

LINKS - Learning Network for Kids: Early Childhood Shared Services

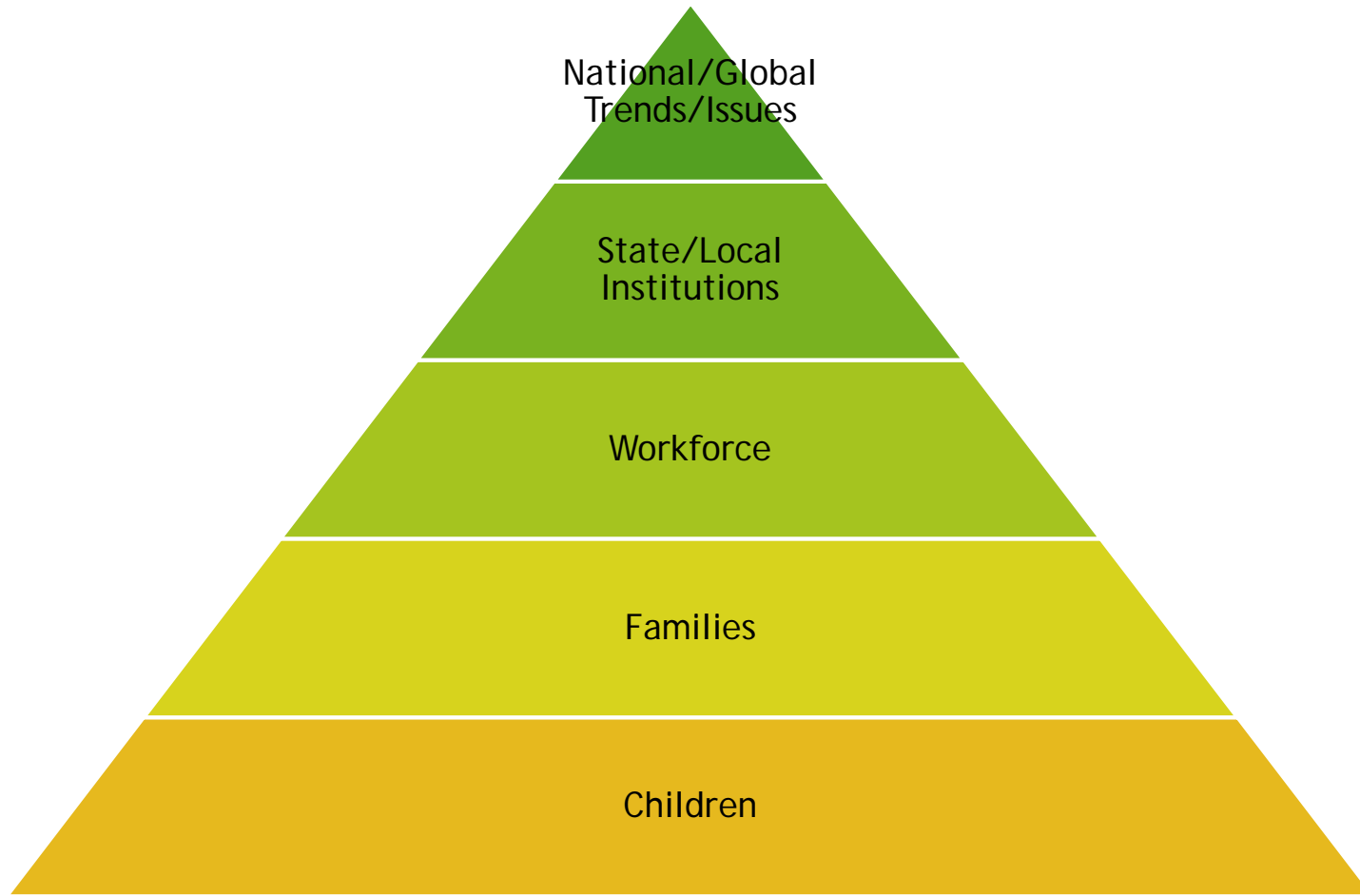
Health and Human Services Committee

Wednesday, July 10th

- Shannon Rivera, Executive Director, Early Childhood Programs, Western New Mexico University
- Terry Anderson, Project Coordinator, Community Partnership for Children
- Misty Pugmire, Executive Director, El Grito Head Start

