

Planning and Legislative Forum on Health, Education and Economic Development Issues Impacting women, Children and Families

Meeting Summary, March 10, 2007

The Atlanta Regional Commission and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Northwest Chapter, in collaboration with United Way in Cobb County, convened a Planning and Legislative Forum on Health, Education and Economic Development Issues Impacting Women, Children and Families” at Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant in Cobb County on March 10, 2007. This event was convened as a continuation of ARC’s Global Atlanta Works community conversation series. 35 individuals attended, included community leaders, state legislators and other local elected officials representing Cherokee, Cobb and Douglas Counties.

Highlights included the following:

Perspectives on 2007 Legislative Priorities panel- State Representatives Tyrone Brooks (Fulton and Douglas), Roger Bruce ((Fulton and Douglas), Sean Jerguson (Cherokee County) and Rob Reilhet (Cobb County)

Issues Briefing by Experts: (1) Health - Dr. Wyndolyn Bell, Vice President, Health Advancement Solutions, Uniprise, A United Health Group Company, (2) Education - Benita Dodd, Vice-President, Georgia Public Policy Foundation, (3) Workforce/Economic Development- Tamila Howard, Senior Principal Program Specialist, Workforce Development Division, ARC

Roundtable Topic Dialogues with Elected Officials- State Representatives Tyrone Brooks, Bruce, Jerguson and Reilhet, joined Patricia Tanner, Canton City Council member, Holly Marie Walquit, Marietta City Council member and Annette Kesting, Cobb County Commissioner in facilitating the discussion and reporting recommendations back to the group at large. Recommendations answered the following questions: What action should be taken next? Who should lead the effort? And when should it happen? Discussion centered around working together around legislative issues related to employment, transportation funding, health care for children and educational improvements including school vouchers.

Call to Action and Wrap-Up- Cobb County State Representative Elisha Thomas Morgan summarized the meeting and emphasized the importance of maintaining contact with elected officials. She commended ARC and the Coalition for bringing the groups together and provided key information (websites and other sources) for maintaining contact with what’s going on at the legislative session. The group was also provided contact information for members of the Senate and House of Representatives for the 3 counties.

Through this effort, alliances were formed and agreements established on ways to move forward during this session and beyond.

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Northwest Chapter, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that advocates locally on behalf of women of color in Cherokee, Cobb and Douglas Counties through local actions and alliances addressing health, education and economic development issues.