

Statewide Initiatives Update

Quality First!

- Ena Binns was hired as Quality First Coordinator, with a start date of February 23, 2009.
- As of February 11, 2009, 559 applications were received to fill the first 300 slots available through statewide funding. Selection will be made and applicants notified between March 2 and 15, 2009, with continued outreach planned for regions with fewer applications.
- Regional Coordinators/Councils are in process of determining their own selection criteria for regional roll-out in July 2009, which is expected to more than double the number of Quality First participants.
- First Things First and the Coaching and Assessment Contractors are holding planning meetings monthly, most recently February 20, 2009.
- The first assessment training on the CLASS instrument occurred February 2 – 6, 2009, with 34 participants. The next assessment training on ECERS-R will be February 23 – 27, 2009.
- Current work on the database is continuing, with the ability to determine eligibility of applicants and to select participants based upon selection criteria due for completion by February 18, 2009.
- Names of Quality First contracting organizations were added to the website.

T.E.A.C.H. ® ARIZONA

- A contract amendment between First Things First and Association for Supportive Child Care to extend services from February – June 2009 was sent for signature on February 10, 2009.
- The first meeting of T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee held January 20, 2009; FTF holds two seats on the Advisory Committee.
- Conversations are beginning regarding how to address FTF Regional Councils' T.E.A.C.H. strategies scheduled to begin in July 2009.
- Marketing materials are being developed for outreach to early care and education providers and community colleges.
- Meetings with Arizona Community Colleges, begun in January, are continuing through February 2009. Outreach is targeted to Tribal colleges.

Child Care Health Consultation

- Intergovernmental agreement between FTF and Pima County Health Department to provide recruitment, training and quality assurance is awaiting final signatures.
- Additional agreements with other County Health Departments or other community health entities to employ child care health consultants are in negotiation.
- In collaboration with Business Services, Finance and Procurement, negotiations are 50% completed for the purchase and integration of CareFacts, the child care health consultation database, into the First Things First database.
- Child Care Health Consultant training is scheduled for spring 2009.

Parent Kits

- The contracted consultant completed outreach meetings with all Arizona birthing hospitals, except Tribal. A letter is being prepared to send to Tribal Councils explaining program prior to initiating contact with Tribal hospitals.
- A schedule of shipment of Parent Kits to hospitals throughout the state has been developed, with first shipment on February 9, 2009.

Compensation and Retention Administrative Home

- Policy and Finance are completing the RFGA, which is due for release on February 16, 2009.
- Administrative home contract award date will be July 1, 2009.

Statewide Competitive Grants

A review of 30 applications was completed February 10, 2009, and recommended applicants were forwarded to the Board for award decision February 24, 2009.