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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

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OA/ID Number: 19399

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Folder Title:

Correspondence - Sandra L. Thurman - Outgoing - 9/98

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Sandra Thurman to Individual living with HIV re: HIV status and employment (Personal) [partial] (1 page)	10/12/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office

OA/Box Number: 19399

FOLDER TITLE:

Correspondence - Sandra L. Thurman - Outgoing - 9/98

2018-0764-F

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 1, 1998

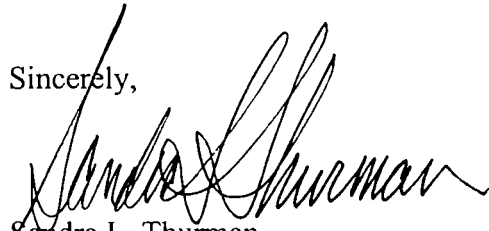
Ms. Argene Carswell, JD, RN
Executive Director (Interim)
American Nurses Association
600 Maryland Avenue, SW
Suite 100 West
Washington, D.C. 20024-2571

Dear Ms. Carswell:

I received your letter regarding Dr. Barbara Aranda-Naranjo to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (Council). Dr. Aranda-Naranjo possesses some very strong qualifications and background in HIV/AIDS, especially her work with women, children and families. Thank you for your nomination and recommendation on behalf of her qualifications. I will forward your letter to Daniel Montoya, Executive Director of the Council as well as other appropriate White House personnel who handle Presidential appointments.

Again, thank you for your letter and American Nurses Association continued involvement and commitment to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra L. Thurman', written over the printed name.

Sandra L. Thurman

Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

cc: Daniel C. Montoya
Executive Director
Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KENNETH MORITSUGU

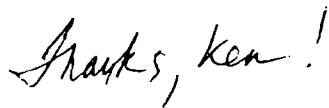
From: Todd Summers 
Deputy Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
(202) 456-2437

Date: September 21, 1998

Re: Request for assistance in responding to letter

Attached is a letter sent to us regarding treatment by an inmate for Hepatitis C. We would appreciate it if you would insure that an appropriate response is made to the author. Please forward a copy of the response to my attention.

Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR KEVIN THURM

From: Sandra L. Thurman 
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
(202) 632-1090

CC: David Beier
Chris Jennings

Date: September 25, 1998

Re: **Briefing on Medicaid expansion data**

At our last lunch meeting, you mentioned that HHS was going to be receiving formal briefings from several researchers regarding potential expansion of Medicaid coverage to persons with HIV. We discussed the possibility of a follow-up briefing at which HHS could present its analysis of that data.

Given the ongoing interest of the Vice President and this office, we would appreciate it if you would arrange for us to receive that follow-up briefing as soon as possible.

Arrangements can be made through Todd Summers (456-2444), who will coordinate with other White House offices. Thank you!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 1998

On behalf of the President and Mrs. Clinton, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Athens for Georgia CHEP's twelfth annual AIDS conference.

Your conference comes at a critical juncture in our nation's battle against this deadly virus. With hope on the horizon, many Americans yearn to believe that the worst is behind us. The sobering truth is that the AIDS epidemic is far from over.

America is a family and our family has AIDS -- our children, our parents, our brothers and sisters, our extended families, and our communities all have AIDS. In a host of different ways, and from a variety of different vantage points, our communities are caught in the crossfire of this epidemic and cry out for our help.

The theme of this conference entitled "Communities Joining Together: To Teach, To Prevent, To Treat and To Heal" speaks directly to the need for us all to work together to confront HIV/AIDS on a variety of fronts. Over the next few days each of you will have opportunities to learn and to teach of the many ways in which Georgians can -- and do -- join together to help others.

Best wishes for a successful and informative conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra L. Thurman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being more prominent and the last name "Thurman" following in a similar style.

Sandra L. Thurman

Director

Office of National AIDS Policy

**Georgia Cooperative Health
Manpower Education Program, Inc.**

1826 VETERANS BOULEVARD
CARL VINSON VA MEDICAL CENTER (OOA)
DUBLIN, GEORGIA 31021

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE : 5/28 TIME: 2:30 pm
TO : Sandra Thurman or Assistant
AGENCY : _____
FAX # : 202-456-2439
FROM : Marsha Tyson

GEORGIA CHEP/OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE EDUCATION
CARL VINSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
DUBLIN, GEORGIA
FAX NO. 912/277-2821

NO. OF PAGES: 17 (including cover page)

PLEASE NOTIFY IMMEDIATELY IF NOT PROPERLY RECEIVED

REMARKS:

Please notify me at your earliest
convenience. Thanks!
912-272-1210 X4704

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PHONE (912) 277 - 2704
FAX (912) 277 - 2700

The Georgia CHEP/Office of Employee Education/Department of Veterans Affairs
and the Georgia Department of Human Resources/Division of Public Health

Present.....

Weaving Threads of Hope In The Fight Against HIV/AIDS: Lessons Of A Decade

October 6, 7, 8, 1997

Jekyll Island Convention Center
Jekyll Island, Georgia

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Georgia AIDS Coalition, Atlanta, Georgia
AIDS Survival Project, Atlanta, Georgia
AIDS Task Force of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama
Coastal Area Support Team, Inc., Brunswick, Georgia
Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center, Atlanta, Georgia
Augusta VA Medical Center, Augusta, Georgia
Lake City VA Medical Center, Lake City, Florida
Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia
Dade County Department of Health, Miami, Florida
Comprehensive AIDS Resource Encounter (CARE), Jesup, Georgia
Magnolia-Coastlands Area Health Education Center, Statesboro, Georgia
Project CHALLENGE for Veterans, Dublin, Georgia
Southern Center for Continuing Education
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia
AID Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia

IN COOPERATION WITH:

Pfizer • Glaxo-Wellcome • Astra-Merck • Seale • Purdue-Frederick

FEATURING

The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt
Jim Howley, HIV-Positive Triathlete

Harold Kanner, M.D.
Sandra Hillman, Ph.D.
Matthew Goetz, M.D.
Barbara Aranda-Naranjo, RN, MSN

Claire Hicks, M.D.
Ronald Valdiserri, M.D.
Michael Burke, M.D.
The Extended Outreach Coalition

With

Daniel Baxter, M.D.
Author of *The Least of These My Brethren*
Plus 23 Additional Outstanding Presenters

