

Minutes
One Voice for Children Meeting – January 22, 2010

Jean Johnson, President of the Good Beginnings Alliance Board, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated that the purpose of this gathering was for the early childhood community to join forces as one voice - a strong and persuasive voice - to inform the public policy makers, and all those who aspire to public office, to put children at the top of their agenda and to be prepared to fund the services needed by children and their families. Initial comments from attendees included:

- It's been 25 years, and the current set-up is not working.
- To build a political advocacy campaign, we hope that everyone can support and agree on a position statement.
- How can we work together to pool federal funds as well as state funds?
- Need to include highly qualified teachers in the position statement.
- Need to build strong political action advocacy.

During this meeting, Jean Johnson introduced a Good Beginnings Alliance Position Statement and invited attendees to provide comment and take the statement to their organization for edits and suggestions. The goal is to write a common agreed-upon position statement that would be foundational to one collective voice for children.

Inputs were provided by attendees, and the attached revised statement reflects many of the comments made. Discussion followed as to leadership for this proposal. It is expected that more revisions will occur following community review. Key points made were:

- Data on children and programs needs to be included in the position statement.
- County by county background data should be included.
- Need for increased reference to education outcomes also – such as closing the achievement gap
- Role of families and their need for support should be included.
- Good Beginnings Alliance or a separate organization leading the effort.
- Must be inclusive of all.
- Need to bring in the business community.
- Should this be an alliance or a separate organization?
- Is it an advocacy or a lobbying focus? If it becomes a lobbying focus, the organization leading this effort must become a political action committee (501c(4))
- How will we know we are moving forward?
- What is the end goal? Need to define clearly what you want to accomplish.
- Define the criteria (e.g., direction, leadership) first before deciding if it should be led by Good Beginnings Alliance or a separate organization

Attendees agreed to take this information back to their boards and return for a follow-up meeting on February 19, 2010, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. to discuss these issues again.

A vote was taken on the name for this new advocacy effort, and “One Voice for Children” was the overwhelming choice. Additionally, three committees were established and attendees signed up for at least one committee:

1. Position Statement Committee
2. Organizational Structure Committee
3. How to Do It (Strategic Planning) Committee
 - a. Short-term Goals
 - b. Long-term Goals

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The next meeting will be on Friday, February 19, 2010, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Parish Hall at Central Union Church.