

March 15, 2000

TO: Sonia Chessen

FROM: Peter Benson

RE: The White House Conference

Thanks for your e-mail of March 13. Some responses:

I. Conference Themes. I'd recommend we focus on:

- A. What parents can and must do to nurture responsible and successful adolescents (e.g., communication, time, value development, etc.)
- B. What communities can and must do to augment the healthy development of adolescents
- C. The links between A and B. That is, what parents can do to build/access community; what community can do to support parenting.

In addressing these issues, I'd use some framework of positive youth development to concretely show how parents and community institutions have complementary power to enhance healthy development.

II. Research and Supporting Documents

The work I do to guide conversations about both parent and community contributions to adolescent development is the list of 40 assets accompanied by the data that shows the cumulative power of the assets. I know 40 may look overwhelming. But note also the 8 categories that summarize the 40: support, empowerment, boundaries, time use, commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity. By fed-ex, I'll send a packet on the assets and their importance to both reducing high risk behavior as well as promoting school success.

I don't mean to say that the asset model is the one you should use. I know they work very powerfully in audiences like the one you are gathering. We uniquely tie these elements of healthy development to outcomes, plus we have created a set of tools that directly speak to the asset-building roles of family and community.

There is, of course, a lot of other work going on to name developmental targets. And this certainly is a conference that should be inclusive in drawing on many lines of thinking. I'm also sending a page we did two years ago to summarize several taxonomies of positive youth development. If you like this as a handout, we could make a few changes in it and produce it for you.

III. Deliverables

In the fed-ex package, I'm sending several other publications that may be useful to participants.

IV. Speakers. Several that come to mind include Colin Powell, of course. Also, Michael Resnick, a colleague of Bob Blum's is a fine presenter and can tailor a presentation to this conference. Bill Damon or Karen Pittman would be great. Richard Lerner at Tufts is a celebrated scholar who also knows how to connect with more applied audiences.

V. Invitees. Some names that come to mind:

- Dan Merenda, CEO, Partners in Education
- Ruth Wooden, CEO, National Parenting Association
- Debra Delgado, Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Maria Guajardo Lucero, Executive Director, Assets for Colorado Youth
- Richard Lerner at Tufts
- Rick Little, International Youth Foundation
- Dale Blyth, Executive Director, 4-H Youth Development, University of Minnesota
- Martha Farrell Erickson, Professor and head of the Minnesota Children, Youth, and Family Consortium
- Bruce Nicholson (CEO) and Ellen Albee, Manager of National Programs, Lutheran Brotherhood, Minneapolis. Lutheran Brotherhood, a Fortune 500 company, is the corporate sponsor of our national asset-building initiative. Plus Lutheran Brotherhood has been a major national player and activist for positive youth development.

Marilyn Erickson, my assistant, could get you addresses for any of these (612-399-0223).

Now here's a serendipitous possibility. The RespecTeen National Youth Forum will be meeting in D. C. from April 29-May 4. This is a 12-year-old effort to bring youth to D. C. to

provide a voice in state and federal policy on issues important to young people. Run by Lutheran Brotherhood, one student is chosen from each of the 50 states, based on a fairly rigorous application process to be part of the annual Forum. Senator Craig Thomas of Wyoming and Rep. Martin Sabo from Minneapolis could testify to the quality of this effort. So could Michael Erlandson, Sabo's Chief of Staff. Anyhow, what this presents is a national, one-per-state delegation already assembled in D. C. Each also accompanied by a parent. I have been told by Ellen Albee at Lutheran Brotherhood that she could deploy this group in any way it might be useful to you, from forming a panel, being reactors, or simply being there for any ceremonial moment where a youth presence would be useful. I'm not sure of the diversity of this Youth Forum, but we could find out.

When Shirley Sagawa and I meet each other next week in South Carolina, we could grab some minutes to talk about conference design if she'd find that useful.

