

**Greater Metropolitan Phoenix Area
Collaborative Charter**

Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition

This Kinship Collaborative Charter, effective as of October 15, 2007, is a non-financial agreement between each of the undersigned organizations that have come together to advocate for and address issues in connection with kinship families caring for children and youth who have been separated from their biological parents.

Recitals

A. Kinship care is widely recognized as the optimal out-of-home alternatives to create permanency for children, and keep them with their extended families and others that are defined as kin. In the Phoenix metropolitan area over 13,000 grandparents are raising their grandchildren which doesn't include other relatives raising kin. The Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition (Kinship Coalition) was formed in 1995 by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging and Beatitudes Center DOAR, as part of the Governor's Task Force on Aging, to address grandparent issues. The Kinship Coalition has been meeting regularly and is committed to sharing information and coordinating services to collectively increase the rates of success for kinship caregivers and their families according to the terms and conditions set forth in this Charter. In 2005, key state and community providers of kinship services came together to begin visioning how to more effectively address issues related to kinship care as defined by kinship caregivers, how to improve existing resources and access to such resources, and how to better educate the community regarding such issues and resources.

B. The Kinship Coalition has continued to expand its membership and is entering into this Agreement to commemorate the work that has taken place and to reflect the shared goals and objectives of the Kinship Coalition moving forward.

Agreement

In consideration of the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Mission.** The mission of the Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition is to support, educate and empower kinship care families with the purpose of promoting resilient, loving families.
2. **Shared Values.** The work of the Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition is driven by the shared vision that empowered caregivers will achieve stability and a permanent family connection for the children and youth in their care, and by the following core values:
 - Inclusion of the caregiver voice in planning and service delivery
 - Respect and recognition of the unique nature and cultural background of kinship families
3. **Objectives.** Through the Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition, the parties will work together to achieve the following shared objectives:

Meet kinship caregiver and family needs related to cultural and personal identity formation, community connections and supportive relationships, physical and mental health, life skills, education, employment, housing, respite, financial and legal services.

Expand resources and supports to kinship caregivers and families, assisting them in accessing all relevant and available resources and services.

Work toward evaluating and improving service delivery by collecting regional data and tracking outcomes for kinship caregivers and families, including the development of shared data collection and analysis methods as determined by the Committee.

Develop effective communications that facilitate kinship caregiver and family referrals and access to supports, services and resources community wide.

Enhance practice and services through joint staff training opportunities and technical assistance.

Expand the role of kinship caregivers as advocates on behalf of their families and children, and service/policy improvements.

4. **Operating Committee.** There shall be an operating committee ("Committee"), which will meet monthly to accomplish the Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition objectives. The Committee shall be made up of at least one (1) representative of each of the undersigned. Each member of the Committee shall have appropriate decision-making authority to serve on the Committee to design, agree to, support and implement the work of the Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition. The Committee shall be responsible to develop annual work plans, and to make decisions regarding the Arizona Kinship Care Coalition design, planning, operations, evaluation and the resolution of issues or disputes. The monthly operating committee meetings will be open to the community. Neither the Committee nor any member of the Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition shall have authority or control over the management or disposition of any party's assets or to direct any party to act or refrain from acting.

Subcommittees. The Committee shall appoint subcommittees as necessary to accomplish the Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition's objectives. The initial subcommittees are: Education/Training, Outreach/Public Relations, Events, Legislative, and Advocacy.

New Members. The Committee shall add additional members by written amendment to this Charter.

5. General Terms.

Personnel. Each undersigned party represents that all persons employed or otherwise retained by it to provide direct services to kinship families shall be properly trained and fully qualified to do so, and shall have been screened through appropriate background checks to ensure that they have no history indicating that it would be potentially dangerous, harmful or otherwise inappropriate for the individual to assume the assigned responsibilities or to interact with such families.

Confidentiality. During the Term of this Charter, the parties shall receive personal and confidential information regarding children, youth, and/or adults including names, addresses, physical and mental health data, family history and like information ("Confidential Information"). During the Term and thereafter, the parties, and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents (as applicable) shall hold such Confidential Information in strict confidence and shall not disclose the same unless (a) disclosure is permitted by applicable tribal, federal, or state law and (b) disclosure is necessary to provide services or is otherwise required by law.

Non-discrimination. No person shall be denied benefits or be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, citizenship, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation or belief. In compliance with the Department of Labor, regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, no qualified disabled individual shall be discriminated against.

