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Teen Pregnancy Meeting - 10/05/1995

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1995

TEEN PREGNANCY MEETING

Date: October 5, 1995
Time: 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Location: Indian Treaty Room
From: Carol Rasco
Jeremy Ben-Ami
Janet Abrams

I. PURPOSE

In your State of the Union speech this year, you called on leaders across the nation to wage a "National Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy." Earlier this year, you approved the recommendation of Bill Galston and others that such a Campaign be formed not as a governmental entity (e.g., a Presidential Commission), but as an independent, non-partisan organization which could have a more lasting and meaningful impact on this complex problem. The model often referred to is the Partnership for a Drug Free America.

This meeting provides you the opportunity to make a personal appeal to more than twenty leaders of the business, media, foundation, and religious communities to create such a National Campaign. The individuals in the room have all expressed concern about teen pregnancy; many are actively engaged in prevention initiatives. Also represented today are experts and community practitioners in the field.

However, you should be aware that there is no shared understanding on the part of the participants that they have been invited for anything more than a discussion of whether and how a national effort could be organized. Our goal today is to motivate those in attendance to work together to launch this campaign. We hope that you will challenge participants to identify what they can do to motivate others in their fields to work on this issue and to make specific commitments for action. David Hamburg of the Carnegie Corporation is prepared to offer to host a follow-up meeting, and others in the group have indicated willingness to contribute to the organization of a national effort.

II. BACKGROUND

Since February, people inside the White House and out (Jody Greenstone, Belle Sawhill, Sarah Brown, to name a few) have been working to develop this initiative. They have conducted outreach to determine what is happening in the field and how a new national effort could be most helpful. Their work also led to the identification of the people invited to this meeting who might form the nucleus of such an effort.

Purposes of a National Campaign We have identified several useful roles for a potential national campaign:

- * *Supporting Community Efforts* -- A national campaign could celebrate, encourage, and assist efforts at the local level. It could help build networks among communities to share ideas and help get the private sector more involved at the community level.
- * *Research and Evaluation* -- There is a lot of good activity taking place in communities around the country, but evaluation has been fragmented. There is a role to be played by a national organization to conduct objective, respected evaluation and to disseminate information on best practices.
- * *Media* -- There is no national effort at present to develop and implement communications strategies to influence attitudes and behavior on teen pregnancy. There have been media campaigns on teen pregnancy which have had inconclusive results. Future media efforts should be integrated into a sustained, national strategy.

Background on Teen Pregnancy A fact sheet containing key statistics on teen pregnancy is provided as Attachment I. One important note: in recent data, the rapid growth of teen pregnancy rates has begun to level off. While encouraging, the numbers are still very high, and the U.S. still has the highest teen pregnancy rate among developed nations.

Administration Activity on Teen Pregnancy The effort to create this new entity is only part of the administration's work on teen pregnancy. Other components include:

- * *Welfare reform legislation* - The administration's proposals and those included in the Senate bill just passed take a comprehensive approach to teenage pregnancy prevention. Our bill included demonstrations to address teen pregnancy in a comprehensive way. The Senate bill includes the strong teen parent provisions the Administration has called for from the start including: your proposal to require custodial parents to live at home with an adult family member to qualify for assistance; grants to establish 'Second Chance' or adult-supervised group homes as alternative living situations; and requirements that teen parents remain in school and work or train for work after graduating from high school.
- * *New Initiatives* The administration is developing a new strategy for approaching the problem of teen pregnancy. This strategy is built on two main principles: catalyzing communities to build partnerships that bring all sectors of society together and investing in research and evaluation to find out what strategies work.

To that end, HHS is supporting new demonstration programs and expanding existing programs. Last week, 15 grants totalling \$4.2 million were awarded under the Adolescent Family Life Program (started under a previous administration) to support programs that encourage abstinence. Some of the ideas to be tested include: focusing on improving communication with parents and other adults about life decisions and sexual values, having older teens serve as mentors and role models, teaching assertiveness, and developing a series of age-appropriate abstinence messages.

Also, CDC has launched a \$6.5 million, two-year demonstration called the Community Coalition Partnership which has awarded thirteen grants to support community wide coalitions mobilizing and organizing their resources in support of teen pregnancy prevention programs. Activities under these grants include intensive school health education programs, community service, job skills development, and other opportunities for youth to build self-esteem.

- * *Ongoing Funding* - Federal funding through Title X Family Planning, Medicaid, and a range of other programs provided the primary support for community based efforts to address teen pregnancy - funding hotlines, clinics, adolescent pregnancy prevention programs - and research and evaluation efforts to determine what is effective.