Dr. Jane Ferguson
Chief, Adolescent Health and Development
Family and Health Services
World Health Organization (WHO)
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Geneva, Switzerland

Dr. Klaus J. Jacobs
Chairman of the Board
Johann Jacobs Foundation
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*1 copy
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Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development
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Durham, NC

Alonzo Crim
Spelman College
Atlanta, GA

Michael S. Dukakis
Northeastern University
Boston, MA

William H. Gray III
United Negro College Fund
Fairfax, VA

Fred M. Hechinger
Carnegie Corporation of New York
New York, NY

David W. Hornbeck
School District of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Thomas H. Kean
Drew University
Madison, NJ

Ted Koppel
ABC News Nightline
Washington, DC

Hernan LaFontaine
Southern Connecticut State University
New Haven, CT

Frederick C. Robbins
Case Western Reserve University
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Kenneth B. Smith
Chicago Theological Seminary
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Merck, Inc.
Whitehouse Station, NJ

James D. Watkins
Consortium for Oceanographic Research and
Education
Washington, DC

emailed

 Sonia G. Chessen
03/21/2000 11:36:20 AM

Record Type: Record

To: MaryEllen C. McGuire/WHO/EOP@EOP, Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP, Shirley S. Sagawa/WHO/EOP@EOP, Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:
Subject: RE: conference on youth

----- Forwarded by Sonia G. Chessen/OPD/EOP on 03/21/2000 11:36 AM -----



Karen Pittman <Karen@iyfus.org>
03/16/2000 07:14:56 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sonia G. Chessen/OPD/EOP
cc: Georgette Offer <Georgette@iyfus.org>, Thaddeus Ferber <Thad@iyfus.org>, Merita Irby <Merita@iyfus.org>
Subject: RE: conference on youth

Sonia:

Attached are quick responses to your e-mail. I've been out of town and am just settling down to do e-mail responses. You will note in the response that we offer to put together a short piece on supporting families to support youth in time for the conference if that is useful. We've had it on our list of things to do for a while (see the piece YD101 On a Good Day". We have a small grant from Casey to explore a range of issues related to their Neighborhood and Families initiative. One topic of mutual interest is family-focused youth development.

Obviously, we would not be doing this piece on behalf of the White House, but if it is useful, we can try to expedite it. Also, since we are in town, we remain happy to help in any way that makes sense. You've selected an important angle on an important topic. If only there were more time...

Karen Pittman
Senior Vice President, IYF
Executive Director, IYF-US

Please note new e-mail address:

Karen@IYFUS.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Sonia_G._Chessen@opd.eop.gov [mailto:Sonia_G._Chessen@opd.eop.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 11:59 AM

To: karen@iyfnet.org

Subject: conference on youth

Thank you so much for participating in our White House Conference on Youth planning call this afternoon. In an effort to keep ourselves organized I have a few pieces of information to pass along and to ask for. To facilitate our planning efforts any materials you can provide (conference themes/research/deliverables/speakers/invite nominations must be received by Friday, March 17th.

I. Conference Program

It would be extremely helpful as we begin to develop the conference program, if you could provide a brief listing of the top 2-3 issues or themes [not necessarily programs] that you consider essential to cover in the course of our conference. Please email this listing (please feel free to explain your choices) so we can give it our full attention.

II. Research/Supporting Documents

If you can think of any research, data, or other materials that support your choice of issues or themes or on adolescents in general that you feel are essential for us to see, please send them along. You had some great suggestions about parents' roles, let us know if you can think of other research there. I thought your piece in this month's Youth Today was particularly on topic. I was sorry to read you had lost your mom, but as a mom, I found reading about her inspirational.

III. Deliverables

If you or your organization can provide, or has ideas for, possible conference deliverables [grants, announcements, reports] please let us know. We are interested in pooling as many resources and tools as we can.

IV. Speakers

If you know of people working with, advocating for, or who are youth that would make exceptional conference speakers or if you know of a family we may want to highlight in the course of our conference, please send us their name, brief background and contact information. As people come into consideration, we may call you for further details.

V. Invitees

With the conference fast approaching we must put together an invitation list by the end of this month. If you would like to nominate someone for attendance please send their name, a brief description of who they are, and their contact information. If I need further details on a nominee I will call.

