



Beginnings of the CommonHealth Program

Achieving Change in Tough Times

Mass Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs

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Getting Started



Identify your goal ... be specific and be sure it can be expressed on the back of a business card

Identify your partnerswho is affected by this issue? Who else might be willing to help?



Strategies for success



Focus on communication... how can you inform others about the issue, what's happening, what needs to be done?

Be flexible... you can capitalize on opportunities more easily if you are creative about your approach

Look for the best strategies Spend time thinking about the best way to get the person you are trying to influence to make the right decision



Strategies for success



Find a role for everyone who wants to help.....when working for change, there are many needs. Find and exploit what each person does best

Let leaders emerge from the group.....leadership can come from unexpected places, based on time, need, passion

Focus on your effectiveness, not size...don't worry about the #s of people you have involved, but on whether you are getting the job done



Celebrate success



Thank all who have participated..... Make sure that people feel appreciated for the work they've done. Send cards and notes, gather together, find opportunities to recognize roles

Celebrate your successes...along the way....progress is often made in small steps. Even when the whole goal is not realized, there are steps to recognize

Keep in touch..... Communication is a key tool. Keep those who've participated in touch whenever possible, to be ready when the next opportunity arises!

Find inspiration!



From Mass Family Voices, www.massfamilyvoices.org...

- *The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.” - Chinese Proverb*
- *“Leaders are visionaries with a poorly developed sense of fear and no concept of the odds against them.” - Dr. Robert Jarvik*
- *“Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way.” - Abraham Lincoln*