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FAX COVER SHEET

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06 Oct 99

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

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65542

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NUMBER OF PAGES:

2

(including cover sheet)

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1201 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-3290

October 4, 1999

Memorandum

TO: Mary Elizabeth Teasley
FROM: Jon Bernstein *JB*
RE: October 19 School Safety Event

Bruce Reed
Eric Liu
Loretta U
Stephanie Sweet
How should we handle it?
K1

In conjunction with Minority Leader Gephardt's two day youth violence conference, NEA has agreed to sponsor a school safety forum and reception on the evening of October 19. The event will be held in the Senate's Russell Caucus Room and approximately 350 teenagers and 100 chaperones from around the country are expected to attend. [Over 125 Democratic and 3 Republican offices are bringing teenage constituents to Washington for the summit.] We anticipate beginning the event around 6:30 PM and concluding it by 9:00 PM.

The central aim of the event is to provide these teenagers with an entertaining and informative evening that features compelling speakers, music and food. Towards these ends, we have invited three Senators who have supported our positions on school safety - Kennedy, Daschle and Voinovich. We are also working closely with Rep. Gephardt's staff to line-up suitable musical entertainment. Finally, we are ordering food for 500 people from the Senate catering service.

We are working closely with our Communications Unit to assure press coverage. Rep. Gephardt's office is working with MTV, who will be involved with and covering portions of the summit.

If President Clinton were able to make a brief appearance, it would be a tremendous boost to this event and very exciting and useful for the teenage attendees.

cc: Karen Tramantano

From Lynn

YOUTH VIOLENCE
MISC

***Remarks by Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller
to conference on
"Youth Violence: Its Impact on Society"
Des Moines, Iowa
Friday, April 30, 1999***

Thank you Dr. Alan Hoffman and thanks to the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences for its leadership in sponsoring this conference.

Sadly, the timing for this conference is perfect. Just over a week ago we were all dumb-founded by the senseless violence in Littleton, Colorado. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the victims of that tragedy.

We have all been touched by the grief. The images of youth running from the school to safety are indelible. Those of us who are parents undoubtedly felt some pangs seeing our own children off to school the next day as we wondered if it could indeed happen to them. And now, as we watch the funerals and memorials for those that were slain, the nation raises up almost as one and asks the question, "Why?"

There are many answers... the availability of high powered automatic weapons... violence in the media and video games... a lack of adult supervision... the need for more parental responsibility... better mental health services for troubled students... They are all right answers, of course. And because ALL of them are right, none of them alone is the single answer that we seek for the reassurance that this could not happen to us or our children.

The first thing is not to panic. A study by the Annie E. Casey foundation on school associated violent death showed that children face a one in a million chance of being killed at school, comparable to the risk of being killed by lightning. Iowa remains a very safe place to go to school. Iowa continues to have a relatively low crime rate for both adults and juveniles. But, just as we should not panic, neither should we take for granted that our history will protect us from events like those that occurred in Littleton, Colorado; Pearl, Mississippi; West Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Edinboro, Pennsylvania; or Springfield, Oregon. We must not panic, but neither can we think we are immune from the risk. We must both PREVENT AND PREPARE.

A Continuum of Programs

I would like to speak to you today about a comprehensive approach to youth development, juvenile crime and youth violence. I have made these issues one of the main priorities of my office because they represent a serious problem both in Iowa and around the nation.

For a long time now, I have been an advocate of a “continuum of programs” to address the problem of juvenile crime. The continuum includes prevention programs for “at-risk” youth; early intervention programs for youth who are just beginning to get into trouble, and highly restrictive programs that provide serious consequences for youth who threaten community safety. No one program is a “magic bullet” to stop juvenile crime or youth violence, but I believe a balanced continuum of different kinds of programs for different youth is the key to our efforts. No one program or approach fits all. Because all youth are different, the goal is to have the right program for the right youth at the right time.

Research on Youth Development: What Causes and Prevents Youth Violence

We may not know what causes an individual youth to become violent but we do know, on a community basis, what factors tend to predict violence. These are called “risk factors”. And we know which factors tend to prevent violence, “protective factors”.

If this concept and terminology sounds familiar to those of you with a medical background, it should. Just as we know what causes and prevents heart disease, we know what causes and prevents juvenile crime and youth violence.

The risk factor approach has been largely developed by Drs. David Hawkins and Richard Catalano of Developmental Research and Programs (DRP).

