**MEETING:** AHEC Commission Meeting  
**DATE:** August 24, 2023  
**TIME:** 12:02 - 12:48 pm  
**PLACE:** AHEC Zoom Meeting  
**HOST:** Leila Barraza  
**COMMISSIONERS:** Mike Oxtoby, Kenny Evans, Daniel Preston, Michael Allison, Randall Flores, Jessica Madrid, Suganya Karuppana  
**AHEC CENTER DIRECTORS:** Marica Martinic, Jeff Axtell, Ana Roscetti, Jennifer Smith, Felipe Perez,  
**OTHERS:** Jennifer Zuniga, Amanda Perkins, Marc Verhoogstraete, Tashina Machain, Shelley Vaughn

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCUSSION</th>
<th>Information provided by</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Called to order 12:02</strong></td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Leila Barraza</td>
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<td><strong>Nomination and Welcome</strong></td>
<td>Nomination of Michael Allison for a 2nd term as commissioner; motioned for approval by Daniel Preston, seconded by Mike Oxtoby. Approved by all commissioners.</td>
<td>Leila Barraza</td>
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<td><strong>Meeting Minutes</strong></td>
<td>Review and approval of May 25, 2023, meeting minutes; motioned for approval by Michael Alison, seconded by Randall Flores. Approved by all commissioners.</td>
<td>Leila Barraza</td>
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<td><strong>Financial Report</strong></td>
<td>A summary was provided of the Year-to-Date Financial Report for quarter ending June 30, 2023.</td>
<td>Amanda Perkins</td>
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<td><strong>Director’s Updates</strong></td>
<td>Welcome to New Regional Center Director, Jennifer “JJ” Smith, from CERE-AHEC (Center for Excellence in Rural Education). Arizona AHEC Submittal of Quarterly Narrative (June 2023) to HRSA. The larger narrative state report will be issued in November and provided to Commissioners. Arizona AHEC Submittal of 2022-23 Performance (Data) Report (July 2023) to HRSA. Highlights were provided in the board packet. Discussion of CBET hours in relation to national reporting totals, enabled by the state lottery funding that supplements HRSA funding. Arizona AHEC Receipt of Notice of HRSA Funding 2023-24 (August 2024). The award amount varies each award year. RHPP RFPs distributed and are in the process of being reviewed and awarded. Regional Center Scope of Work (SOW) provided to Center directors and are being prepared. Update on Graduate Medical Education one-time funding- The state legislature passed a funding appropriation to fund primary care graduate medical education (residency programs) in health centers in community health centers, rural health clinics, and tribal facilities. We have recently hired Ed Paul and Charlie Alfero to be co-Directors of the GME program. One-time $5 million appropriation will be used to support health centers that are interested in launching residency programs. Discussion of eligible entities will continue as plans and details are being worked out, so additional information.</td>
<td>Leila Barraza, Jennifer Zuniga, Amanda Perkins</td>
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will be available at future meetings. Funding method and process is still to be determined, ensuring compliance with Arizona state procurement policies.

| Additional Updates | AHI-AHEC: Jeff Axtell provided an update, including introducing a new staff member. Gila River Healthcare and San Carlos Apache Healthcare successful pathways summer programs, including one that continues on Saturdays through the year. AHI-AHEC 3-year strategic plan will be released soon with information from tribal and state agencies. New AHEC Scholar mentor onboarded and developing immersion plan. Secured a financial intermediary to assist in providing financial support to trainees. CAAHEC- Ana Roscetti provided an update on CAAHEC work on the AHEC Scholar immersions in Apache Junction and Prescott. Working with HOSA clubs who have participated in the prior year and scheduling pathways events for the new school year. CE events also continue. CERE-AHEC: Jennifer Smith provided an update on the launch of the new center serving the Eastern region. They’ve acquired legal, HR, marketing, accounting, all of the basic business units covered. Jennifer has met or connected with over 3 dozen academic units and sites. 13 students currently placed in CERE-AHEC housing. Met with nursing students to provide overview of Center and AzAHEC. Implementing a new system and hired a data analyst for intake and sorting of students in need of support. Very much looking forward to hosting Center directors and AzAHEC at next week’s meeting. CPCHP AHEC: Marica Martinic provided an update on youth programs, including hiring a new coordinator helping to get clubs up and going. Indigenous Pride program continued this summer and was replicated in Tuba City. Reached out to all RHPP programs to plan. AHEC Scholars immersions will be in Show Low and Williams. CE/CME programs continue as well, including a program with Local First Arizona and health provider resiliency workshops. New class of family medicine residents has started and the 1st class has graduated. SAAHEC- Felipe Perez provided an update. AHEC Scholar immersions will be in Santa Cruz and Cochise countries. HOSA clubs have restarted and hoping to expand to support new clubs, as well as additional pipeline programs. CME events are occurring and continue to be scheduled on a number of topics, including preceptor development. Planned for rural rotations and onboarded residents at El Rio. Continuing and expanding work with dental, PA, and other health professions trainees. WAHEC: unable to attend |