Again, to facilitate our planning efforts, all materials must be received by March 17th.

As your materials arrive I will share them with the rest of the White House working group. My contact information is:

Sonia Chessen
Director of the White House Council on Youth Violence
725 17th Street
(202) 456-5796
(202) 456-2878
Sonia_G._Chessen@opd.eop.gov

Thank you again. I have attached the contact information from the meeting itself, if you would like to be in touch with your colleagues. Please call as needed.



- IYF-US WH Conference Recommendations 3-16-00.doc



- Youth Toay 7&8-98.doc

Conference Program Themes

- a) Problem-Free is Not Fully Prepared – how to build an agenda for (and with) youth that goes above and beyond the prevention of problems.
- b) Checklists for Parents – concrete things that parents should make sure their children get from their families, schools, youth organizations, and communities
- a) Youth Making a Difference – young people contributing to their peers, families, and communities

Supporting Documents

- b) Regarding Youth Making a Difference, see *Youth as Effective Citizens* Pittman, K., Ferber, T., & Irby, M., 2000.
- a) Regarding Checklist for Parents, see *YD101 'On a Good Day'*, Pittman, K, 1999.
- b) Regarding Problem-Free is Not Fully Prepared, see *Preventing Problems or Promoting Development: Competing Priorities or Inseparable Goals?* Pittman, K. & Irby M., 1996.

Deliverables

- a) Documents above are short, designed for a broad audience. We could discuss custom making a resource (e.g. parental checklist) to put in a conference packet.

Speakers

- b) Michele Cahill, Program Officer, Carnegie Foundation
- a) Karen Hein, President, Grant Foundation
- b) Maureen Sedonaen, Director, Youth Leadership Institute
- c) Geoff Canada, Director, Rheedlan Center for youth and families
- d) Dale Blythe, Search Institute
- e) Gary Walker, Public/Private Ventures
- f) Wendy Wheeler, Director, Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development, 4H
- a) David Milner, President Community IMPACT! USA
- b) Ralph Smith, VP, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Invitees

Numerous folks come to mind – we can get back to you with a list but here's a start (in addition to those above):

- a) Sharon Adams-Taylor, American Association of School Administrators
- b) Richard Murphy, AED Center for Youth Development and Policy Research
- c) John Kyle/Cliff Johnson, National League of Cities/ Institute for Children and Families
- d) Jean Thomases, Independent Consultant, NYC (Casey Fellow, formerly with Good Shepard Services)
- a) Louis Garden Acosta, El Puente NYC

- b) Marty Blank, Coalition of Community Schools, Intsitute for Educational Leadership
- c) Sharon Lovick Edwards, Cornerstone Consulting, Houston Texas
- a) Joan Wynn, Chapin Hall Center for Children, U. of Chicago
- b) Merita Irby/Thaddeus Ferber, International Youth Foundation-US
- c) Stephen Small, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- d) Robin Jarrett, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
- e) Connie Flanagan, Penn State U.
- a) Reginald Clark, Independent consultant (working w/ families to increase role in youth development).

The Algebra of Development

By Karen Pittman

"Youth development is what you'd do for your own kid on a good day. We don't need a fancy definition to know what to do." This practical advice was offered recently by Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League. He's right. We don't need a fancy definition. We need a functional equation.

There is an algebra to youth development that parents and young people intuitively use, one that we have yet to translate into powerful, policy-adaptable equations. We talk lists, but we need to talk equations. Why? Because youth development requires multiple inputs from multiple sources over a sustained period of time. It requires formulas to show concrete interrelationships between multiple variables. Lists inform, but they do not instruct. They also give funders, practitioners, and policymakers a false sense that they can support their favorite outputs, inputs, or settings at whatever levels they feel comfortable.

For example: A CBO with a "good fuel" output of three units a day can complement the mix offered by an adequately functioning school or family. But it cannot compensate for the toxic fuel mix dosed out by a poor functioning school, family or neighborhood pumping out 25 units. Equally important, that CBO may not have the capacity (even with increased funding) to provide the right mix of volume to make a difference.