- In the community, risk factors include: the availability of drugs and firearms, media portrayals of violence, extreme mobility, low neighborhood attachment and extreme poverty.
- In the family, risk factors include: a family history of problem behavior, family management problems, family conflict, and parent involvement in problem behaviors.
- At school, risk factors include: anti-social behavior, academic failure, and a lack of commitment to school.
- Individually, risk factors include: alienation and rebelliousness, friends who engage in problem behaviors, and early initiation of the problem behavior.

A similar approach focusing on developmental assets has been developed by the Search Institute of Minneapolis. Generally, those assets reflect the positive side of the same coin. Assets include family support, a caring neighborhood, adult relationships, the existence of boundaries and expectations, a commitment to learning, social competency and positive values.

The more we increase protective factors, and the more we reduce risk factors, the more likely we are to prevent youth violence.

The Comprehensive Strategy

Fortunately, Iowa is in a good position to implement this important research. We are one of the first six states to receive federal assistance to implement something called “The Comprehensive Strategy”. The Comprehensive Strategy uses the risk and protective factor research to develop continuums of programs to fight delinquency at the community level.

The Comprehensive Strategy is being implemented in six Iowa communities at this time and these communities are just completing long term community youth development and juvenile justice plans. The Iowa communities are the counties are Polk, Woodbury, Marshall, Black Hawk, Clinton / Jackson, and Muscatine.

The Comprehensive Strategy is a community process that is

- research-based,
- data driven,
- and outcome focused.

Each community engages in a process to identify the risk and protective factors most relevant to their community and then studies the “best practices” around the nation to develop improved programs and coordination of services to address those risk factors. The result is a to prevent youth from becoming involved in crime and violence as well as an improved juvenile justice response to delinquent offenders.

Five general principles guide that work:

1. We must strengthen the family.
2. We must support core social institutions.
3. We must provide delinquency prevention.
4. We must intervene immediately and effectively when delinquent behavior occurs.
5. We must identify and control the small group of serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders.

My office, along with the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, has been a leader in the state in promoting this process and it is my hope that we can adapt what we have learned in these six communities so it is of benefit to every community in Iowa. I urge you to get involved in this kind of planning in your community. I invite you to contact my office if you

need help linking up with these kinds of activities in your area.

I would also like to spend a few minutes talking about several other initiatives my office has undertaken in the area of juvenile crime.

Juvenile Court School Liaisons

The major initiative of my office in the area of youth violence has been to advocate for an increased partnership between schools, the community and the juvenile court to prevent and fight juvenile crime. In particular, I have advocated for an expansion of the use of Juvenile Court School Liaisons in Iowa schools, primarily middle schools, throughout the state.

Juvenile Court School Liaisons are staff persons who work in the schools under cooperative arrangements between schools and the Juvenile Court. Today there are about 80 such people working intensively with delinquent and at-risk youth in 107 schools in Iowa. I am very pleased that the legislature has just approved legislation proposed by my office and Governor Vilsack that would expand the program by an additional 50%. Our goal is to eventually have the ability to place a liaison in every middle school in Iowa.

Juvenile Court School Liaisons perform a variety of functions, depending upon the needs of the school and community. While the functions can vary greatly based on local community need, they can include (1) supervising students who are on probation to the Juvenile Court; (2) working with individual youth who have been identified as at-risk; (3) working to reduce truancy; (4) responding to disruptive classroom behavior so all kids can learn better; and (5) working with delinquent and at-risk youth after school to prevent delinquency during high risk hours.

I believe that school-based programs are the best way to reach young people who are in the early stages of delinquency or at risk of becoming delinquent. When schools, juvenile court and other agencies all work together, two important things happen: learning goes up and juvenile crime goes down. All students benefit.

Location in the school is crucial to the success of this work. School-based staff can work intensively with delinquent and at-risk youth because they see them every day and can get to know their schools, neighbors and family environments. This intensity is a key to success.

Location in the school also encourages creative, effective partnerships between the Juvenile Court, the school, law enforcement and local service providers. While it is important to identify troubled youth, it is also important to get them to the right resources once they have been identified. Liaisons can be the catalyst for building collaboration and communication among the various systems who interact in a child's life.

There are many examples of how Juvenile Court School Liaisons work. In Waterloo, a Juvenile Court School Liaison who is a former Chicago gang member works with youth in the Waterloo schools who are members of gangs. He works with individual students to dissuade them from gang activity, makes presentations to assemblies of school children in higher risk areas, and meets with school counselors and parents of youth who may be engaged in gang activity.

Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Sioux City has adopted a variety of programs to make the school safe and secure for learning. Juvenile Court School Liaisons respond to police referrals and work with at-risk students directly to prevent delinquent activity. As a result of the programs at the school, delinquency adjudications from the school dropped by 70%. Equally impressively, learning has improved. Test scores the year after these programs were implemented improved 2.6 grade levels between the sixth and seventh grades and test scores between the seventh and eighth grade improved 2.3 grade levels.

