

APR 6 RECD

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL H. RASCO &  
WILLIAM GALSTON

FROM: Suzan D. Johnson Cook *SJ*

Re: NGA's Intergovernmental Workgroup  
On Children

Date: April 6, 1994

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The last meeting was held last Tuesday, March 29th, and was well attended. Primarily we worked on the vision statement, but I have attached minutes from the meeting as well as the proposed vision statement which has notes of recommended changes. The updated version with corrections will be faxed over when ready. (I left at 12 noon to come to our DPC meeting).

What NGA hopes to do is this: Have a news conference by July '94 before Gov. Campbell's tenure is over, announcing the group and the releasing the vision statement. By June, they want each organization's sign-off on the vision statement (including the White House), asking for our support.

Over the next 12 months, their aim is to have some legislation or to provide the Federal framework for legislation.

Please keep me posted on how to proceed. I plan to attend each monthly meeting. The next is scheduled for April 25th.

**NATIONAL  
GOVERNORS'  
ASSOCIATION**

Carroll A. Campbell Jr.  
Governor of South Carolina  
Chairman

Raymond C. Scheppach  
Executive Director

Howard Dean  
Governor of Vermont  
Vice Chairman

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444 North Capitol Street  
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March 31, 1994

**M E M O R A N D U M**

*To:* Suzan Johnson Cook, White House  
Ken Rynne, Senate Democratic Policy Committee  
Nelson Rockefeller, Senate Minority Leader's Office  
Dorothy Jackson, House Democratic Steering  
and Policy Committee  
Bob Okum, House Minority Leader's Office  
Lydia Bjornlund, ICMA  
Stephanie Harrison, CSG  
John E. Kyle, NLC  
Laura Waxman, Conference of Mayors  
Sheri Steisel, NCSL  
Marilana Sanz, NACo

*From:* Linda McCart  
Margie Siegel

*Re:* Partnerships for Children  
Workgroup Meeting

The fourth meeting of the intergovernmental workgroup on children is scheduled for April 25, 1994, in the Hall of the States from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

We appreciate the excellent attendance at our meeting on March 28 and we are close to finalizing the vision statement and principles. As indicated in the attached minutes, the changes will be reflected in the next revision which we hope to get to you early next week.

The meeting on April 25 will include a discussion about our final product and the types of examples we want to include, a review of the changes to the vision statement and principles, and a discussion about the questions from the March 28 agenda that we did not have time to address.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN

### Minutes

March 29, 1994  
Room 283  
Hall of the States  
444 North Capitol Street

The third meeting of the intergovernmental workgroup on children began with introductions, approval of the minutes from the February 28 meeting, and distribution of a Congressional Research Service report, *Federal Programs For Children And Their Families: An Overview*, and a *Governors' Bulletin* article highlighting Governors' children and family initiatives from the 1994 state-of-the-state addresses.

The time frame for the group's work was discussed. The interim product—a vision statement and guiding principles for reform endorsed by all participating organizations—must be finalized, with organizational sign-off, by June 1, 1994 to be ready for the opening news conference at the National Governors' Association annual meeting on July 16. After participating organizations approve the document, it will be sent to the White House and Congressional leadership to ask for their support for both the vision and for our next project, specifications for federal legislation to fulfill the vision. The legislative specifications should be completed by the beginning of next summer. Although we will discuss this phase of our work in more detail as we get further along, the specifications may include state demonstration authority to blend funding streams and waive statutory provisions.

The form our current product will take (e.g., brochure, poster, or video) was discussed. It was agreed that a brochure would be the easiest product to disseminate. However, Robert pointed out the importance of setting our vision and principles in context. He suggested that in addition to a brochure, we produce a longer document that makes a case for implementing the vision. This document would outline what we are trying to accomplish, why we are trying to accomplish it, and why we need waivers and federal legislation to do it. Organizations participating in the workgroup would provide examples of innovation in child and family service delivery at the state and local levels to show what can be done and to demonstrate our commitment to reform. The need to eliminate federal and state barriers to facilitate reform efforts would be stressed. There was general agreement on producing such a document. The cost of producing a short video will also be explored. Barry suggested that we keep in mind who our audience is as we decide the shape of the product.

The revised vision statement and principles for reform were reviewed again. Several suggestions were made for fine-tuning the document. Participants agreed that throughout the document, in the listing of support systems, "or" should be used instead of "and" to make it clear that support from government is not always necessary. Because family supports and services are inextricably linked to child outcomes, it was also agreed that the term "children and families" be used consistently throughout the document to make it clear that our vision for reform includes family services as well as services targeted directly to children. It was also decided that "federal, state, and local government" would be used consistently wherever levels of government are addressed. Specific

comments and suggestions will be reflected in the revised vision statement and principles Linda will send out prior to the next workgroup meeting.

Linda encouraged all workgroup members to share the vision statement and principles with the individuals in their organization responsible for policy for their input. Barry asked the group to consider the effect of applying these principles. If you were to apply these principles, would the world be any different? Would the service delivery system change significantly? Will they move us toward a common understanding of what we want to do and where we are heading? Will they move us toward our vision?

Robert noted that we may want to consider taking advantage of the opportunities at hand to influence legislation. He suggested that both ESEA and Head Start reauthorization provide clear opportunities to begin implementation of the vision. It was suggested that if we don't get involved, we may miss a valuable window of opportunity to influence children's policy and lay the groundwork for our legislative proposal next summer. The group decided that it was too late to play a major role in the reauthorization of ESEA, however, we may be able to play a role in the Head Start reauthorization. Margie will get a copy of current Head Start law and the proposals for reauthorization and will check for areas of overlap or inconsistency with our work.