Jim Howley



Jim Howley's life has pretty much been a sink or swim proposition. He sank for a while—swept up in a whirlpool of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and despair after testing positive for HIV which had been contracted through sexual contact about 12 years ago. In 1988, he joined Alcoholics Anonymous and never looked back on his period of substance abuse. But in 1989, Howley's life took another precarious turn when he was diagnosed as having full-blown AIDS and given 18 months to live. At that point though, rather than slipping back into his former self-destructive ways, Howley decided to make the most of what life he had left. It was the news that he had full-blown AIDS that led Howley to turn his life around through swimming, biking, and running. He began competing in triathlons, and through training for and completing races as a personal challenge, he found a way to defy what he regarded as a death sentence. The 35-year old is now an active triathlete and is the first known person with AIDS ever to complete the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon (consisting of a 24-mile ocean swim, 112-mile bike ride, 26.2-mile run). Today, Howley swims more than 2 miles every day. He also runs about 45 miles per week and bikes another 150-200. Of course, Howley went through events in his life far more grueling than Ironman. In recent years, he has overcome non-AIDS-related testicular cancer and CMV, a disease that often affects AIDS patients and can cause blindness and death. Howley is functioning—for the most part—without an immune system, and as part of his medication regimen, he must swallow 60 pills a day and take four injections every week. Still, Howley continues his work counseling other AIDS patients and has formed an organization called "AIDS". Athletes Instead of

Depression and Sickness. He is also currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical psychology and giving motivational seminars trumpeting the benefits of exercise. In a sink or swim world, Jim Howley definitely emerges as a swimmer.

Daniel Baxter

"Shatteringly affecting recollections.....expert and ennobling" was how Publishers Weekly reviewed The Least of These My Brethren, authored by Daniel Baxter, M.D. It is the AIDS story of America's poorest citizens—the story that no one has written about so far—told with penetrating insight and compassion that has already gathered critical praise prior to its April 1997 publication. As epic as Randy Shilts' And The Band Played On, Dr. Baxter's compelling vision of what AIDS should mean to us at the approach of the millennium expands the present boundaries of AIDS literature and encompasses themes not brought together before:

How life-affirming lessons can unfold in the unlikelyst of settings: a squalid AIDS ward in a neglected New York City hospital that is the last resort—and often the last stop—for the forgotten poor; How there is a human face to those people with AIDS most affected by "welfare reform" and government "downsizing"—too often code words for turning our backs on the less fortunate; How death need not be the fearsome adversary many of us encountered in Dr. Sherwin Nuland's How We Die.

With the keen observation of Dr. Abraham Verghese in My Own Country, Dr. Baxter challenges us to reexamine the meaning of love and suffering through his extraordinary experiences on his inner-city ward, his crucible of despair and hope.

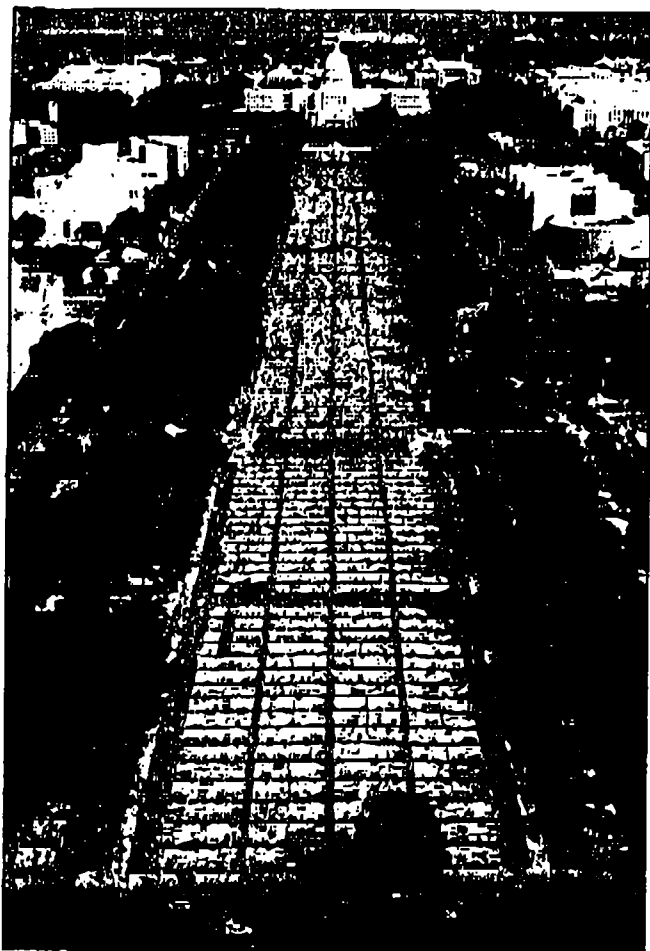
Dr. Baxter is a graduate of Ohio State University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and he did his residency at University Hospital of Cleveland. Currently, he practices at an AIDS skilled nursing facility in the Bronx New York and travels the country sharing his message and weaving threads of hope in the continued fight against AIDS.



As we went to press, Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco asked that we express to conference participants his regrets that he would be unable to join us at

this year's conference. He wishes for our participants a successful and uplifting conference and hopes to join us at some future educational offering.

The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt



In June of 1987, a small group of strangers gathered in a San Francisco storefront to document the lives they feared history would neglect. Their goal was to create a memorial for those who had died of AIDS, and to thereby help people understand the devastating impact of the disease. Today, ten years later, The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt is a powerful visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic. More than 40,000 individual three-by-six-foot panels—each one commemorating the life of someone who has died of complications related to AIDS—have been sewn together by friends, lovers and family members. The NAMES Project Foundation coordinates displays of portions of the Quilt worldwide. We, the sponsors of this annual AIDS conference, find it fitting that this extraordinary hand-made memorial—created during the last ten years—occupy a place of honor at this year's event—"Weaving Threads Of Hope In The Fight Against AIDS: Lessons Of A Decade."

The National High School Quilt Program:

The National High School Quilt Program enables high schools across the country to display up to 32 panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt free of charge to enhance locally determined HIV/AIDS education activities in the schools. This program, designed to augment local district approved HIV prevention curricula, provides multi-disciplinary lesson guides for teachers, student guides, videos, books, posters, installation guides and education guides. High schools form a Quilt Display Team organized and led by students to conduct AIDS awareness activities. Through evaluations from over 250 schools, the National High School Quilt Program has proved to be effective in strengthening HIV prevention programs. This has been accomplished by using the the Quilt's unique ability to make AIDS real, humanizing the epidemic beyond the statistics, starting a dialogue about AIDS in and out of the classroom, and inspiring behavior change in young people.

