Notes from 09-16-09 Webinar

Coalition Partner Survey
We had 17 respondents to the survey with virtually all feeling that the three strategies were well-aligned with their organization’s priorities. 7 did not answer the questions about possible areas for collaboration or their current level of engagement. Partners on the Online Meeting requested we make another request of those who did not respond to do so. Among those who did respond, there was a high willingness to consider all forms of partnership, particularly data and evaluation and web communications and marketing.

Review of the Third Draft of the Theory of Action
Online meeting participants felt that the abbreviated names for goals and the revised focus for the second goal to “improve early learning opportunities” to reflect our decisions on 9/03/09 were appropriate. Partners also felt that the groupings of sub-strategies for each strategic initiative area made sense. They also prefer that the Theory of Action continue to reflect all of these, noting that a one-year Action Plan that we will be developing on 9/24/09 will include more finite/prioritized sub-strategies.

We discussed the draft Success Measures, removing a few altogether and recommending that two be removed, but used in discussions with broader efforts like Commitment to Community and the Community Council to consider joint action. These two are: % of healthy-weight babies and % of pregnancies to teen parents. This conversation and the one about the appropriate level of accountability for our goal of improving early learning opportunities, suggest we need more discussion at the 9/24/09 meeting on the appropriate level for success indicators, what type of indicators will capture what is within our ability/authority (e.g. we can only encourage child care providers to participate in any effort we plan), and realistic methods for gathering and analyzing data.

Review of the Draft Road Map
Coalition partners liked the general layout, but suggested the following changes (reflected in the revised draft):
- Remove the section on “What We Will Do, When, and Who Leads” sections on each of the strategic initiative descriptions and create a one-page stand-alone piece (the Action Plan we will develop on 9/24/09) that can be revised as things change.
- Remove the Budget and create a one-page stand-alone piece for appropriate efforts
- Revise the categories on back cover to include items such as “If you think your child had special needs”

Governance
Garrison discussed the need to have identified processes for raising specific issues for Coalition deliberation so that potential partners will know what the process is before they decide if they are willing to Endorse the Charter. Funder will also want to have an idea of who is making decisions of various types and how. We brainstormed some sample scenarios and Coalition partners asked Garrison to bring a discussion draft to the 09-24-09 meeting for group work.

Garrison will also include possible methods for raising and discussing issues such as the existing monthly meetings and email as well as other technological solutions like Google Group, Box.net, teleconference, etc.