



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.



Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Flies a Flight Plan

In Alaska, where small planes are the mode of transportation for travel across the state, it is required to file a flight plan regardless of the distance between take off and landing at your destination. The flight plan details your route of travel, and requires calculated planning; much like the initial work of our Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership.

As the first order of business, the Leadership Team created a vision to provide members and participants of the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership a grander view of our purpose for the future.

The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Vision

OUR VISION is that all Alaskan environments for young children and their families have strong social and emotional foundations enhanced and strengthened through a caring network of professionals, parents, and community members.

The purpose of the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership **Mission** is to guide our daily implementation of the partnerships.

OUR MISSION for the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership is to design, implement, and sustain the Pyramid Model, a system of professional development practices for Early Learning professionals that consistently and collaboratively address the social and emotional needs of all Alaskan children birth-five and their families.

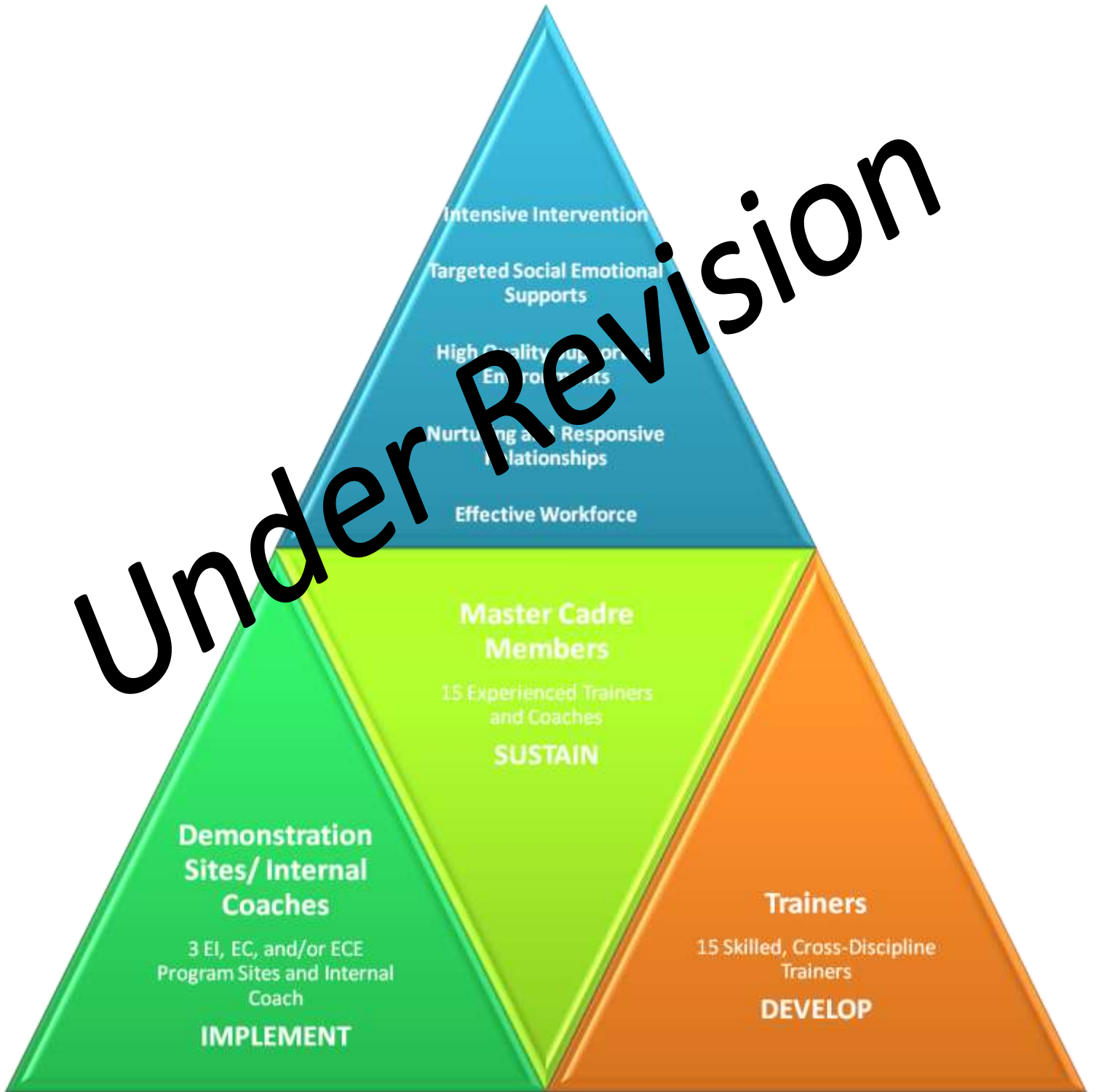
Next on our flight plan was to launch a method for frequent and consistent communication. A **Google Docs** site and a **Gmail account** were created for this purpose. To guide our communication, the Coordinator developed a **communications timeline** for the Leadership Team and **program management tool** (used internally).

