

### **Handout 1: Early Childhood Workforce Research Alliance Case Narrative (Hypothetical)**

The Early Childhood Workforce Research Alliance (ECWRA) is composed of representatives from a single state. The members are state early childhood administrators, including staff of departments of education, child welfare, and health and human services; early childhood program directors, including Head Start and other public programs; and representatives of large school districts, including directors of elementary curriculum and literacy specialists. ECWRA members have the common concern that the quality of early childhood education is not sufficient or consistent enough to ensure that all children in the state come to school ready for kindergarten. The representatives of school districts and the state department of education are particularly concerned that children lack the preliteracy skills necessary when entering kindergarten. Other members have expressed concern about the very high turnover among early childhood teachers and the generally uneven quality of early education. The state is interested in establishing a quality review process for the state's early childhood programs, and several of the early childhood educators in the ECWRA are also interested in increasing the professionalism of early childhood education by establishing a credential for early childhood teachers. These are some of the ideas the group has generated so far. The ECWRA members would like to find some common ground in terms of specifying the problem to be addressed and setting some concrete goals.

**Discuss: What is the problem? What are the members' goals?**