Conference Overview

In this, our Eleventh Annual AIDS Conference, we are placed in the remarkable position of being able to communicate real messages of hope to health care providers as well as to the PWAs who attend our educational offering each year. The past two years saw enormous changes and advances in our understanding and treatment of HIV and AIDS. Many researchers now predict with confidence that HIV/AIDS should not be viewed as an immediate death sentence, rather, the disease may now be viewed with the hope of long-term chronic management. It is our desire to provide a forum whereby those who work with and are affected by the epidemic and its new direction may come together for discussion, information, and dialogue. Our theme—honoring the Names Project Memorial Quilt—"Weaving Threads Of Hope in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS: Lessons

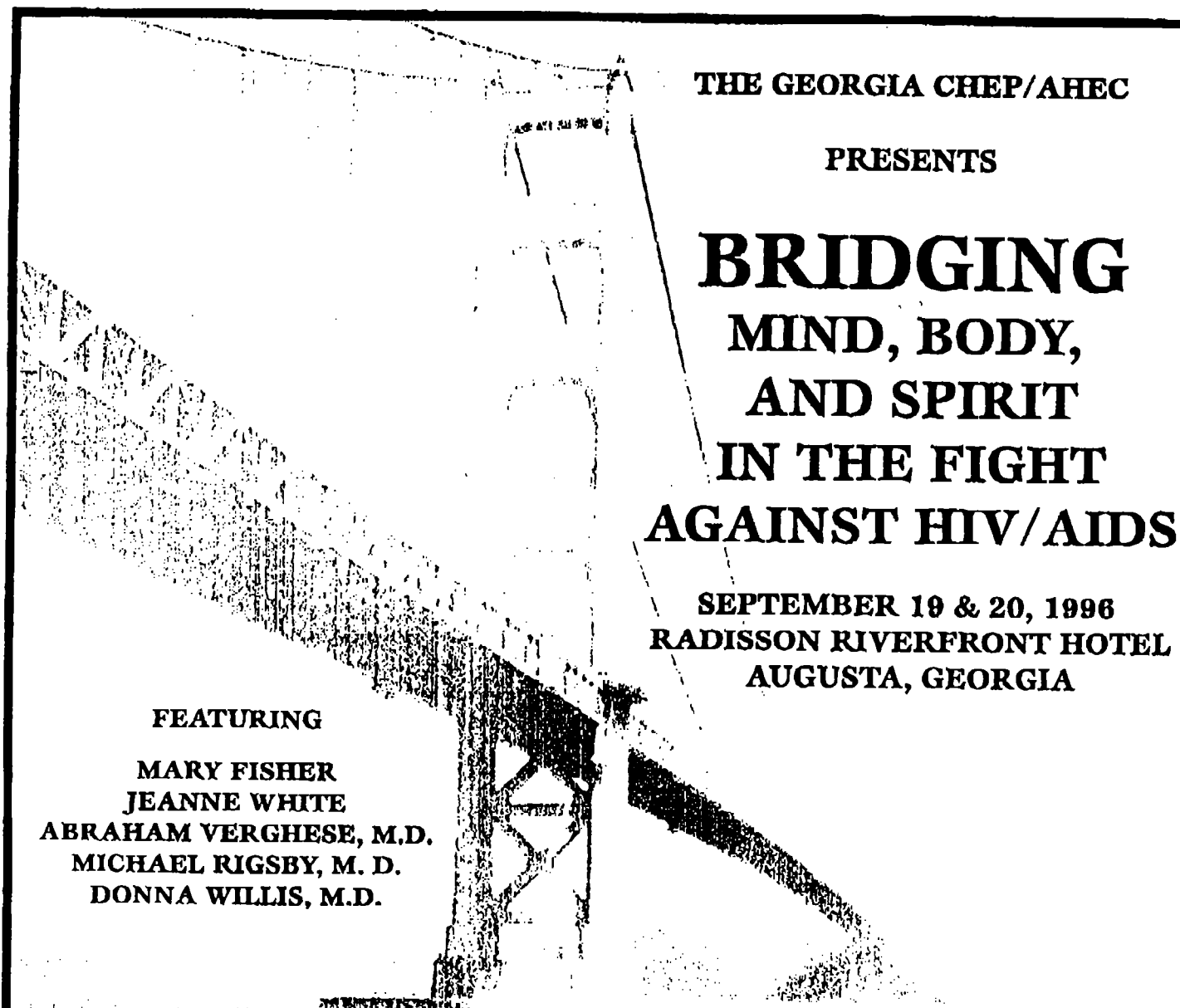
of a Decade", reflects this new and hopeful perspective.

This extraordinary three-day event will provide a broad range of HIV/AIDS health care, education, and service providers with the information they need to reshape the existing systems in response to a changing epidemic. Even while we embrace the notion that significant progress has been made, we realize the fight is not over. In some ways this is a time of relief and reassurance for providers, clients and families, but it is also a time of new fears, risks and uncertainties. Together we must all renew our commitment to continue the fight by looking back at what we have learned together during the last decade and then by looking ahead to the new spirit that is sweeping the AIDS community. This unique educational event will give all of us the opportunity to do just that.

Target Audience

This conference is designed for professionals to include nurses, physicians, physician assistants, homeless providers, dietitians, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, health educators, allied

health and mental health professionals, clergy, school counselors, teachers as well as parents, community leaders, and others responding to the challenges of HIV/AIDS.



THE GEORGIA CHEP/AHEC

PRESENTS

**BRIDGING
MIND, BODY,
AND SPIRIT
IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST HIV/AIDS**

**SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 1996
RADISSON RIVERFRONT HOTEL
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA**

FEATURING

**MARY FISHER
JEANNE WHITE
ABRAHAM VERGHESE, M.D.
MICHAEL RIGSBY, M. D.
DONNA WILLIS, M.D.**

Co-Sponsored By

**Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia
Atlanta VA Medical Center, Decatur, Georgia
Augusta VA Medical Center, Augusta, Georgia
Project Inform, San Francisco, California
Atlanta AIDS Information Hotline, Atlanta, Georgia**



**A Special Thanks To
The Augusta/Richmond County
Convention and Visitors Bureau**



Ryan and Jeanne White

One week before Christmas in 1984 Jeanne White-Ginder was told that her son Ryan, a hemophiliac, had contracted AIDS from a tainted blood product. Although the doctors gave him only six months to live, Ryan's outlook was positive, and he was determined to live a relatively normal life. He wanted to stay in school, and Jeanne was determined to give her son his dream. What seemed like a small wish turned into a nightmare when the Whites' hometown, frightened and uneducated on the realities of AIDS, abused the family and refused to allow Ryan back to school. Jeanne turned to the court system, and the newswires grabbed on to the story. Ryan became a reluctant international celebrity, and Jeanne became an educator of the masses. Jeanne and Ryan eventually moved to another town and his dream was realized when he returned to school, became an honor roll student, and earned a driver's license, but his health was rapidly deteriorating. On Sunday, April 8, 1990, five and a half years after he was diagnosed with AIDS, Ryan White died. Since that time Jeanne has spoken before numerous groups all over the country and serves as Founder and President of the Ryan White Foundation, a non-profit organization that seeks to educate teens and adolescents on the personal, family, and community issues related to HIV/AIDS. Jeanne's hope is that through Ryan's name and her efforts she will create a legacy of understanding, acceptance, and love.

