



**Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition Minutes
March 22, 2010**

Transitions Center 11:10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Members Present at meeting: Yolanda Freeman, Dalia Smith, Maureen Cieszlak, Laura Hill, new parent Kimberly Barber, Lula Haynes, Jill Armentrout, also guests Marissa Zamudio, Matt Gillard and GSC Director Julie Kozan

- I. Choose secretary, Sgt. At arms, greeter
 - Elect for 3-6 month terms – not decided yet.

- II. Training on making presentations and budget review with ECIC's Matt Gillard
 - Presenting on Great Start, recruiting new members
 - Tell your story and your role with Parent Coalition
 - Present the needs for investment in early childhood
 - Ask for commitment from group to do something (sign a letter or add message to postcard for legislators, give input) right after presentation, before they lose interest.
 - Budget updates for state 2010-11
 - Some concerns about Great Start School Readiness free preschool slots if school districts have choice about using funds for this.
 - Child Care Enhancement Program, which helps children facing behavioral problems in early years, set for elimination.
 - Timing of Star Power in May good for budget process – time to follow up after with letters, emails to legislators as bills presented this summer.
 - Facing \$1.6 billion revenue gap this year. Discussion by some for reforms, changing tax structure to include tax on services. Legislature discussing some of these options, may not vote on them.
 - Want to use April 22 community forum to provide information on the budget and get parents fired up. Discussion of idea of skit with children (using information similar to First Five Years video) as part of forum. Look for new ways to get message out and get discussion going.

- III. Adjourn

Submitted by Maureen Cieszlak