

MEMORANDUM

To: Coordinating Council for Hearing Services members
From: Co-Chairs Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick and Rose Vasquez
Date: February 2, 2010
Subject: Coordinating Council recommendations

After thoroughly reviewing all of the data and discussion put forth by the Coordinating Council over the past two years, it occurs to us that our efforts might best be served by narrowing the focus of the Council's work, at least at this time. In our humble estimation, the Council's goal of identifying a preferred future that addresses a wide range of issues and groups might be improved were we to concentrate on one area where Council members have demonstrated change to be the most critical and where we have gained the greatest consensus among Council members. To that end, we are asking Council members to consider focusing our work on a preferred future for the 0 – 3 age group.

We are by no means suggesting that we should abandon our efforts for any other group and/or age range. Rather, we are driven to find a strategy that will advance the work of the Council at this time of ever-shrinking resources. With that in mind, we believe that targeting the 0 – 3 age group makes good sense. We know that there are significant resources already in place that could help to accomplish the goals that we have successfully identified for this particular age group. We also know that creating an excellent foundation of programming and service delivery with this age group has the potential to address and correct future needs and issues. We recognize that clearly this is a case of leveraging our best efforts and resources under the circumstances.

At the Coordinating Council meeting on February 8, 2010, we are prepared to discuss this matter fully. Since we had to cancel our previous meeting and not wanting to lose any valuable time or momentum, we invited several members of the Council to help us create a draft preferred future document, targeting 0- 3, that is included with the meeting agenda and will be the focus of our discussion at next Monday's meeting.

We will be glad to discuss your questions or comments at Monday's meeting. We welcome all opinions and perspectives and hope to have a healthy and thorough discussion on the proposed preferred future.