

## **Services for 0-3 Group Recommendations**

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Hamilton County Board of MR/DD

### **Our highest hopes**

- Identify what programs do well and be willing to work together and turn over programs we do less well. This includes finding the opportunities in the crisis (think beyond program to integrated system level).
- Stop the state from taking services away from young children and families
- Obtain adequate resources to stop domino effect.
- Support our staff so they can deal with no jobs, increased workloads, stress, fear, etc.
- Educate and engage the community as a whole, including legislators
- Limit gaps in services to children 0 to 3 (delineate the gaps for different children: at risk, part C, etc).

### **What happens if we don't change?**

- Less prepared parents
- Perpetual cycle of brokenness of families
- Unhealthy children-more mental health needs, kids not ready to go to school
- More child abuse; new generation of unhealthy parents

### **What do we do to get there?**

1. Form FCF Committee to identify the services available here to young children, the who, how and what (Use asset based approach). Providers can then develop plans to concentrate on what they do best.
2. Become more actively involved in state level decisions: proactive-not reactive. Request waivers of anything we believe will hurt our children. Send a story with waiver report
3. Coordinate our legislative agendas. Support membership in Choices for Ohio's Children (Jim Mason is on the Board).
4. Determine how we can participate in all the groups working to help children and break down the silos, e.g. Children's Hospital, United Way, Success by Six, Strive, Infant Mortality groups.
5. Expand staff knowledge of what other agencies do will help. Support each other in giving the same message to families.
6. Make sure we have goal directed outcomes. Accountability is a must (goals of the family).
7. Be honest with staff about the challenging times and what we think may happen: town meetings, on line communications from top administrators, hold job fairs.