



*Because aviation in Alaska is the foundation for connecting, transporting, and servicing our cities, villages, and rural communities, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator has chosen to engage the reader of this Quarterly Report by referencing aviation terminology to demonstrate Alaska’s unique nature of connecting, transporting, and servicing our communities with the TACSEI Pyramid Model.*

## **ALASKA’S TACSEI – WAY**

### **Logbook: First Quarterly Update | December 30, 2009**

The Part C and the 619 Programs are subparts under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that address early intervention services for infants and toddlers (Part C) and preschool programs for 3-5 year olds (619 Program) with disabilities or developmental delays. The Pyramid Model for Promoting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Young Children is a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices developed by two national, federally-funded research and training centers: The Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) and the Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Interventions (TACSEI). These centers’ faculty represent nationally recognized researchers and program developers in the areas of social skills and challenging behavior. Based on evaluation data over the last six years, the Pyramid Model has shown to be a sound framework for early care and education systems. Extensive training materials, videos, and print resources to help states, communities, and programs implement the model have been developed. As one of two states in the nation, Alaska’s Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Office of Children’s Services (OCS), received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fully implement the Pyramid Model in Alaska.

Over the course of the next three years, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership will conduct Pyramid Model activities for the Part C office and 619 Program through the addition of two contract staff, 15 Master Cadre members, 15 Demonstration Site Leadership Team members, and 15 Trainers. Through a facilitated statewide Leadership Team, Partnership work will include a TACSEI strategic plan, an evaluation process, and major initiative activities including: creation of a Master Cadre of professionals who will sustain the program, selection of three Demonstration Sites who will provide practice and fidelity to the model, and a cohort of Trainers to conduct Pyramid Model training statewide.

The Alaska TACSEI State Leadership Team is comprised of representatives from the following agencies/offices:

- 619 Program
- Alaska Federation of Natives Education Coordinator
- Alaska Infant Learning Providers Association
- Alaska Special Education Directors
- Behavioral Health
- Best Beginnings
- Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Education Coordinator
- Child Care Office
- Child Care Resource & Referral Network
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative
- Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education
- Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Head Start Training and Technical Assistance
- Part C Program
- University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

On November 5, 2009, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team met for their initial organizational meeting. The event drew 15 leaders from across the vast state of Alaska. Barbara Smith, Director of the TACSEI program from the University of Colorado-Denver, facilitated the orientation for the Partnership, which then led to guiding the members toward modified consensus on ground rules and creation of the mission statement. The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator, Charlie Johanson-Adams, facilitated an afternoon of planning and structure to move the Partnership forward. Four Working Group teams were formed to develop criteria and application materials for the Master Cadre members, Demonstration Sites, Internal and External Coaches, and Trainers. Timelines were set, teleconferences were scheduled, and the Working Groups were off and running. Everyone present left with a deeper understanding of how, through a Leadership Team concept, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership could thrive.



*During the November 5, 2009 Leadership Team meeting in Anchorage, members participated in an activity of “building the foundation” for the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team. Each pyramid block represents strengths of the Leadership Team.*