**MFSA: An Introduction**

**Who Are We?**

* MFSA Vision: Families prospering in supportive communities.
* MFSA Mission: Coordinate and grow a network of family support agencies and organizations dedicated to increasing the opportunities to be successful.
* Established in 2011, the Maricopa Family Support Alliance (MFSA) is an organization of family support organizations that is more than 80 members strong, led by a Steering Committee of community-based family support leaders.
* An initiative of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the MFSA was created by the family support community who sought a space and opportunity to connect across disciplines and agencies.

**How Do We Connect?**

* Convene quarterly for All Member meetings that focus on a theme that carries through the entire year.
* As the MFSA has progressed, the Alliance has engaged in specific special projects that have been identified by the membership as important and impactful.
	+ Examples include exploring centralized intake, incorporating the family voice in family support work, providing training on the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support, collaborating with the Institute for Sustainable Communities and supporting Utility Assistance and the Family Independence Initiative.

**How Do We Ensure We are Addressing Member Needs?**

* Members identified having a place to learn, connect and network was the key benefit of the MFSA.
* MFSA is an evolving and living organization and the opportunities provided are designed to be value-added to the family support work of members.
* On-going surveying of members at each All Member meeting seeking not only feedback on content but also guidance on future needs and how best to utilize MFSA.
* Annual survey of membership assessing connections as well as receiving feedback on member make-up, challenges and opportunities.

**How Can Organizations Join?**

* Any organization providing family support in Maricopa County is welcome and wanted.
* MFSA is about connection, not politics. To that end, MFSA does not take political stands, sign-off on legislation or lobby.
* No dues or required hours to be a member.
* Visit the MFSA website at www. MaricopaFamilySupportAlliance.org or email info@maricopafamilysupportalliance.org to learn more and receive membership information.

*10/11/18*