Liaison programs are targeted at delinquent and at-risk youth, but I strongly believe that all youth benefit from safer schools that are free from the distractions and fear that impede learning. One Juvenile Court School Liaison tells a story about answering a parent's objection to the attention being paid to the "bad kids." The Liaison took the parent into the hallway of the school and asked, "What do you hear?" The parent replied that he couldn't hear anything. "That's my point," the Liaison said, "it's quiet so all the kids are better able to learn."

After School Programs

One creative example of the role a Juvenile Court School Liaison can play is to work with delinquent and at-risk youth after school. A recent study conducted for the U.S. Justice Department confirms the need for such work in Iowa. The study tracked juvenile crime by time of day in eight states, including Iowa. The study makes clear that the prime hours for violent juvenile crime are 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.. In fact, 3 p.m. is the peak hour for juvenile crime. The report shows that nearly half of all juvenile crime takes place between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. According to the study, "when the school bell rings, leaving millions of young people without responsible adult supervision or constructive activities, juvenile crime suddenly triples and prime time for juvenile crime begins."

It is clear to me that sending delinquent and at-risk youth out of the schools in the middle of the afternoon without adult supervision or constructive activities is a recipe for bad decisions. Not only are youth more likely to engage in criminal activities such as assaults and vandalism, they are also at much higher risk of engaging in behaviors with personally destructive outcomes such as pregnancy and drug or alcohol abuse.

After-school programs can make a real difference and School-based Liaisons can play an important role in developing and staffing the programs.

School Safety Initiative

Returning to the subject of school safety, I would like to mention one more initiative my office has taken to help our schools and communities prepare for school violence. Last September my office co-sponsored a project with the Iowa Association of School Boards to urge every Iowa school to implement plans to promote school safety and deal with the possibility of violence. Our offices provided materials to help school districts develop school safety plans. Those materials encourage the development of prevention programs to teach young people important skills such as conflict resolution and problem solving. We also encouraged the formation of partnerships between schools and law enforcement agencies and other community organizations. Communications between these organizations is crucial to meeting the needs of troubled youth. And finally we urged schools to assess safety considerations in their buildings, prepare emergency plans and procedures and conduct regular training on those procedures.

The Role of Individuals

My comments today have necessarily been on a system and statewide level because we are all in a position to influence those vital systems that shape the lives of youth. But I want to conclude on a more personal level. Most of us here today represent an organization, but we can also make a difference in the life of a child at a personal level.

Right now, at this moment, in your community a youth is standing at the crossroads where he or she must choose between the temptations of a life involving crime or the satisfaction of a life making positive contributions to the community. You can make a difference for that boy or girl.

There is a saying that "Every youth needs at least one adult in their life that is absolutely, irrationally crazy about them." I can't think of a more meaningful contribution any of us could make than to be that loving adult. And I can't think of anything more satisfying or productive.

THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

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TOUHH WU -
Misc

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 18, 1999
To: Richard Socarides; Fax: 202-456-6218
From: *MS* Maurice S. Paprin, FSC
Re: National Campaign Against Youth Violence
cc: Jeff Bleich

FMX TO JEFF R
Copy To
R. Fried
EPC L.

Congratulations on your Press Release on the new campaign and the appointment of Jeff Bleich to head up the campaign. I think it's the best news we've seen in this crucial national area of concern. I look forward to a telephone conference call with you and Jeff, and hope to set up that important meeting with you both at the White House. I would hope to bring a few of my Board members and our Executive Director, Craig Butler, to discuss the details of the "next steps."

I am still pressing for a National Leadership Summit at the White House as suggested in my early memos to Rahm Emmanuel and John Podesta. I think this is a rare opportunity to involve millions of people, not only in a Campaign Against Youth Violence, which you have already initiated, but more positively in a National Dialogue on Civic Action and Responsibility in all communities around the country. This initiative would involve schools, churches, synagogues, local town halls and every civic group in every town. It should bring out all parents, grandparents, and children and let them talk about all their concerns and issues.

Yes, the public service ads on all television networks and cable, all radio stations and print media, is a great kickoff. But it should not stop there. Bring people out of their "couch potato" slump and let all of us engage with the educators, the security people, the elected officials, and let's not limit the discussions to the macabre issues of violence, hate and terror!

Socarides Memo-8/18/99

Page 2

We can galvanize all concerned Americans to think about their own personal roles in the advancement of our democratic heritage and culture and get more people engaged in the specifics of doing something about these issues.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.