Mary Fisher

Before speaking in Houston at the 1992 Republican National Convention, Mary Fisher had been a successful television producer and an Assistant to the President of the United States (The Honorable Gerald Ford). She had become a nationally recognized artist and the mother of two healthy sons: Max, now 8, and Zachary, now 6. When she left Houston - following an address that stunned millions around the world - she had a new role as ambassador of compassion in the fight against AIDS. In 1992 Ms. Fisher founded the Family AIDS Network Inc., a national nonprofit organization to heighten community and national awareness and compassion, and in this role she makes more than 100 appearances and addresses annually throughout the nation. Ms. Fisher is frequently cited and featured in print and broadcast media. She has been recognized with a variety of honors and awards, and is the recipient of three honorary doctorate degrees. In an address in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1994 Mary Fisher stated, "I'm convinced, based on my experience and that of thousands I've met, that grief can be the instrument by which we come to grace; that sickness can be the vehicle we ride to new depths of self-discovery or charity toward others; that pain and loss and grueling anxiety can be the pathway by which we come to rock-hard certainty about our own purpose. Of course it isn't the pathway I'd choose. But we don't make the choices."



Conference Schedule

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

- 4:00 p.m. Sign-In/Packet/Pickup (Optional)
6:00 p.m. End Early Sign-In

Thursday, September 19, 1996

- 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast/Exhibit Hall/Sign-In Packet Pickup
8:45 a.m. Welcome/Announcements
Senator Charles W. Walker, 22nd District
Marsha G. Tyson, Conference Coordinator
Charles Lang, III, Georgia CHEP/AHEC Executive Director
- 9:00 a.m. Building Bridges to Continue the Journey: The Ryan White Legacy
Jeanne White-Glinder, Mother of Ryan White; Founder and President of the Ryan White Foundation
- 10:00 a.m. Break and Book Signing by Jeanne White-Glinder
- 10:30 a.m. Improving the Outlook: Recent Advances in Medical Management of HIV
Michael O. Rigsby, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, Staff Physician/Director HIV Care Program, West Haven Connecticut VA Medical Center
- 12:00 noon Lunch (On Your Own)
- 1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- A. The ABCs of HIV: Understanding Basic Pathophysiology
Janet Briggs, MSN, RN, FMNP, Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist, Infectious Diseases, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio; Adjunct Clinical Faculty Kent State University School of Nursing, Kent, Ohio; Volunteer Early Intervention Program, Free Medical Clinic for HIV-Positive Patients, Cleveland, Ohio; Who's Who in American Nursing; Hands and Heart Award
 - B. Examining the Psychosocial Aspects of HIV-Positive Patients
Joseph Shannon, PhD, Licensed Psychologist, Private Practice, Columbus, Ohio; Specializes in Treatment of Patients with Addictive and Co-Addictive Disorders; Appears on Nationally-Televised Programs including CBS This Morning and PBS Viewpoint
 - C. Preventing HIV Infection in Substance Abusers
L. Susan Ford, NCAC II, CCS, Licensed Practical Nurse; Certified Addiction Counselor; National Certified Addiction Counselor; Certified Clinical Supervisor; Certified AIDS Counselor; Employed by Pineland Mental Health Substance Abuse and Willingway Hospital, Statesboro, Georgia; President-Elect Georgia Addiction Counselors Association(GACA); TRAC (Training, Referral, Assessment, Consultation) Services President
 - D. Through the Heart: Creative Activities for Learning About HIV/AIDS
Phyllis Wezeman, MS in Education; President of Active Learning Associates, Inc.; Executive Director of the Parish Resource Center of Michigan; Author or co-author of over 375 books and articles on creative approaches to education and positive activities for peacemaking, including Creating Compassion: Activities for Understanding HIV/AIDS which was awarded the "Best Health Book of 1995" by the Midwest Publishers Association
 - E. Called to Compassion: Meeting the Spiritual Needs of the AIDS Patient
Larry Harris, Pastor, Old Bethel Baptist Church, Jesup, Georgia; Guest on Ted Koppel's "Nightline" February 29 and March 1, 1996 where he outlined his own personal experience with AIDS through the loss of his son May 17, 1995
 - F. Removing the Fear: Working Confidently With the HIV-Positive Patient
Sandra M. Hillman, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia; Owner and President, Hillman International Consulting; Former consultant in Bermuda for Inpatient Hospice Facility For AIDS Patients; Listed in Who's Who in International Medicine, Who's Who Among American Nurses and Who's Who Among American Women
- 3:00 p.m. Break
3:30 p.m. Repeat Above Concurrent Sessions
5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Friday, September 20, 1996

