



MEETING: AHEC Commission Meeting
 DATE: November 20, 2025
 TIME: 12:00-12:41pm
 PLACE: AHEC Zoom Meeting
 HOST: Leila Barraza
 COMMISSIONERS: Michael Allison, Randall Flores, Paul Ferris, Kenny Evans, Hannah Ponder
 AHEC CENTER DIRECTORS: Marica Martinic, Gloria Vasquez, Jeff Axtell, Shannan Gonzalez
 OTHERS: Rachel Ramos, Bettie Coplan, Nicole Paredes, Angel Sanchez, Marni Valenzuela, Amy Kennedy, Jennifer Zuniga, Matt Stelling, Kristen Natonie, Jerred Azares

ITEM	ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCUSSION	Information provided by:
Called to order	Welcome	Leila Barraza
Meeting Minutes	Review and approval of August 28, 2025 meeting minutes; motioned for approval by Kenny Evans, second by Paul Ferris. Approved by all commissioners in attendance.	Leila Barraza
Director's Updates	<p>There was an introduction of all those on the call for new AzAHEC members.</p> <p>The 2025 Annual Report was sent via email. It is also available on the AzAHEC website. If you didn't receive the report via email, or if you'd like a paper copy of the report, please let the Program Office know.</p> <p>A one-page summary of the 2025 Annual Report is also available on the AzAHEC website In FY25, AzAHEC supported 4,302 CBET rotations, provided over 6,000 K-16 Health Career Preparation Programs in Rural and Underserved Areas, supported health information events for nearly 3,200 community members, and provided 160 continuing education and professional events for over 4,700 health professionals.</p>	<p>Leila Barraza</p> <p>Jennifer Zúñiga</p>
Financial Report	A financial update was provided for Quarter 1, highlighting predictable year-end spending patterns and stable lottery revenue projections.	Rachel Ramos
Regional Center Presentations	<p>SHEC has hit the ground running as a new Center. Pipeline and pathway programs are strong. We had 160 senior citizens in attendance for a breast health awareness community event. 1,400 high school students attended a presentation on career pathways, which included a talk on the risk of vaping. With strong CBET collaborators, we can capture different rotations. Our first AzAHEC Scholars immersion weekend went well. We are working with the second cohort to host a health fair. For continuing education, we have partnered with Arizona Western College to bring the first event to the La Paz area. We are also working with Kingman Regional Medical Center to hold a virtual experience for continuing education.</p> <p>At CPCHP, Fall is off to a strong start. We had great enrollment for our youth programs, with about 100 students enrolled in 6 to 7 clubs. We are currently planning for summer programs, which will include the NAU summer camp. We are working with Hopi Health Care for our Tuba City expansion. We are down two coordinators right now, so we are trying not to overdo clinical rotations and continuing education events until we are fully staffed. AzAHEC Scholar immersions in Winslow went great. We had other community programs as well. What participants learned during presentations led them to the decision to host a health fair that we are now planning at the Winslow Healthcare Center in January. The Year 1 cohort completed their windshield survey in underserved populations. Our Psychiatry residency program had an accreditation site visit in</p>	<p>Shannan Gonzalez</p> <p>Marica Martinic</p>



	<p>October, which went well. The site visitor was very supportive. We expect full accreditation in February. Our Family Medicine residency program is interviewing for their next year of residents. We are also working on a new program to include ultrasound training for a grant for research study.</p> <p>CAAHEC has been very busy this Fall. We have had quite a few pipeline events, including a simulation event at University of Arizona in Phoenix, CPR training, and National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and Stop the Bleed events. We will have a pharmacy event in the spring. Our Program Manager recently presented at the HOSA Conference. We are applying for reaccreditation with ACCME and are hoping to submit surveys soon and then move on to the site visit. Our goal is to have this completed by next October. We will also be working on accreditation for the Pharmacy program this Spring. Our AzaAHEC Scholars Fall immersion in Wickenburg and Maricopa were a success. Student reactions were great; we are using their feedback to improve the Spring immersions in the same areas.</p> <p>AIH-AHEC has been busy this Fall as well. We have a new Academic Pathways Program to help first-generation college students get not only into college but through college to degree completion, a focus on recruitment and retention into healthcare careers. Our AzaAHEC Scholars immersion was in Hopi where they saw the health center there, participated in a ceremony, and went to Fort Defiance Window Rock Hospital for a presentation on traditional healing. Our youth programs continued to elevate, with our group at Gila River Healthcare receiving national recognition and an invitation to present at a conference in Seattle. We have new HOSA clubs starting along with other high schools. Our clinical rotations have seen a steady increase (10/week). We are in the fourth year of 5-year grant cycle and are planning an assessment to see where we are going next.</p> <p>SAAHEC signed a new affiliation agreement that will strengthen our pipelines. At El Rio, our Psychiatry and Family Medicine residency programs offer a strong pipeline for 3rd-year medical school rotations as those students begin to apply for residency. We hope that some of these students will want to stay with El Rio as employees. Our AzaAHEC Scholars Year 1 cohort went to Nogales for their windshield survey, which received great feedback. Our Year 2 cohort went to Bisbee where they had an amazing opportunity to be in the community. A great CME success was a preceptor faculty development day that brought together 50 providers and health care educators to help develop preceptors at sites, topics including preventing burnout and understanding why student learners can be an asset in the workplace. A 1-minute preceptor tool was developed in conjunction with educators. We also worked to clarify the expectations at the beginning of a clinical rotation. We are planning our Summer of Community Health Exploration Academy (SOCHEA), a one-week program for Pima County high school students interested in health careers. Applications opened on 11/1/25.</p> <p>CERE plans to support 140 students this year, and we have already received half of them, for which we provided direct support. Because CERE is in a Rural community, housing is a challenge. We've been working with MHA to provide housing. While this is going well, it requires significant time and energy. Two more Family Medicine residents will need housing along with the LIC and regular students. Our pipeline program is working closely with the high school, currently very successfully with the basketball and cross-country teams this quarter, providing health and fitness education. We have also worked very carefully</p>	<p>Gloria Vasquez</p> <p>Jeff Axtell</p> <p>Kristen Natonie</p> <p>Kenny Evans</p>
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	<p>with the community college here to develop dual credit and pre-dual credit opportunities for high school students, particularly with the Nursing program. The goal is to provide a better pipeline for local high school students to get into the Nursing program, which is one of the best in the country. For continuing education, we continue to add to our extensive electronic library. We hope to develop a better way of distributing this resource to those in Rural areas. We held a very successful professional development community health event that paired students interested in health careers with health care workers and community members who have difficulty getting health care.</p>	
<p>Ended 12:41 pm</p>	<p>Next meeting on February 26, 2026, at noon. Calendar invitations for 2026 meetings will come from Matt Stelling.</p>	