The **Ground Rules**, initially agreed upon during Leadership Team Orientation meeting were posted on the Google Docs site, and provide a foundation for decision making and conduct of our meetings.

A schematic is in the development phases to best visually represent the implementation plan for the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership. A draft of this schematic follows on page 4.



Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership
Implementation Model 2010



Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Enters the Waypoints in Their GPS

Twenty-first century technology has greatly aided Alaska aviators through the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) installed in even the smallest of aircraft. Like an aviation GPS, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership is also creating statewide positioning to spread the implementation of the model.

Connecting the Waypoints

Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership has many levels of connections (waypoints) beginning with the Steering Committee, established in July 2009. The Steering Committee members assisted with the creation and development of the Federal ARRA grant submitted in August 2009. In October 2009, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team was established. The Leadership team is comprised of statewide decision makers in the cross-discipline fields of Early Childhood, Behavioral Health, Early Intervention, School District Administration, Head Start, and Child Care. A listing of the Leadership Team is posted on the Alaska TACSEI Google Docs site.



The State Coordination Team for the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership includes the state-level Director of the Early Intervention Program, Erin Kinavey, and the Education and Early Development Directors, Sharon Fishel, and Susan Steele. This team also includes the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator and technical support. The State Coordination Team meets monthly with the National TACSEI Consultants.

Coordination of the Partnership is through a private consultant/contractor Charlie Johanson-Adams, Leading EDGE Consulting. Coordination of the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership will take .5 FTE, while the virtual and technical support for the Partnership is provided by Jeanette Gardiner, Gardiner Business Support Services at .25 FTE.

Distribution lists have been established for wide and far-reaching recruitment of the Partnership's Master Cadre members, Coaches, Demonstration Sites, and Trainers. Well over 1,500 individuals and organizations within Alaska are actively connected to the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Distribution List.



Master Cadre Members

In January 2010, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership began the process of selecting Master Cadre members. Fifteen individuals will be selected according to the criteria established by the Leadership Team Master Cadre Working Group. A Master Cadre Selection Rubric has been developed to assist with the consistency and efficacy the selection. Master Cadre Position Functions have also been developed to help clarify the expectations of this position. They are as follows.

Master Cadre Functions

Overall Functions of Position

- Master Cadre Members will be responsible for training other trainers and coaches as the state “scales-up” and sustains implementation of the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Model.
- Following the state’s 2-year involvement with the national TACSEI consultants, the Master Cadre Members will function in the same capacity as the national TACSEI consultants.
- Master Cadre will be able to set-up program wide teams, expertly train the teams, and coach the sites, teams, and coaches to fidelity.

Year One

- Master Cadre Members must have their organization’s/school’s commitment of 0.15 to 0.25 FTE to sustain implementation of the Pyramid Model.
(http://www.challengingbehavior.org/do/pyramid_model.htm)
- Master Cadre Members will provide ongoing consultation and guidance in social and emotional development of young children to trainers and coaches within the state.
- Master Cadre Members will work with the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team to strengthen policies and systems to sustain the Pyramid Model at the local level.
- Master Cadre Member team will participate in monthly meetings with the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Coordinator to guide implementation.
- Master Cadre Members will assist with the collection of data on the effectiveness of the initiative and use evaluation for data-based decision-making.

