



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: AHEC Commission Meeting
 DATE: August 27, 2026
 TIME: 12:00-12:49 pm
 PLACE: AHEC Zoom Meeting
 HOST: Leila Barraza
 COMMISSIONERS: Michael Allison, Randall Flores, Paul Ferris, Kenny Evans, Navaz Dolasa, Sharon Taylor
 AHEC CENTER DIRECTORS: Jennifer Smith, Jeff Axtell, Yolanda Perez, Marcia Martinic, Shannah Gonzalez
 OTHERS: Jennifer Zúñiga, Rachel Ramos, Gina Buban, Nicole Paredes, Marni Valenzuela, Alyssa Gough, Abby Sanchez, Beth Zerr, Laurie Eells, Jen Peters, Bettie Coplan, Colleen Reed, Chad Brinkman, Joe Harrison

ITEM	ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCUSSION	Information provided by:
Called to order	Welcome and Introduction of attendees.	Leila Barraza
Meeting Minutes	Quorum confirmed. Review and approval of May 28, 2026 meeting minutes; motion for approval by Michael Allison, second by Paul Ferris. Approved by all commissioners in attendance.	Leila Barraza
Director's Updates	AZAHEC is currently recruiting for a Program Coordinator, Sr. position following Matt Stelling's departure from the University. During the transition, some meeting invitations and Zoom links associated with his account may be inactive. Updated meeting information will be provided as needed.	Leila Barraza
Financial Report	A financial update was provided for FY26. The year-end report showed that revenue exceeded original projections while total expenditures remained within the approved budget. AZAHEC continued to make significant investments in Regional Centers, RHPPs, and other statewide health workforce initiatives. Because many activities and financial commitments span fiscal years, reconciliation of outstanding commitments and invoices will continue into FY27.	Rachel Ramos
Programmatic Report	AZAHEC submitted its annual performance report at the end of July for the period 7/1-6/30. The FY26 activity performance was presented. Community-Based Education and Training (CBET) activities included 1,719 unique trainees support for a total of 567,394 rotation hours. The Arizona AHEC Scholars Program included 220 health professional students from Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) Universities. Additional program activities included 1,476 pipeline students supported and 5,286 health professionals participated in continuing education/professional development activities.	Jennifer Zúñiga
Regional Center Presentations	AIH-AHEC: AIH reported a successful summer and overall year, with program milestones surpassed. Youth programming served more than 200 students through six-week programs offered throughout the year. A new MentorME program was introduced to match Indigenous students with healthcare mentors. Thirty-one mentors from three ABOR institutions have already signed up for the program. Gila River Health Care is now a regional campus for the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix, with the first student recruitment anticipated by 2027. SAAHEC: SAAHEC reported a successful summer for pipeline programs. The SOCHEA program served 28 high school students in two separate sessions. A high school	Jeff Axtell



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	program in Santa Cruz County served approximately 40 students, and Mariposa Community Health Center also conducted a pipeline program. Fall faculty development is scheduled for September 25 and will focus on excellence in residency training, including providing effective feedback and meeting accreditation standards. The event will be held in person at El Rio at Manning House. Registration is currently open. The AHEC Scholars fall community immersion is scheduled for October 3–4. Year 1 scholars immersion will take place in Douglas, Arizona (a new community for SAAHEC!) at Chiricahua Community Health Centers. The Year 2 immersion will take place in Nogales. CPHCP: CPHCP recently experienced a change in its parent organization to El Rio and continues to navigate the transition. Abby was recognized for her work supporting AHEC Scholars, continuing education, and pipeline programming. CPHCP launched a new summer youth program, the Flagstaff Health Exploration Camp, modeled after the SOCHEA program. The in-person day camp was held at a clinic and served 14 students. The Future Family Medicine Faces program is entering its fourth year. High school students participate with residents in both didactic and clinical settings. CPHCP is continuing outreach to HOSA clubs for the upcoming school year, with at least four existing clubs and efforts underway to rebuild partnerships with four additional clubs. A new partnership with Yavapai County Community Health Services was established for continuing education, including dementia-focused trainings planned for the fall. Clinic CME programming may resume as the organizational transition progresses. CBET activities for graduate students were completed, and RHPP agreements were finalized over the summer. CPHCP anticipates significant RHPP support in FY27 and will focus on maximizing RHPP collaborations. Girls on the Run will begin in the coming weeks, with a new coordinator recently hired. The program will operate at 28 sites and serve approximately 400 girls. The residency program is progressing as planned, with recruitment for the next cohort expected to begin soon. SHEC: SHEC reported successfully completing its first year, with a primary focus on pipeline programming. In FY26, SHEC supported about 270 students across nine HOSA programs. SHEC supported the UA College of Public Health YES Camp in July and continues to operate the MentorME MD program. Staff are working with faculty mentors to plan upcoming AHEC Scholars fall immersion. The Year 1 immersion will be in Kingman is being conducted in partnership with the Public Health Department. Year 2 immersion will be in Yuma and will focus on substance abuse. For FY27, CBET support has been provided to 85 students starting clinical rotations soon. SHEC is currently developing FY27 MOUs with Sunset Health and Western College. CERE: The Family Medicine Residency Program in Payson expressed interest in partnering with CERE to develop a new high school shadowing program, which has now been established. Applications are currently being accepted, and the program will be offered quarterly. Each quarter will provide six students with 20 hours of clinical shadowing. Using state funds, CERE will provide lunch for participating students and providers, and students will receive a scrub top and medical terminology instruction as part of the program. CAAHEC: CAAHEC was not represented at the meeting. The following update has been provided by the CAAHEC director to be included in the meeting minutes:	Yolanda Perez Marcia Martinic Shannan Gonzalez Jennifer Smith Gloria Vasquez
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	The Central Arizona Area Health Education Center recently hired a new Youth Healthcare Workforce Specialist to support the pipeline program deliverables for the AHEC grant. Marcos Santana brings years of experience as a workforce case manager at the YMCA and as a high school English teacher. He has already demonstrated strong connections with teachers and is eager to help expand CAAHEC's pipeline program this year. We hope to host a summer healthcare camp in Maricopa County in June 2027. CAAHEC is actively planning the Fall AHEC Scholar Immersions. Year 1 Scholars will be in Prescott, while Year 2 Scholars will return to Wickenburg. We look forward to sharing about new community partnerships that will further enhance the Scholar experience. Our Continuing Education program recently completed the application, self-study, and interview with ACCME for reaccreditation. We are also continuing our partnership with the Arizona Psychiatry Academy, which will result in at least 12 events this year.	
Other Business	Michael Allison's second commissioner term has ended. Thank you to Michael Allison for your time as an AHEC commissioner! We have appropriate commissioner representation from the regional centers. However, we need new commissioner recommendations to represent the community. Please submit recommendations to the Program Office.	Leila Barraza
Ended 12:49pm	Next meeting on November 19, 2026 at noon.	