Geographic communities are combinations of settings – families, neighbors, faith and civic organizations, businesses, public and private services which include basic places like parks and ballfields. What we need are concrete ways to gauge how key settings interconnect to improve or contaminate the overall fuel mix for youthful travelers. Once assessed, each setting should be 1) held accountable for providing inputs needed to produce the outcomes it claims are its primary goal; 2) pushed to provide other inputs that could be added without averting resources from that goal; and 3) monitored to ensure that they are doing no harm.

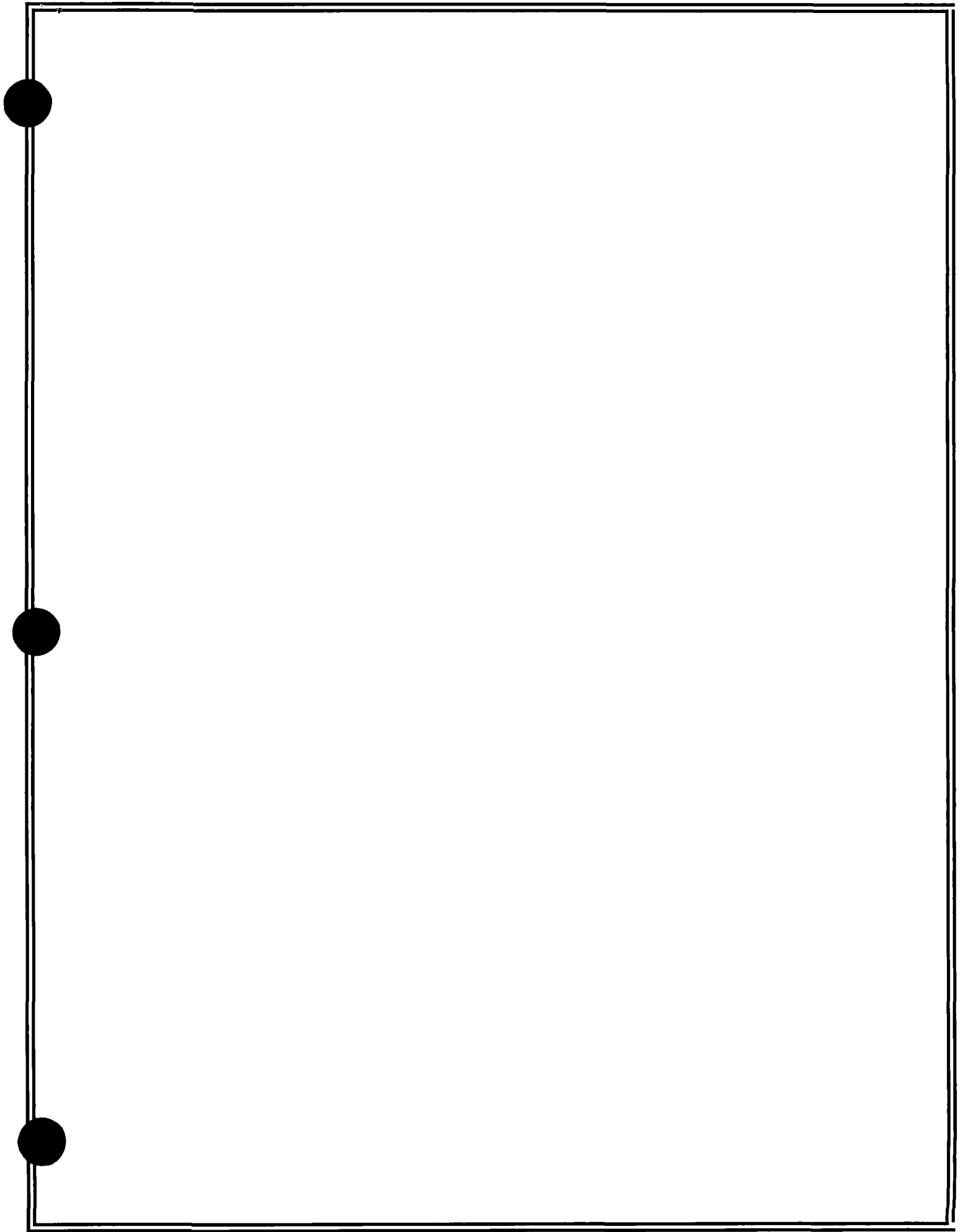
Growing fully prepared youth isn't as simple as $A+B=C$. But it isn't quantum physics, either. There are six steps most parents or

guardians take to support their children and that most young people take to protect, prepare and promote themselves.

