact of a recommended boundary change. The key question facing regional partnership council members, community partners and ultimately the Task Force was if the community of Winslow – geographically located within the boundaries of the Navajo/Apache region but currently served by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council – should be moved out of Coconino and into the Navajo/Apache region?

The Task Force was provided demographic information on the make-up of the current region; the demographic and funding picture of the current state of service provision; and, an assessment of the impact – positive or negative – of moving Winslow from the Coconino Regional Partnership Council to the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council.

This data was also provided to both regional council members and community partners as part of a survey process to ensure all participating individuals were working from the same base of factual information. Specifically:

- The current Coconino region includes 7,965 children age 0-5, 735 of whom reside in Winslow. Navajo/Apache has 5,166 children age 0-5.
- When the original boundaries were drawn in 2007, it was determined that Winslow should be part of the Coconino region due to its proximity to the county its connection to Flagstaff services (Winslow is approximately 55 miles from Flagstaff).
- There are 10 direct service strategies that are implemented in both the Coconino region and the Navajo/Apache region. These are: Quality First, Quality First Scholarships, Child Care Health Consultation, TEACH Scholarships as part of the Quality First package, FTF Professional REWARD\$, Oral Health, Home Visitation/Newborn Follow-Up, Community Awareness, Community Outreach and Media. Beginning in SFY14, the Care Coordination/Medical Home Strategy will also be provided in both regions since the Coconino regional council included the strategy as part of their SFY14 funding plan. The primary difference between the two regions is

the inclusion of professional development strategies for early care and education providers. This is a much stronger focus for the Navajo/Apache region. Individuals who wish to utilize funding for professional development must reside within the boundaries of the Navajo/Apache region.

- Twelve of the 15 direct service strategies funded by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council are implemented in Winslow. These include Quality First, Quality First Scholarships, Child Care Health Consultation, TEACH Scholarships as part of the Quality First package, Summer Transition to Kindergarten, Service Coordination, Oral Health, FTF Professional REWARD\$ (stipends for early care and education providers), Home Visitation, Community Awareness, Community Outreach and Media.

Community Feedback

Twenty-nine individuals in both the Coconino and Navajo/Apache regions were sent a survey to get their view on the impact of potentially moving Winslow into the Navajo/Apache region. Fifteen individuals responded. Survey highlights, which served as guideposts for the Task Force’s discussion included:

- **57%** stated that Winslow families more readily access services in Flagstaff.
- **All but one respondent** agreed that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council understands the needs of Winslow families and children.
- **86%** agreed that the Coconino funding plan addresses the needs of Winslow families and children.
- **71%** believe Winslow should remain part of the Coconino Regional Partnership Council.

Task Force members noted that all but one respondent expressed that the Coconino Regional Partnership Council understands the needs of Winslow families. The Task Force also took note of the fact that 71 percent of those who responded to the survey believe Winslow should remain a part of the Coconino region.

Additional Data & Task Force Discussion

First Things First provided historical context regarding the reasoning used to place Winslow in the Coconino region. Much of the initial discussion focused on the frequency with which Winslow families accessed services in Flagstaff. Further, the two current regional councils have recently worked to collaborate on strategies as well as funding. The Task Force also noted that the majority of strategies are funded in both current regions, with the exception of professional development.

A Task Force member who also currently serves on the Coconino regional council provided his perspective, explaining that the Coconino regional council has divided the region into distinct “hubs” for service provision, with Winslow one of the identified “hubs”. He said he does not see a compelling reason to move Winslow into the Navajo/Apache region.