Term; Termination; Renewal. This Charter shall remain in effect until December 31, 2009 ("Term"). Upon written notice to the Committee, a member organization may withdraw from this Charter at any time. This Charter may be renewed for additional terms by the parties' mutual agreement.

Liability. Each party is responsible for its own acts and omissions and those of its officers, employees, and agents. No party is responsible for the acts of third parties.

Third Parties. Nothing in this Charter is intended to, or shall be construed to, confer upon any persons, organization or entities, other than the parties to this Charter, any remedy or claim as third-party beneficiaries or otherwise. The terms and conditions of this Charter are for the sole and exclusive benefit of the parties to this Charter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Charter as of the Effective Date.

<p>AARP – ARIZONA</p> <p>By:</p> <hr/> <p>Lupe Solis Associate State Director/Advocacy</p> <p>Notice Address: 201 E. Washington, S. 1795 Phoenix, AZ 85004</p> <p>Tel: 602-262-5163 Fax: 602-256-2928 Email: lsolis@aarp.org</p>	<p>AREA AGENCY ON AGING – REGION ONE</p> <p>By:</p> <hr/> <p>Mary Lynn Kasunic President and CEO</p> <p>Notice Address: 1366 E. Thomas Rd. Suite 108 Phoenix, AZ 85014</p> <p>Tel: 602-264-2255 Fax: 602-230-9132 Email: kasunic@aaaphx.org</p>	<p>ARIZONA CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION</p> <p>By:</p> <hr/> <p>Fred Chaffee CEO</p> <p>Notice Address: 2700 S. 8th Avenue Tucson, AZ 85713</p> <p>Tel: 520-622-7611 x1315 Fax: 520-624-7042 Email: fchaffee@arizonaschildren.org</p>	<p>ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY</p> <p>By:</p> <hr/> <p>Tracy L. Wareing Director</p> <p>Notice Address: 1717 W. Jefferson Phoenix, AZ 85007</p> <p>Tel: 602-542-5757 Fax: 602-542-5339 Email: twareing@azdes.gov</p>
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<p>BEATITUDES CENTER DOAR</p> <p>By: _____ Elizabeth Brunstein Executive Director</p> <p>Notice Address: 555 W. Glendale Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85021</p> <p>Tel: 602-274-5022 Fax: 602-274-6793 Email: brunstein@centerdoar.org</p>	<p>CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS</p> <p>By: _____ Dennis Ichikawa Sr. Director, Arizona Field Office</p> <p>Notice Address: 378 E Palm Lane Phoenix AZ 85004</p> <p>Tel: (602) 252-9449 x48414 Fax: (602) 252-9665 Email: dichikawa@casey.org</p>	<p>CHILD CRISIS CENTER/EAST VALLEY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER</p> <p>By: _____ Carol Lopinski Family Support Director</p> <p>Notice Address: 604 W. 9th Street Mesa, AZ 85211</p> <p>Tel: 480-969-2308 Fax: 480-969-9277 Email: clopinski@childcrisis.org</p>	<p>GRANDPARENTS UNITED FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS</p> <p>By: _____ Billye Wilda Executive Director</p> <p>Notice Address: 1301 E. Whitton Phoenix, AZ 85014</p> <p>Tel: 602-273-0004 Fax: 602-273-0007 Email: bwilda@qwest.net</p>
<p>UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION</p> <p>By: _____ Lee Anne T. Peters Contract Officer</p> <p>Notice Address: 888 N. Euclid Avenue, Room 515 Tucson, AZ 85719</p> <p>Tel: 520-626-4589 Fax: 520-626-4520 Email: petersl@email.arizona.edu</p>	<p>SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>By: _____ Ginger Ward Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Notice Address: 2850 N. 24th Street Phoenix AZ 85008</p> <p>Tel: 602-266-5976 Fax: 602-266-6652 Email: gward@swhd.org</p>	<p>PHOENIX INDIAN CENTER</p> <p>By: _____ Patti Hibbeler Executive Director</p> <p>Notice Address: 4520 N. Central Ave. Suite 250 Phoenix AZ 85012</p> <p>Tel: (602) 264-6768 x101 Fax: (602) 274-7486 Email: pattih@phxindcenter.org</p>	<p>SEEDS OF HOPE</p> <p>By: _____ Mark Vanderheyden Executive Director</p> <p>Notice Address: 702 E Cottonwood Lane Casa Grande AZ 85222</p> <p>Tel: 520 836-6335 Fax: 520 836-4884 Email: mark@seedsofhopeaz.com</p>