Objectives

- ▶ Quality early learning programs
 - ▶ Children need to be the focus and the foundation of all decisions
- ▶ Childcare and Head Start Barriers
- ▶ Solutions
- ▶ Turning the Pyramid around



Quality Early Learning

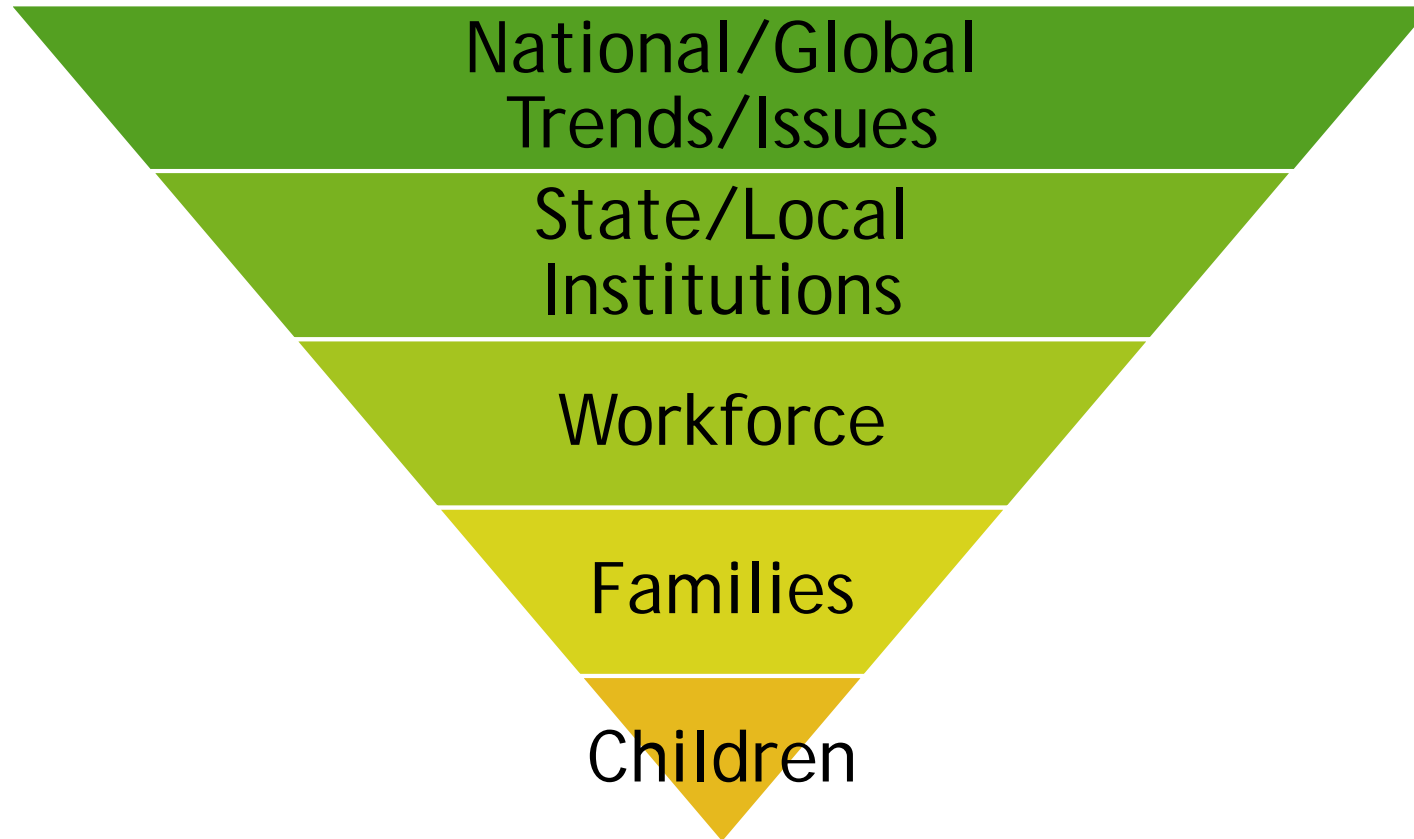
Quality Early Learning

- ▶ Education in New Mexico
 - ▶ Social/Emotional development
 - ▶ Learning through play
- ▶ Workforce Development
 - ▶ Funding for programs (HV, PreK, Early PreK)
 - ▶ Early Childhood HED Taskforce
 - ▶ Funding to support high quality faculty

