

Proposed Structure
For the Georgia Birth to Five Coalition
As amended by the Leadership Team on August 26, 2010

- I. Coalition Name: Georgia Birth to Five Coalition
- II. Mission Statement as revised (Mission & Approach document, attached)
- III. Leadership Structure:
 - a. Voices for Georgia's Children serves as Coalition Chair with Leadership Team for first two years (January 2009-December 2010)
 - The Chair sets meetings and meeting agendas with input from the broader coalition
 - b. The Leadership Team consists of at least 11 members including designated Chairs/Co-Chairs of Coalition workgroups
 - Provides input on quick turn-around decisions
 - Proposes set of Coalition operating principles and values for Coalition approval (including: 1) openness to taking legislative positions; 2) the Coalition is focused on children and their needs, not the needs of member organizations; and 3) speaking for the Coalition is different than speaking for your own organization)
 - Designs position descriptions, authorizations and limits for Coalition approval
 - c. The members of the Leadership Team are elected by the broader coalition. Members as of August 26, 2010, are:
 - Chair: Voices for Georgia's Children (as an organization)
 - Members chairing **Home Visitation** work group: Roberta Malavenda, Georgia Association on Young Children
 - Member chairing **Birth Outcomes** work group: Arianne Weldon, Family Connection Partnership
 - Member chairing **Early Care and Education** work group: Susan Walker, GA Partnership for Excellence in Education and Laurie Iscaro, consultant
 - **At-Large Member** Susan Bertonaschi, Atlanta Civic Site, Annie E. Casey Foundation
 - **At-Large Member** Ann Mintz, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta
 - **At-Large Member** Susan Paltrineri, Georgia Family Child Care Association
 - **At-Large Member** Elaine Draeger, Sheltering Arms

- **At-Large Member**, Kandi Spencer, March of Dimes

- d. The Coalition spokesperson is the Coalition Chair or her designee
- e. Voices for Georgia's Children provides ongoing coordination and logistical support for the Coalition

IV. Membership Criteria

- a. Non-governmental organizations
- b. Commitment to advocacy and public education
- c. Support for coalition's intent to take legislative positions
- d. Commitment to active participation and engagement in the work
- e. Willingness to communicate Coalition information to affiliates and members
- f. Commitment to sharing concrete resources to achieve coalition goals (e.g., write newsletter articles, share critical information with network, donate conference room space, provide communications capacity)
- g. Governmental organizations may be active part of the Work Groups but not voting members of the Coalition

V. Processes for Choosing and Implementing Priorities

- a. A priority issue is one which will be: 1) publicized annually; and 2) members will agree to take to their boards for approval or, alternatively, receive internal organizational commitment to give the issue priority
- b. Gather potential issues for consideration through a variety of means including: 1) Coalition members submit issues; 2) an environmental scan of other issues is conducted; a coalition meeting will be held annually to present potential priority issues
- c. The Leadership Team narrows down priorities and creates criteria for the selection process
- d. Develop criteria for selection, including: 1) long versus short-term goal; 2) for legislative issues, potential funding and legislative interest; 3) ripeness; 4) other, less visible issues for which the coalition should generate the climate of interest and public will; 4) there is an action plan to move the issue forward; 5) any priority issue must have an organizational leader (not necessarily Voices); 6) allow for some priority issues that may continue over more than one year
- e. At an annual decision-making meeting of the full Coalition:
 - Vote from among the proposed priorities (if the Coalition seeks 3-5 priorities, approximately 7 should be presented for consideration)
 - Form workgroups around each selected priority

- Plan strategy and action steps for moving ahead on the priority

VI. Decision making Approach

- a. On issues already identified as Coalition priorities:
 - For questions requiring a quick turnaround, the priority workgroup makes decision but check back with Leadership team if there is need and time
 - If there is a change in strategy, it is communicated to the full Coalition as soon as possible
- b. At a future Coalition meeting there should be a discussion about how to resolve conflicts (e.g., will the Coalition operate by consensus, majority vote, Leadership Team decision, or other mechanism)

VII. Communications Expectations

- a. Set up a workgroup on rolling out Coalition priorities
- b. It is the responsibility of the Chair to communicate regularly with members
- c. It is the responsibility of the members to communicate regularly with the Chair
 - The Leadership Team will set up criteria for what Coalition members will be expected to communicate to the Chair