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast/Exhibit Hall
- 9:00 a.m. My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and People in the Age of AIDS
Abraham Verghese, MD, Chief, Infectious Disease, Texas Tech Medical Center, El Paso, Texas
- 10:00 a.m. Break and Book Signing by Abraham Verghese
- 10:30 a.m. Building Bridges Over Controversy: Addressing the Challenges of Women in High Risk Groups
Donna J. Willis, MD, MPH, Internist, Instructor with the Department of Medicine, Medical Researcher, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Founder, "Breath of Life/Heart, Body, and Spirit"; Medical News Correspondent, NBC TV, The Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch (On Your Own)
- 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- G. Cross-Cultural Counseling: Understanding and Appreciating Differences
L. Susan Ford, NCAC II, CCS, Pineland Mental Health, Willingway Hospital, Statesboro, Georgia
- H. Establishing Mentoring/Youth Programs for HIV Prevention
W. Mary Langley, MPH, Instructor, Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Community Preventive Medicine, Atlanta; Program Director for High Risk Youth Grant funded by Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; Former Director Continuum Alliance for Healthy Mothers and Children and New Life Project, Atlanta
- I. Mind and Body Medicine: New Aspects in Alternative Healing for AIDS Patients
Pat Robinson, BS, RN, RN-C; Nurse Practitioner in Family Planning and Women's Health Care; Certified HIV Counselor; Certified CCU Nurse; National presenter on programs dealing with the continuum of mind with body and promotion of healing of the soma as well as treatment of illness
- J. How Managed Care Has Affected the Fight Against AIDS
Anne Donnelly and David Lewis, Project Inform, San Francisco, California; Co-authors "HIV Infection and Managed Care" published December 1995; Anne Donnelly, BA, is the Public Director at Project Inform, one of the United States most influential AIDS treatment information and advocacy organizations. Ms. Donnelly has coordinated Project Inform policy initiatives such as the Future Directions in AIDS Research meetings sponsored in conjunction with Harvard AIDS Institute and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Ms. Donnelly also assisted with the founding of Treatment Action Network (TAN), one of the most responsive, effective and largest AIDS research grassroots policy teams. TAN currently has over 1000 members in 48 states. David Lewis has BA and Masters degrees, and worked for 12 years as a non-profit library and museum director in the Midwest and in Massachusetts. Since being diagnosed with AIDS 9 years ago, David has lived in San Francisco and worked as an AIDS activist. During that time he served as a benefits counselor to people with HIV/AIDS, campaigned for health care reform initiatives in California, was a member of Act Up for several years, and was appointed by the California Insurance Commissioner to serve on two task forces charged with investigating discrimination against PWA's. For the past four years David has volunteered in the Public Policy Department of Project Inform.
- K. Putting It All Together: Outcomes Management in Late Stage Disease
David R. Haburchak, MD, FACP; Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical College of Georgia, Department of Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases, Augusta, Georgia; Former Chief, Infectious Disease Service, Eisenhower Army Medical Center; Former Chairman, Augusta Area Council on AIDS; Active in medical missions to Kazakhstan, USSR (1991), Irkutsk and Omsk, Russia, Pavlodar Kazakhstan (1992), Penza, Russia (1993); Popular presenter for annual Augusta Area Teacher's Workshops "AIDS: The Role of Teachers" and "Clinical Manifestation of AIDS"
- L. Care Parameters of HIV in the Long-Term Care Setting
Janet M. Briggs, MSN, RN, FMNP, VA Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio
- 2:00 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. Repeat Breakout Sessions
- 4:00 p.m. My Name Is Mary
Mary Fisher, Founder, Family AIDS Network, Inc., Author, Sleep With the Angels and I'll Not Go Quietly, and her newest book published in January 1996, My Name is Mary; Former Assistant to President Gerald Ford
- 5:00 p.m. Book Signing by Mary Fisher/Awarding of Certificates

The Georgia/Alabama Rural Institute on HIV/AIDS

Under the Joint Sponsorship of

The Georgia CHEP/AHEC in Dublin, Georgia and The Tuskegee CHEP/TAHEC in Tuskegee, Alabama*presents***Learning To Live With HIV/AIDS: Rural Communities Meeting the Challenge**

August 13 - 15, 1995

Callaway Gardens Resort, Pine Mountain, Georgia

*Featuring***Greg Louganis, Gold Medal Olympic Diver**

Sunday Evening, August 13, 1995

"Breaking The Surface: Learning To Live With AIDS"

Athos Menaboni Convention Center

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Reception**

Following Mr. Louganis' presentation, there will be a reception for all conference attendees and exhibitors from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the Gardens Patio and in the Menaboni Center. Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Dress for the entire conference is resort casual.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**Sunday, August 13, 1995****Athos Menaboni Convention Center
Plenary Session**

- 3:00 p.m. Sign-In/Package Pickup
- 5:15 p.m. Welcome/Announcements
Marsha G. Tyson, Conference Coordinator
Charles Lang, III, Georgia CHEP/AHEC Executive Director
- 5:30 p.m. Breaking the Surface: Learning to Live With AIDS
Greg Louganis
- 6:45 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres/Non-Alcoholic beverages
Networking/Exhibit Hall - Gardens Patio and Menaboni Center
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn

Monday, August 14, 1995**Athos Menaboni Convention Center
Plenary Session**

- 7:45 a.m. Coffee/Exhibit Hall/Sign-In
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome/Announcements
Marsha G. Tyson, Conference Coordinator
Sceiva Holland, Tuskegee CHEP/AHEC Director
Charles Lang, III, Georgia CHEP/AHEC Executive Director
- 9:00 a.m. Rural America Confronts AIDS
Martha M. McKinney, Ph.D.
Chief, Program Evaluation and Epidemiology Branch
Bureau of Health Resources Development
Health Resources and Services Administration
Rockville, Maryland
- 10:15 a.m. Break/Exhibit Hall
- 10:45 a.m. The Invisible Epidemic: Adolescents and HIV/AIDS
Andy Humm, M.P.H.
Director of Education
Herrick-Martin Institute
New York, New York
- 12 noon Lunch (Served in the Convention Center)
- 1:30 p.m. Women and HIV: A Growing Epidemic in Rural Communities
Carol Dukes, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Duke University Medical Center
Senior Staff Physician
Durham VA Medical Center
Durham, North Carolina
- 2:45 p.m. Break/Exhibit Hall
- 3:15 p.m. My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and Its People in the Age of AIDS
Abraham Verghese, M.D.
Chief, Infectious Diseases
Texas Tech Medical Center
El Paso, Texas
- 4:15 p.m. Book Signing - Dr. Verghese - My Own Country, Vintage

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The conference facilities are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Lodging for handicapped participants is available upon request, and services will be made available to hearing/sensory impaired individuals attending the conference if requested at least three weeks prior to the conference. Please indicate your needs on the registration form or call Marsha Tyson at 912-277-2704.

If your office needs to reach you during the conference, the following numbers should be used: Menaboni Center Lobby - 706-663-2281 ext. 5351 (Sunday and Monday); Callaway Conference Center Lobby - 706-663-5127 or Pine Mountain Chalet - 706-663-2211 (Tuesday). You may receive faxed information at the Business Center located between the Photo Shop and the Sales and Conference Center Office at 706-663-8114.

Babysitting services are available by calling Guest Services at 706-663-2281. You will need to tell the representative the date and time a sitter should arrive as well as how many children will require these services. These arrangements should be made prior to the conference, if possible.

Additional information will be provided in the program packet you will receive upon sign-in at the conference including locations of concurrent sessions, a listing of exhibitors, names and locations of area restaurants, and much more.

