



**6MEETING:** AHEC Commission Meeting  
**DATE:** August 28, 2025  
**TIME:** 12:00-12:46pm  
**PLACE:** AHEC Zoom Meeting  
**HOST:** Leila Barraza  
**COMMISSIONERS:** Paul Ferris, Kenny Evans, Michael Allison, Randall Flores, Lura Ryden, Matthew Bertsch, Navaz Dolasa  
**AHEC CENTER DIRECTORS:** Marica Martinic, Gloria Vasquez, Yolanda Perez, Jeff Axtell, Ana Montoya  
**OTHERS:** Andrea Zamora, Debbie Zagray, Rachel Ramos, Alyssa Gough, Bettie Coplan, Nicole Paredes, Angel Sanchez, Marni Valenzuela, Diane Nunez, Hildi Williams, Amy Kennedy, Becca Harris, Bryna Koch, Jennifer Zuniga, Christy Pacheco, Roy Sanchez

ITEM	ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCUSSION	Information provided by:
<b>Called to order</b>	Welcome	Leila Barraza
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	Review and approval of May 22, 2025, meeting minutes; motioned for approval by Paul Ferris, second by Kenny Evans. Approved by all commissioners.	Leila Barraza
<b>Director's Updates</b>	<p>The Program Office reported that a partial Notice of Award had been received, amounting to approximately \$200,000 less than the previous year. It remains unclear whether additional funding may be awarded later in the year. At present, efforts are underway to ensure that all programs can continue despite this reduction. State funding remains unchanged. It was also noted that the National AHEC Organization indicated all AHECs across the country received only partial funding compared to the prior year.</p> <p>The NCCR from Centers is due August 31. This funding applies to FY26 and begins September 1, 2025. Two contracts will be developed: one smaller HRSA contract and one state funding contract. RHPP Request for Proposals (RFPs) are currently being reviewed and are in the process of being finalized. These will be distributed within the next few weeks.</p> <p>The Program Office submitted its annual HRSA report in July. This report included data on the reporting of 320,000 CBET hours by Regional Centers, reflecting significant growth due to increased collaboration with RHPPs. Charts were reviewed that showed a notable increase in center-initiated hours, as distinct from RHPP-initiated hours.</p>	<p>Leila Barraza</p> <p>Jennifer Zúñiga</p>
<b>Financial Report</b>	A summary was provided of the year-to-date financial report for the quarter ending June 30, 2025.	Rachel Ramos
<b>Additional Updates</b>	<p>CERE completed its second year with Arizona AHEC in July. The pipeline program expanded the total number of clubs and achieved success in working with local high schools. The number of unique CBET trainees significantly increased this year. Participation in CE/CPD programming also increased. The first cohort of AHEC Scholars completed the program this year. A Women's Wellness Forum was recently completed, drawing hundreds of participants, and the CERE reported strong engagement in health education events.</p> <p>At SAAHEC, Year 1 Scholars completed rotations in Nogales, while Year 2 Scholars were in Bisbee working to establish a new pipeline program at the local high school. Pipeline programming included summer camps such as the SOCHI program, which ran two cohorts (freshman/sophomore and</p>	<p>Kenny Evans</p> <p>Yolanda Perez</p>



	<p>junior/senior), with plans already in place to repeat the program next year. Another camp, the Gear Up Program, provided a week-long experience at the University of Arizona and included presentations. SAAHEC is developing a preceptor faculty development event in partnership with United, Mariposa, and El Rio, in response to a high need for preceptor training in the community. CBET Letters of Commitment have been finalized, and follow-up is ongoing to ensure sufficient support. The NCCR will be completed soon.</p> <p>CAAHEC served hundreds of CBET students and implemented an automated notification system to alert students about future support opportunities during FY25. Year 2 Scholars participated in a community dental and health fair in Apache Junction, while Year 1 Scholars completed a windshield survey in Maricopa County. Pipeline programming included an expanded learning program with a camp, a dissection workshop, and a scientific research presentation. For FY26, the center will focus on Title I schools and financial literacy. CE programming expanded thanks in large part to accreditation from the Arizona Medical Association and automation system support, and efforts will continue to add new accreditations.</p> <p>AIH-AHEC hired a new pathways coordinator to support students entering college and to connect them with peer mentors. Two six-week summer programs were held with San Carlos Apache and Gila River. Supplemental funding supported a two-day simulation lab workshop where high school students worked on mannequins, practiced suturing, and toured ambulances. Year 2 Scholars will rotate in Hopi, while Year 1 Scholars will rotate in Fort Defiance under the guidance of a new faculty mentor. Rotations significantly increased compared to the previous year. AIH is working with Hopi Health Care and NAU College of Nursing to create pathways into nursing. With a full team now in place, outreach efforts will be expanding.</p> <p>With school starting, CPCHP is ramping up its pathways programming. Recruitment is underway for the fall Future Faces of Family Medicine program, which matches students with residents for workshops and shadowing opportunities. This program is now in its third year. Year 2 Scholars are completing rotations in Winslow, while Year 1 Scholars are in Flagstaff with a new mentor. A new CE coordinator is being hired. Accreditation processes are ongoing as expected. CBET activity remains strong, with a high flow of trainees in the region. Family medicine residency is seeking to expand from four to six residents per year, pending additional funding. CPCHP's Psychiatry residency program is in development and the accreditation application was submitted earlier this month. Residencies continue to help promote a culture of teaching in the community. The NCCR will be completed soon.</p> <p>WAHEC recently completed the Nuestros Niños pipeline program, a six-week initiative, and launched the Path to Medicine program, a one-week mini-medical program in which trainees, guided by physician mentors, presented on diabetes to family and friends. CBET efforts included a large number of students rotating.</p>	<p>Gloria Vasquez</p> <p>Jeff Axtell</p> <p>Marica Martinic</p> <p>Ana Montoya</p>
<p><b>Ended 12:46 pm</b></p>	<p>Next meeting on November 20, 2025, at noon.</p>	