We did not have time to address questions about the scope of the initiative. At the next workgroup meeting we will address these questions and make a decision on the type of innovative state and local programs to highlight in the proposed document for June. We will also review the revised vision statement and principles. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Participants in Attendance:**

Suzan Johnson Cook, White House  
Ken Rynne, Senate Democratic Policy Committee  
Nelson Rockefeller, Senate Minority Leader's Office  
Bob Okun, House Minority Leader's Office  
Lydia Bjornlund, International City/County Management Association  
John E. Kyle, National League of Cities  
Karen Home, Governor's Office, State of South Carolina  
Cheryl Mitchell, Vermont Agency of Human Services  
Kristen Ames, Governor's Washington Office, State of Oklahoma  
Robert Hoffman, Governor's Washington Office, State of California  
Kathee McCright, Governor's Washington Office, State of Minnesota  
Linda McCart, National Governors' Association  
Margaret Siegel, National Governors' Association  
Barry Van Lare, National Governors' Association  
Evelyn Ganzglass, National Governors' Association  
Elizabeth Stief, National Governors' Association

# Partnerships for Children

## Vision Statement

*put this  
to cement it  
content  
(order posting  
booklet)  
need for  
remind people  
why all the  
doing this*

Children are America's most valuable resource. They are important to society because of their intrinsic value now and their potential for the future. Children deserve to be loved and cared for, to feel secure in the present and in reaching for the future. They deserve good health, adequate nutrition, safe and affordable housing, safe environments, a quality education, and an affirmation of their culture and self-worth.

Parents are children's first and primary caretakers. *approval centers for* Families are the fundamental building block of a strong society. They provide the basic essentials and nurture their children. Families are their children's first teachers and provide moral guidance, intellectual stimulation, and continuing encouragement for learning. At times, all families may need support to carry out these functions. This support may be from extended families, friends, religious and cultural institutions, schools, businesses, community institutions, and governments.

Communities are places where children are nurtured in their development and where families are recognized for their strengths and supported in their efforts to take care of their children. States support communities as they seek to empower families. The federal government supports states and communities in their efforts to enhance the well-being of children and families. *Send*

## Principles for Reform

The following principles are offered to guide America as the nation seeks to achieve this vision. They begin with recommendations that reflect a standard that we believe all support systems -- families, friends, religious and cultural institutions, schools, businesses, community institutions, and governments -- should strive to achieve for all children. The principles are based on the additional belief that families and communities are in the best position to determine the types of support that is needed and that families should have access to that support as soon as they need it.

*It should  
have ready access  
if + when they need*

1. Support for children -- whether from family, friends, religious and cultural institutions, schools, businesses, community institutions, <sup>and</sup> governments -- should promote physical and emotional security and health, help children reach their full potential, and help them maintain caring and loving relationships with others and participate in the social activities within their schools and communities.

*learning and*

2. The role of federal <sup>and local</sup> and state governments is to ensure basic health and safety for all citizens, ensure accountability for public funds, and support the development of programs and services requested by families in communities.

3. <sup>That meet the needs of</sup> Government's <sup>primary</sup> first and foremost responsibility -- at the local, state, and federal levels - is to do no harm, e.g., government should eliminate perverse incentives that place the needs of children and their families in categorical boxes and discourage family unity.

*is absolute  
guaranteed*

4. Communities -- individuals and institutions that share common values and characteristics -- play a key role in creating environments where children can thrive and where families can obtain <sup>the support</sup> the support they need in order to meet their responsibilities.

*financial stability*

*+ between the public & private sectors*

5. Children's support systems should be supported by new partnerships among federal, state, and local policymakers. The relationship between federal, state, and local governments should be built on mutual trust and agreement on a common set of <sup>specific</sup> <sup>positive</sup> outcomes for which all parties are held accountable. This new partnership is characterized by a shared vision, goals, and objectives, and shared responsibility for technical assistance and professional development.

*results*

6. Government-supported programs and services for children and families should be driven by ~~specific~~ <sup>results</sup> specific, positive ~~outcomes~~ <sup>results</sup>. Funding strategies should be designed to promote these positive results. Accountability should be measured and shared at the family, community, state, <sup>local</sup> and federal level.

7. Federal, state, and local policies to achieve the vision should drive funding strategies.

8. Funding priorities should support programs and services for children that have demonstrated results, are cost-effective, are easily accessible, and focus on prevention and early intervention to avoid crisis and more costly assistance later on.
9. Federal, state, and local budget processes should promote the development of consolidated services that meet the multiple and inter-related needs of children and their families.
10. Funding should promote flexible approaches which achieve positive outcomes and recognize the diversity of states and localities.
11. Frontline staff should have the time, skills, and support to build relationships of trust and respect with children and families that continues over time.
12. Children's support systems should have sufficient resources for staff training, strategic planning, and evaluation systems to track progress toward goals and identify areas of concern.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO  
*Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy*

To: Malston

Draft response for POTUS  
and forward to CHR by: \_\_\_\_\_

Draft response for CHR by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reply directly to the writer  
(copy to CHR) by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please advise by: \_\_\_\_\_

Let's discuss: \_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

Reply using form code: \_\_\_\_\_

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Send copy to (original to CHR): \_\_\_\_\_

Schedule ? :  Accept  Pending  Regret

Designee to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: Please oversee. Should keep  
intergovernmental  
informed, let Susan  
know.

The White House  
Washington

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→ CAROL RASCO  
BILL GALSTON

To: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX No: 456-7739 \_\_\_\_\_

From: SUSAN D. JOHNSON COOK \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 456-5575 \_\_\_\_\_

Date: April 6, 1994 \_\_\_\_\_

Pages (Including cover): 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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