Dress for the entire conference is resort casual.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

NOTE: The hours listed below are for the entire conference. If you attend only a portion of the conference, hours will be pro-rated accordingly.

As an organization accredited for continuing medical education, the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Georgia CHEP/AHEC/Office of CME designates this continuing medical education activity for 10.25 hours in Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

This program has been approved for 12.3 contact hours through the Georgia CHEP/AHEC of the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center by the Georgia Nurses Association, Inc. (GNA), which is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Accreditation (Offering NO. 16808).

This program has been approved for 10.25 hours in the area of Patient Care for the Georgia State Board of Nursing Home Administrators (GSBNHA).

Application has been made to award 10.25 contact hours through the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

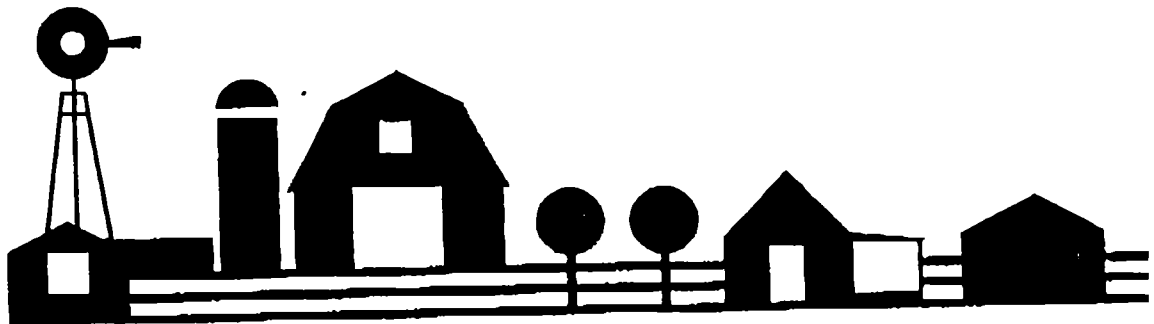
Application has been made to award 10.25 CRECE - Category 1 contact hours through the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC).

Application has been made to award 10.25 contact hours through the Georgia Mental Health Counselors Association (GMHCA).

Application has been made to award 10.25 contact hours through the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA).

This program has been approved for 10.25 hours by the Georgia Board of Dentistry.

These program approvals require that participant certificates be issued only upon completion of conference.



Presented by...

The Georgia CHEP
Office of Employee
Education
Department of
Veterans Affairs;

The Magnolia Coastlands
Area Health Education
Center;

The Comprehensive AIDS
Resource Encounter, Inc.
(CARE)

In Cooperation with...

The Southeast
Health Unit

AID Atlanta

Southern Center for
Continuing Education

Georgia Southern
University

Calvinson VA
Medical Center

Hospice of
Southeast Georgia

Hospice of
Albany

Hospice of
Central Georgia

The Georgia Southern
University

Hospice of
Albany

Hospice of
Albany

Hospice of
Albany

Featuring...

Mamie McCullough

Wynne Mullins, M.D.

Janice Calhoun, Ph.D.
MSW, LICSW

Marilyn Webb

Exploring the JOURNEY to Life's End

A Conference on Death & Dying



MARCH 26-28, 1998

JEKYLL ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER
JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 26, 1998

- 7:30 a.m. Sign-In/Packet Pickup/Coffee/Exhibit Hall
8:30 a.m. Welcome/Announcements
Marsha Tyson, Educational Specialist, Educational Service Representative, Network 9, Department of Veterans Affairs
Charles Lang, III, Director, Georgia CHEP, Inc., Educational Service Representative, Network 7, Department of Veterans Affairs
9:00 a.m. *How to Find Humor at a Time Like This*, **Mamie McCullough**, President and Founder, Mamie McCullough and Associates, Dallas, Texas; Author of *I Can You Can Too! Get It Together and Remember Where You Put It* and *Mama's Rules for Living*
10:00 a.m. Break/Book Signing
10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
A. Legal Issues and Advance Directives, **Robert W. Bush, J.D.**, Managing Attorney of the HIV/AIDS Legal Project, Savannah Regional Office of Georgia Legal Services
B. Understanding Effective Pain Management, **Michael Brescia, M.D.**, Medical Director, Calvary Hospital, Bronx, New York
C. The Importance of Spirituality and Caregiving, **Kenneth Doka, Ph.D.**, Professor, Graduate Gerontology Program, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York
D. Dying Is a Family Affair, **Susan J. Levy, M.Ed.**, Psychotherapist, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
E. Working with Grieving Children, **Alyson Levy, M.S.**, Group Supervisor/Case Manager AID Atlanta; **Maestro Evans, MSW**, Group Manager, AID Atlanta
F. Understanding Complicated Grief, **Paul R. Brenner**, Executive Director, Jacob Perlow Hospice, Beth Israel Health Care System, New York
G. Examining the Tasks of Dying, **Thomas Votau, Ph.D.**, Staff Psychologist, Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia
12:00 Lunch/Round Table Discussions
1:30 Concurrent Sessions
H. The Effective Use of Humor in Grave Situations, **Mamie McCullough**
I. Strings of Solace: Music Vigils for the Dying, **Sue Moore**, Certified Music Thanatologist, Graduate of the Chalice of Repose Project in Missouri. Ms. Moore is a two-year resident program founded by **John and Barbara Sheker**, Affiliated with Hand-In-Hand Hospice in Gainesville, Georgia. Ms. Moore has provided over 300 music vigils for dying patients.
J. 12 Steps to Dealing with Multiple Loss, **Lee Kearney, M.A.**, Founder and President, AIDS and Substance Abuse Speakers Network, Counselor, Charter Anchor Hospital, Atlanta Faculty, Florida School of Addictions (Internet HIV Program)
K. Understanding the Psychological Aspects of Grief and Their Treatment Modalities, **Thomas Votau, Ph.D.**, Staff Psychologist, Carl Vinson VA Medical Center

PA

In planning this unique conference, we gathered together physicians, hospice staff, nurses, ministers, legal experts, pain specialists, financial planners, and health educators to lend their expertise concerning the complex issues surrounding the end of life.

PA





CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

All of us experience grief and loss, both in our personal lives and through the clients we serve. As we embark on the journey to life's end—and face our own mortality—we must choose a path. Will the course we choose be a path to enlightenment, or a descent into darkness? In this our Fifth Annual Conference on Death and Dying, we will explore the tools that will enable our clients to gain a new understanding of death, dying, and the grief process.