| Ended | Next meeting on November 16 at noon. | 12:48pm |
**ITEM** | **ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCUSSION** | **Information provided by:**
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Called to order | Welcome | Leila Barraza
Meeting Minutes | Review and approval of August 24, 2023, meeting minutes; motioned for approval by Kenny Evans, second by Mike Oxtoby. Approved by all commissioners. | Leila Barraza
Director’s Updates | Ed Paul has resigned from his position as an AZ AHEC Commissioner due to his new appointment in developing a GME. 

Ed Paul and Charles Alfero are developing a Graduate Medical Education program which assists residency program start-ups in Primary Care across rural, underserved, and tribal lands throughout Arizona. Direct additional questions to Ed Paul, edpaul@arizona.edu; or Charlie Alfero, calfero@arizona.edu. 

The 2023 Arizona AHEC State Annual Report has been published and distributed to ABOR, the Governor, and State Legislators (as required), plus the UArizona President, UArizona Executives, Commissioners and other meeting attendees. 

Amanda has been in contact with Centers that have submitted contract proposals that require follow-up. All RHPPs who have submitted proposals as of 10/15/23 have received their award letters. RHPP award year started July 1 and Center award year starts September 1. | Leila Barraza
Financial Report | A summary was provided of the Year-to-Date Financial Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2023. | Amanda Perkins
Additional Updates | New SAAHEC Center Director, Yolanda Perez. SAAHEC is busy recruiting for programs including pipeline programs, CME events, and clinical rotations/preceptor events. Planning underway for AHEC Scholars Spring Immersion. 

CAAHEC’s new Center Director will begin in December, a search is underway for a new CE coordinator, and Matthew Bertsch is now the Board Chair. Currently, assessing CE policies for redevelopment. Fall AHEC Scholar Immersions went well, and now they are preparing for Spring immersion. 

CPCHP AHEC’s Future Faces of Family Medicine program pairs high school students with mentors; future plans to offer multiple semesters as well as allowing job shadowing. Three preceptors were recognized as Preceptor of the Year. Also developing preceptor program that provides support on how to become a preceptor within the NCHC organization as well as adapting for preceptors outside. Family Medicine Residency selection has begun, four slots | Yolanda Perez

**OTHERS:** Jennifer Zuniga, Amanda Perkins, Colleen Reed, Diane Nunez, Ed Paul, Charlie Alfero, Christy Pacheco
available. Received notification from ATSU that they plan to eliminate partnerships with CHCs after 2025.

CERE AHEC welcomes new Executive Assistant Carmen Salinas. Currently building CBET processes for tracking LIC students within Payson. Collaborating with nursing program to educate about how CERE and AHEC can work with their students. Great fall immersion for AHEC Scholars program which aided in recruiting scholars for clinical rotations within Payson area. CE supporting weekly programming through Banner Payson and currently working on accreditation to provide CE through CERE AHEC. Also offered Women’s Wellness Clinic, CPR training, nutrition classes, and Health and Wellness Fair.

AIH-AHEC has developed three year [Strategic Plan](#) and is now creating an advisory board. Currently collaborating with NAU American Indian Nursing program and San Carlos Apache Healthcare. Developing relationships with Tohono O’Odham and Hopi.

WAHEC is seeing an increase in student enrollments and clubs. Focusing on recruitment and retention of AHEC Scholars to become future providers within the WAHEC region. Successfully implemented LIC program; current students will finish program January 2024.

| Ended 1:00pm | Next meeting on February 22, 2024, at noon. |

Jennifer Smith

Jeff Axtell

Joena Ezroj