Global Coalition of Parents of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children

August 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues

My name is Bianca Birdsey. I'm a mother of three deaf children from South Africa. On behalf of the **Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing** (GPODHH), I'd like to invite you as a parent, to participate in an important endeavor for families who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH). For those of you who do not know, GPODHH is a network of parent-led organizations from around the world which was formed in Italy, 2008.

In 2012, GPODHH was part of a multinational committee including professionals (both hearing and deaf) from the fields of early intervention, research, public administration, education, early hearing identification and intervention (EHDI) that convened for a Family Centred Early Intervention (FCEI) post-conference. The group's goal: to reach consensus on best practices related to meeting the needs of D/HH children and their families.

The result of that effort, *Best Practices in Family-Centered Early Intervention for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: An International Consensus Statement,* was published in 2013 and has been translated into numerous languages to date. This position paper, also known as the "FCEI Principles," outlined 10 essential practices that serve to guide and standardize family-centered early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, wherever they're implemented worldwide.

At FCEI 2020, the group will reconvene for a revision and update of this consensus document. As a part of that group, GPODHH will be actively involved to ensure that the parent voice is well represented. The parent perspective must influence the best practice principles which serve to guide the journey of families like ours, all over the world. With your lived experience and expertise, will you help us in this process?

The first step in participation will require you to notify me of your intent to actively participate. Thereafter a series of emails with Survey Monkey links will be sent for you to complete and enter your recommendations. This can be done as an individual or collaboratively as a parent group from your country. These surveys will be conducted in English. If further assistance is needed in translating the content, we can consider solutions together. Should you have any evidence-based citations that support your comments, please also include these. Our timeline will be strict in order to get this task completed by February 2020, but regular reminders will be sent to assist the process. Any participating group or individual will also have the option to complete each survey anonymously. There will also be an opportunity to give consent for your recommendations to be

used for other GPODHH related work, as we strive to bring global awareness of insights from the lived experience of parents.

If you would like to participate, further details will be sent regarding the process itself. This is not intended to be a long and tedious task, but rather require a few minutes of your time every few weeks until all the principles have been addressed.

Once we have completed this task, all the input will be collated and submitted as our GPODHH contribution to the update. Further discussion by the full committee will be held at a post-session after the FCEI Congress in Bad Ischl, Austria, in May 2020.

I warmly invite you to participate. Please respond positively to me at **info@gpodhh.org** by 30 August 2019.


Sincerely

Bianca Birdsey
*Director of Global Family Support Initiatives, GPODHH*

1. For information about GPODHH please visit www.gpodhh.org
2. For information about the FCEI congress as well as access to the Best Practices document in a number of different languages, please see http://www.fcei.at/unit/fcei/positionstatement
3. An English version of the *Best Practices in Family-Centered Early Intervention for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: An International Consensus Statement (2013)* is attached here for ease of reference.