Medical science has progressed to the point that many people fear not death itself, rather they seek to ensure that they die with dignity and that their loved ones are prepared. The grieving process, too, is being reshaped as we learn more about the issues surrounding death. What can we learn about living from the dying? Why does the knowledge of having a life-threatening illness ennoble some people, yet defeat others?

Whether we approach these questions from a personal or professional view, all of us require assistance in developing the skills needed to cope with loss. In planning this unique conference, we gathered together physicians, hospice staff, nurses, ministers, legal experts, pain specialists, financial planners, and health educators to lend their expertise concerning the complex issues surrounding the end of life. Forty-seven compelling sessions will be presented by over thirty knowledgeable faculty. Together we will laugh—and cry. But, more importantly, we will all come away with a new outlook of comfort, hope, and healing to share with others.

☪

All of us experience grief and loss, both in our personal lives and through the clients we serve. As we embark on the journey to life's end—and face our own mortality—we must choose a path. Will the course we choose be a path to enlightenment, or a descent into darkness?

☪

These are just a few of the highlights of our conference:

Review "12 Steps to Dealing with Multiple Loss" with Lee Kearney and learn to look for signs, signals, and opportunities that present themselves to guide us through the healing process.

Discover "How to Find Humor at a Time Like This!" with Mamie McCullough and learn how to cultivate a positive mental attitude that will lend power and strength in the darkest of situations.

Recognize and address the practical matters of illness and death with Bryan Freeman in **Assisting Clients with Financial Planning and Viatical Settlements**, and with Carol Fallaw in discussing wills, probate court, and death certificates in **The Business Side of Grief**.

Understand cultural diversity with Catherine Harper and examine various customs and rituals surrounding dying, grieving, burial and life after death with Gary Byrd.

Explore the future of hospice care with Samira Beckwith, Immediate Past Chair of the National Hospice Association.

and

Network with professionals from all over the Southeast at the plenary sessions during the concurrent workshops, in the exhibit hall and refreshment areas, and during the round-table luncheon session on Thursday.



**THE GEORGIA CHEP/AHEC
OF DUBLIN, GEORGIA
AND
THE COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH CENTER
OF MIDDLE GEORGIA**

present

***"HELPING FAMILIES COPE
WITH A CHANGING WORLD"***

May 16 and 17, 1996

**Plenary Sessions/Registration
Theatre Dublin
314 Academy Avenue
Dublin, Georgia**

featuring

JOYCE BROTHERS, Ph.D.

For 30 years Dr. Joyce Brothers has been the Dean of American Psychologists. Possessing limitless energy and vitality, Dr. Brothers, who is an NBC Radio Network personality, is also a noted psychologist, columnist, author, business consultant, wife and mother. Recognition of her significant activities and outstanding influence has come from many quarters. For six years Dr. Brothers has been listed in George Gallup's poll of the "most admired women". A United Press International Poll named her one of the most influential American women, and a survey conducted by the Greenwich College Research Center listed her among the 10 most admired women by college students. Still another poll, conducted by Good Housekeeping magazine to find "Women in the World Most Admired By Women" ranked Dr. Brothers in a 10th place tie with Golda Meir of Israel. With organizational skills that could evoke favorable comment from the most fastidious time-and-motion expert, Dr. Brothers is able to pursue her other careers simultaneously. She is a regular columnist who is published in more than 350 newspapers, and her books have been translated into 26 languages. As a consultant to the business world, Dr. Brothers creates and performs in films and seminars designed for corporate personnel training programs. She has been a frequent guest on several network television programs including NBC-TV's "Tonight Show", "Mike Hammer", "Moonlighting", "Mr. Belvedere", "Melrose Place", and various panel shows. Dr. Brothers is a news commentator for "USA Today" on TV and CBS-TV News in Los Angeles. For six years she was a member of the faculties of Hunter College and Columbia University in New York City and now is a frequent guest lecturer at universities across the country. Dr. Brothers is a graduate of Cornell University and received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. She was married to the late Dr. Milton Brothers, an internist, and they have one daughter, Lisa, who resides in New York City.

Heart of Georgia Council on Aging, Inc.
McRae, Georgia

Central Cooperative Regional Prevention Resource Center
At

The Middle Georgia Council on Drugs
Macon, Georgia

Helpline Georgia
Warner Robins, Georgia

Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia

Christ Episcopal Church, Dublin, Georgia
First Baptist Church, Dublin, Georgia
First United Methodist Church, Dublin, Georgia
First African Baptist Church, Dublin, Georgia
Dublin Parks and Recreation Department
Jefferson Street Baptist Church, Dublin, Georgia

This comprehensive two-day conference will provide you a unique opportunity to explore the dynamics of today's American family. Gone are the days of the "typical" nuclear family - by the end of this century single-parent families and blended families will outnumber traditional families by a wide margin. This conference will examine the problems that all of us face as counselors, clergy, therapists, educators, social workers, and family members, and will provide strategies for strengthening family systems. Together we will foster an understanding of the complex internal and external relationships within American families and will gain valuable insight into ways to revitalize and reinforce our commitment to the family unit.

We will kick off our conference in the newly-renovated Theatre Dublin in Downtown Dublin with a dynamic presentation by the world-famous Dr. Joyce Brothers. Eighteen other experts will help you develop a clear understanding of the mental health status and the mental health needs of the American family. These exciting concurrent sessions will be held at area churches within walking distance of the Theatre.

Here's just a sample of the highlights of our conference:

"Bioethics and Family Issues" with Bruce Corsino, PsyD, and learn how to reduce pain and protect the treatment choices and life savings of your loved ones. This fast-paced three-hour session will meet the ethics requirements for nursing home administrators and mental health professionals.

"Cultural Competence" with Gary Byrd, M.Ed., CACH, and gain insight on how to work effectively with families from diverse populations.

"Child Abuse and Neglect" and address collaboration issues with Curt Holmes, Ph.D. Gain skills for detecting and assessing suspected abuse and identify strategies for addressing this abuse.

To the world of "Cinderella and Her International Sisters" and explore with Catherine Meeks, Ph.D. and Mary Ann Carswell, Ph.D., a master storyteller, the dynamics of today's blended family. Understand the bonds, boundaries and stumbling blocks step families face and review the developmental passages which blended families encounter in their journey.

With mental health professionals from all over the Southeast at the plenary sessions, during the concurrent workshops, in the exhibit hall and refreshment areas and during the complimentary lunch provided each day.

**Georgia Cooperative Health
Manpower Education Program, Inc.**

1826 VETERANS BOULEVARD
CARL VINSON VA MEDICAL CENTER (OOA)
DUBLIN, GEORGIA 31021

May 28, 1998

Sandra Thurman, Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
Washington, D.C.