Quality Early Learning

- ▶ Streamlining of services
 - ▶ Differences in requirements/regulations
 - ▶ Overlap of services, funding, and reporting
 - ▶ Training and turn-over

Currently happening



Childcare Barriers

- ▶ Communication between agencies
- ▶ Opportunities for training to raise stars
- ▶ Monitoring
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Competition for children's slots

Head Start Barriers

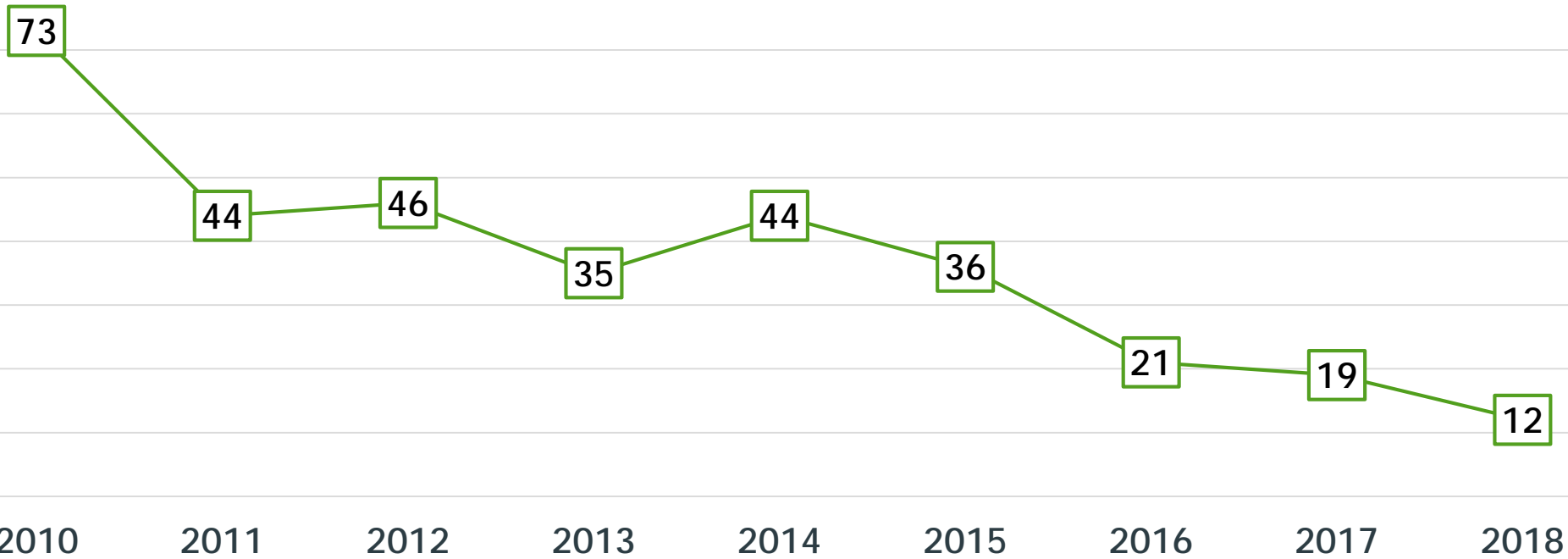
- ▶ Grant County
- ▶ Lost Federal Funds
- ▶ Loss of 40 students at \$7,954/student equals a total loss of \$318,160 in Federal Dollars

# of Students 2015-2016	# of Students 2018	Difference
184	144	- 40

Funds/Student 2015-2016	Funds/Student 2018	Difference
\$1,463,536	\$1,145,376	- \$318,160

Reduction in Head Start Enrollment

OF CHILDREN IN THE MINING DISTRICT



Solutions

- ▶ Children need to be the focus and the foundation of all decision making
- ▶ PED/CYFD Partnership
 - ▶ Equal funding and same standards
 - ▶ Collaboration and coordination of services
- ▶ Grant County Community Early Care & Education: LINKS Shared Services

What is Shared Services: a framework that supports multiple early care and education (ECE) sites as they seek to pool needs and share resources.