Year Two (commitments in addition to Year One)

- Master Cadre Members will assist the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Leadership Team with the development and implementation of a sustainable training plan, and provide train the trainer and coach training events to build state training capacity.
- Conduct program-wide implementation events to build the capacity of program-wide adoption.
- Willingness to present the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership and the Master Cadre Member component at local and state conferences (*publication of this initiative is a possibility*).



Training Commitments

- Master Cadre Members will attend two Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership training events: Phase I -February 24-26, 2010 and Phase II-April 7-9, 2010, held in Anchorage, Alaska. If necessary, costs for travel, hotel, and per diem may be covered.
- Following Phase I and Phase II training, Master Cadre Members will begin implementing the initiative (by July 1, 2010).
- Web-based training conducted by a TACSEI mentor. Five, 2-hour sessions.
- Program-Wide Implementation Training, June 2-4, 2010: 2.5 day workshop and meeting for Demonstration Site Leadership Teams. If necessary, costs for travel, hotel, and per diem may be covered.
- Follow-up sessions, two 1 day meetings (mid-year and end of year) with Demonstration Site Leadership Teams, Behavior Specialists, and Master Cadre Members to review data, share progress, and problem solve.
- For Master Cadre Members interested in Behavior Specialist training: Minimum of 4, two-hour web training sessions (with follow-up implementation activities). Additional sessions might be provided as needed or desired.

Data Collection/Evaluation (Ongoing)

- Assist with the quarterly reporting to be submitted by the Demonstration Site to the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator. Evaluation and reporting will include:
 - evaluations of Pyramid training events
 - follow-up electronic survey of trainers and their trainings/coaching including barriers and supports to providing training and coaching
 - pre-post observation measures including the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) and the Teaching Pyramid Infant Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) for one classroom/setting
 - coaching log – what support has been provided to sites, time, commitments etc.
 - other possible measures, e.g. behavior incidence ratings (BIR), Benchmarks of Quality
 - TPOT and TPITOS on bi-annual interval, and child measures will include SSIS (Social Skills Intervention System), ASQ-SE or equivalent measures to track child outcomes
 - data will be shared across sites to inform decision-making and allow program modifications as necessary

Demonstration Sites

By mid January 2010, a Request for Proposals – Letter of Intent to be an Alaska TACSEI Demonstration Site will be distributed statewide. This process will allow programs, classrooms, and centers interested in becoming a demonstration site the opportunity to align their capacity with the criteria set by the Partnership. Selection timeline for the Demonstration Sites will be determined by mid-January.

Trainers

The process and selection of trainers for the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Model is currently under negotiation with the Alaska Child Care Office and Office of Early Intervention Infant Learning Program. More information will be available in the next quarterly report.



Spins and Stalls

In aviation, even the most calculated and practiced movement can be disrupted and cause a spin or a stall. Only by keeping a clear head and practiced recovery can disaster be avoided. Challenges and obstacles presented to the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership will follow the same rules as in aviation; clear headed thinking and practiced recovery.

At this point in time, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership is been in the initial forming stages of its development. The greatest challenge presented has been the clarification of functions between Master Cadre members, External and Internal Coaches. The Leadership Team is committed to gaining a clear perspective of the Partnership and their roles WHILE they are creating new and exciting standards for TACSEI implementation.

PRIORITY ONE at this stage of the Partnership is consistent communication between and among all the members, working groups, and applicants. This is NOT the time for misinformation and/or confusion, so great measures to include everyone on our distribution lists for minutes and reports are being taken.

Pilot Briefings

Knowledge, training, and practice are the constant forces in any pilot's career. Successful flights and challenging conditions are regularly discussed in Pilot Briefings. The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership will be "briefing" their Master Cadre members, Demonstration Site teams, and Trainers on the knowledge, training, and practice for successful implementation of the Pyramid Model.

Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Training Timeline

February 24-26, 2010:	Phase I Pyramid Model Training Anchorage
March 17-20, 2010:	NTI for the Alaska TACSEI Leadership Team Florida
April 7-9, 2010:	Phase II Pyramid Model Training Anchorage
March – July 2010:	Web-Based Master Cadre Member Coaching Training
June 2, 2010:	Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team Strategic Planning Session Anchorage
July 28-30, 2010:	Program-Wide Implementation Training Anchorage