Fax: 202-456-2439

Dear Ms. Thurman:

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of the Georgia CHEP, Inc., I would like to invite you to serve as a keynote presenter at our twelfth annual AIDS Conference November 18, 19 and 20, 1998. This year's event will be held at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia, and we expect about 800 participants.

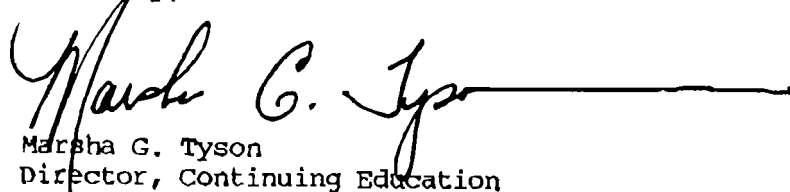
If you are available, we would ask you to give an hour-long update on the national perspective on AIDS from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 19. Other keynote presenters who have confirmed are Kate Shindle, Miss America 1998, Dr. Abraham Verghese, author of My Own Country and The Tennis Partner and Kenneth J. Doka, Ph.D., author of AIDS, Fear and Society.

Our theme this year is "Communities Joining Together: To Teach, To Prevent, To Treat and To Heal". Our audience is primarily made up of health care professionals and students as well as PWAs.

We have attached excerpts from other conference brochures so that you may get a feel for the type of conference we do. In the past we have had wonderfully received conferences with keynoters such as Greg Louganis, Mary Fisher, Jeanne White, and Dr. Joyce Brothers.

Please have the person who handles your bookings call me at 912-277-2705 or fax a reply to 912-277-2821. We look forward to the possibility of working with you on this conference.

Sincerely,


Marsha G. Tyson
Director, Continuing Education

PHONE (912) 277 - 2704

FAX (912) 277 - 2700

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1998

Annette Brands, M.F.C.C.
Project Inform, Executive Director
205 13th Street, Suite 2001
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Annette:

Thank you for the copy of Project Inform's HIV Drug Book.

To you and your organization my congratulations on the second edition of the HIV Drug Book.

Thanks for your continue efforts.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 28, 1998

Don M. Clark
Executive Assistant
Sacramento Black Alcoholism Center
2425 Alhambra Blvd., Suite F
Sacramento, CA 95817-1127

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your letter dated September 4, 1998 regarding HIV in racial and ethnic populations.

The Office of National AIDS Policy is working diligently with all federal departments and agencies to address the HIV prevention, services and research needs of all Americans. The issues you raised, including the disproportionate impact of HIV on women of color, access to new treatments, and coordination of efforts are of key concern to this office and the President.

Please accept my gratitude for your support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Sandra Thurman to Individual living with HIV re: HIV status and employment (Personal) [partial] (1 page)	10/12/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office

OA/Box Number: 19399

FOLDER TITLE:

Correspondence - Sandra L. Thurman - Outgoing - 9/98

2018-0764-F

jm2111

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

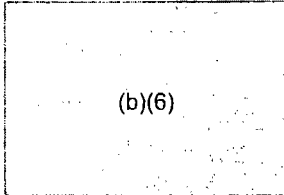
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 12, 1998



[001]

I am in receipt of your letter in which you provide information regarding your HIV status being revealed at your place of work. A person's medical history is a very private and personal issue, and utmost care must be given to ensure that it remains confidential.

From the material you have submitted, it appears as if you are taking the appropriate steps to address this issue within Howard County government. If you have not already done so, you may want to consider the services of an attorney who may be able to provide you with additional advice and guidance regarding possible legal remedies. As you know, the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination based on actual or perceived HIV-status. You should consider discussing this law with the appropriate individuals.

If you are having financial difficulties, you should consider contacting a local AIDS service provider who should be able to assist you with determining if you qualify for any local, state or federal assistance programs. You should be able to get a list of local AIDS service organizations in the Howard County area by calling 1-800-458-5231, or your local health department.

I hope that your case is resolved to your satisfaction soon.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 22, 1998

Isaac Oberndorfer
Norris Strauss, inc.
5711 14th Ave.,
Brooklyn, NY 11219

Dear Mr. Oberndorfer:

Thank you for your letter of September 1 in which you provide literature on the work of Hulda Regehr Clark, Ph.D., and in particular her work titled, "The Cause and Cure for All Diseases."

The federal government does not to endorse specific products which are for sale to the general public. Medications, medical products, and medical devices which have undergone vigorous testing and review following criteria established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are allowed to go to market only after their approval.

You indicated in your letter that Dr. Clark's products have already been submitted for investigation, but that the material submitted "has been buried, lost or action delayed endlessly." If this is the case, you may want to consider discussing you specific case with an attorney to determine if a cause of action exist. FDA approval is an extremely important step in being able to market a product which falls under its jurisdiction, and the FDA must also follow strict rules once a product has been submitted for approval.

Thank you for sharing your information with me.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 8, 1998

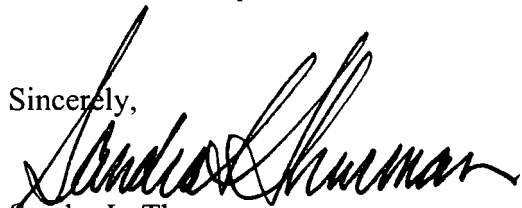
On behalf of the President and Mrs. Clinton, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Iowa's first HIV prevention conference: "HIV/AIDS in Iowa: A Rural Perspective".

The epidemic of HIV and AIDS has greatly impacted our country -- striking our urban centers, and our rural heartland alike. For too long, many of our Citizens have believed that AIDS is an urban plight and that our non-urban areas would be spared the ravages of this epidemic. Those of you gathered here for this conference are aware of the fact that AIDS in our rural areas is a reality -- and that HIV prevention is a necessity. It is my hope that this conference will provide you with additional skills and tool to assist you in your HIV prevention efforts.

I also wanted to express that the Clinton Administration remains dedicated to fighting AIDS and recognizes that the battle against HIV/AIDS involves a coordinated three pronged attack comprised of research, treatment, and prevention. We can be proud that, in the last four years, funding for AIDS research, prevention, and treatment has increased by more than 60 percent. But we must ensure that the commitment from communities, families, and individuals remains strong. Each of you represents that vital commitment -- and reflects the remarkable response of hope and determination -- that will be necessary to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Best wishes for a productive conference.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Thurman

Director

Office of National AIDS Policy