Note on Dr. Henry Foster - Negotiations have been completed to bring Dr. Foster on as Senior Advisor to the President on Teen Pregnancy and Youth Issues. He will be a consultant to HHS and CDC as well. He will be your liaison to the private sector, but he will not have responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this effort. His position has not been announced publically, so you should refer to it only in general terms at the meeting.

III. PARTICIPANTS

A list of participants is attached.

IV. PRESS PLAN

The meeting is closed to the press. This decision was made for several reasons:

- * The effort is supposed to be bipartisan and serious. To open up this initial discussion to media coverage would have made it more of a political showpiece - and it would have been difficult to attract the caliber of people from across the political spectrum who are attending today.
- * This is just an initial discussion. We hope that within a few months, something concrete will form from these efforts which at that time can be announced and given more publicity.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Pre-program The meeting will have begun at 10:00 prior to your arrival. Carol Rasco and Secretary Shalala will have been leading a discussion with three objectives:

- * Providing an overview of the facts relating to teen pregnancy
- * Giving a sense of the national, state and local response to the problem
- * Outlining the need for and possible objectives of a new national effort in the private sector.

Arrival
(11:15) Carol Rasco and Secretary Shalala will summarize the discussion to that point and may ask one or more of the participants to reiterate points made in your absence.

Remarks
(11:20) Brief remarks are attached.

Discussion
(11:30) You will lead a discussion of "how a national initiative led by members of the private sector can complement government efforts at teenage pregnancy prevention." The goal of this discussion is to establish a consensus among as many of the participants as possible that there is a need for such an effort - and that in this room sit the people with the interest and the resources to launch such an effort.

Challenge
(12:00) After a half-hour of more open discussion, we hope you will challenge the group to give a concrete sense of what they will do from here. We have included notes on several key participants on whom you may wish to focus during the meeting and who may be in a position to commit to further concrete activity in support of this effort.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks are attached.

PARTICIPANTS IN WHITE HOUSE MEETING ON TEEN PREGNANCY

The President

The Vice President (possible)

Donna Shalala, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

Carol Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Alexis Herman, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison

Elaine Kamarck, Senior Policy Advisor to the Vice President

Ms. Charlotte Beers, Chairman, Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide, NY

Ms. Elayne Bennett, President, Best Friends Foundation, DC

Mr. Douglas Besharov, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, DC

Ms. Sarah Brown, Senior Study Director, Institute of Medicine, DC

Dr. Michael Carrera, Director, Pregnancy Prevention Programs, Children's Aid Society, NY

Dr. Marge Clark, President, Advocates for Youth, DC

Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund, DC

Ms. Jane Fonda, Trustee, Turner Foundation, GA

Dr. Henry Foster, Professor, Meharry Medical College, TN

Dr. William Galston, Professor, University of Maryland, MD

Ms. Christine Chambers Gilfillan, Executive Director, MCJ Foundation, NY

Ms. Whoopi Goldberg, actress, CA

Dr. David Hamburg, President, Carnegie Corporation, NY

Mr. Irving Harris, Chairman, The Harris Foundation, IL

Dr. Marion Howard, Professor, Emory University School of Medicine, GA

Mrs. Sheila Johnson, Exec. VP/Corp. Affairs, Black Entertainment Television, Inc., DC

Mr. Paul Jones, Chairman, Tudor Investment Corporation, NY

The Honorable Thomas Kean, President, Drew University

Sister Mary Rose McGeady, President, Covenant House, NY

Ms. Judy McGrath, President, MTV Music Television, NY

Ms. Ann Moore, President, People Magazine, NY

Dr. Kristin Moore, Executive Director, Child Trends, Inc., DC

Mr. Douglas Nelson, Executive Director, Annie E. Casey Foundation, MD

Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias, Past President, American Public Health Association, CA

Ms. Nancy Rubin, former official, Corporation for National Service, DC

The Honorable Warren Rudman, attorney, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, DC

Dr. Isabel Sawhill, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute, DC

Reverend Kenneth Smith, President, Chicago Theological Seminary, IL

The Honorable Louis Sullivan, President, Morehouse School of Medicine, GA

Ms. Kathleen Sylvester, Vice President for Domestic Policy, Progressive Policy Institute, DC

Dr. Jay Winsten, Dir., Cntr for Health Communication, Harvard Schl of Public Health, MA

The Honorable Andrew Young, Co-Chair, Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, GA