- ▶ Designs are unique to its participants, all share the goal of strengthening business and pedagogical leadership across participating sites by creating structures that enable sharing of staff, information and resources.
- ▶ Service Alliances improve outcomes for children by building organizational capacity, improving job quality, strengthening community partnerships and promoting long-term sustainability.
- ▶ **Shared Services Alliance** is a membership organization, or a multi-site ECE organization, through which Shared Services are provided.
- ▶ **Alliance Hubs offer a range of services and purchasing options to their members, such as:**
 - Bookkeeping, Billing and Fee Collecting
 - Marketing and Enrollment Management
 - Shared In-person Professional Development
 - Shared Administrative Staff
 - Shared Quality Support Staff – mentor teachers, QRIS supports, etc.
 - Fundraising and Fund Development
 - Staff Recruitment and Substitute Pool
 - Janitorial and Maintenance Services
 - Joint Purchasing



- ▶ Community Partnership for Children is the not-for-profit organization funding an overseeing this project. cpc.grantcounty@gmail.com
- ▶ Grant County Early Care & Education: LINKS is a shared service project currently working with five child care center programs to determine how this alliance will be created to fit the community economic needs and support their businesses in serving children and families in this area.
- ▶ Mission & Vision
- ▶ Funding over the past 4 years has been provided by: Con Alma, Thornburg, Brindle Foundations and Freeport McMoRan Community Investment Funds.



Sustainability of Shared Service Work

Current Services Provided to Partner Programs

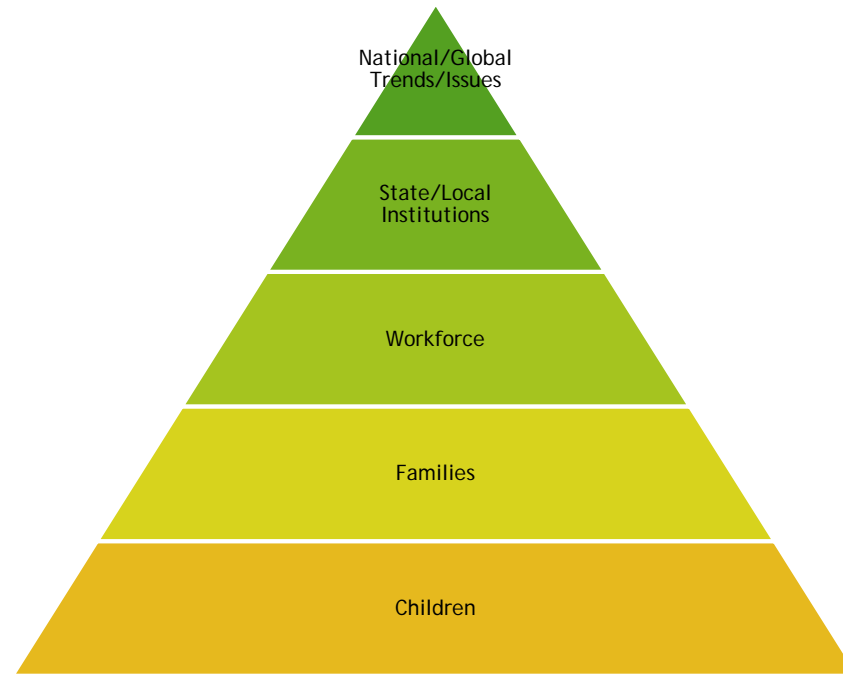
- Facilitated Monthly Meetings
- Support for Full Enrollment for All Programs
- Relief Squad Substitute Pool
- ProCare Software
- Shared Trainings
- Coordinated Efforts in Advocating for Critical Issues and Concerns in Grant County and State

Future Services for Partner Programs

- Bulk Buying through Cooperative Educational Services
- Centralized Enrollment for Subsidized Children/Families
- CPC/LINKS Website Linking all Partners to Market Programs

Turn the Pyramid around

- ▶ Quality Early Learning
- ▶ Department of Early Learning
- ▶ CYFD/PED Partnerships
- ▶ Support CPC/LINKS model
- ▶ TEACH Scholarship funding
- ▶ NMECA Website



Questions?

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- ▶ Terry Anderson tandersoncon12@gmail.com
- ▶ Misty Pugmire elgrito@zianet.com

References

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