1. Reality Check. Where are they developmentally – cognitively, emotionally, physically, spiritual?
1. Goals Check. What knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviors do parents and children want to achieve? Avoid?
2. Progress check. How well are they doing? What progress has been made toward these goals? Are they still realistic targets?
1. Inputs Check. Are they getting what they need? Is the fuel supply adequate? Is the fuel mix correct?
2. Settings Check. What are the possible sources of needed fuels? Are they adequate? Marginal? Dangerous?
1. Overall Community Check. Is the overall settings mix right? Is it easy to piece together a steady diet of needed inputs or is it necessary to compensate for major settings (like schools, deteriorating neighborhood blocks) that are not functioning well?

One of the primary reasons that families move is to improve the natural fuel mix available to their children. We have to find ways to help families that can't move by assessing the fuel mix supplied by all of the community fuel sources (families, schools, CBO, peer groups, faith organizations, gangs, etc.) and advocating for positive adjustments. Youth development is a function of the quality quantity and congruence of inputs offered by formal and informal settings in which young people spend their time. We need to think more broadly than youth organizations – which even on a good day can offer only some young people some of what they need – as well as think more specifically than "community." We do not have the measurement precision needed to define and solve equations. But we can pose some basic relational formulas that would give us the traction needed to get out of the mud in which we are currently spinning.

Youth Today. Volume 7, #5/July/August 1998



emailed



Sonia G. Chessen
03/21/2000 11:37:29 AM

Record Type: Record

To: MaryEllen C. McGuire/WHO/EOP@EOP, Shirley S. Sagawa/WHO/EOP@EOP, Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP, Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: youth violence conference

----- Forwarded by Sonia G. Chessen/OPD/EOP on 03/21/2000 11:37 AM -----



Jeanne Brooks-Gunn <jb224@columbia.edu>
03/18/2000 03:35:15 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sonia G. Chessen/OPD/EOP

cc: Miriam R Linver <mrl23@columbia.edu>, veronica holly <vh44@columbia.edu>
Subject: Re: youth violence conference

dear sonia

the conference call on monday the 13th was interesting and i hope, helpful. everyone was really engaged in the issues.

forgive my tardy response. i was in florida on vacation with my son and the grandparents and just returned. it was a disneyland moment.

responses to your planning agenda follow.

I. conference program

teenagers today (a synopsis on behavior problems AND on competencies, and on the media over-emphasis on the problems, and over-estimation of youth with problems). maybe exemplars of how media portrays. didn't the child care conference start with a film? or am i dreaming? there might not be enuf time for something similar--this would be a way to get voices of parents, youth, school staff, etc., in early, with little filmed vignettes.

what do teenagers need for healthy development? list of what are ingredients for success (perhaps include a few youth talking about what

they perceive as their needs). focus on family, community activities, opportunity to become engaged.

parents and youth. points about kids don't become disengaged from parents during adolescence. relationship changes (conflict normal, etc.). invisible hand of parents.

community activities and youth. what youth need from communities (include access, engaged adults, etc.).

policy initiatives. include focus on parents and families (we don't really do with youth, although we do when we develop programs for children!). include supervision via activities with other engaged adults, community cohesion. include more after school activities. focus on providing activities for all/the majority of youth in a community (right now, most programs serve a handful).

intitatives that are making a difference. do you have good contacts to get a few great programs? what is america's promise doing? how about the community wide intitutive in kansas city? also, i think seattle has a neat program.

II. we shall send you FOUR pieces from our research group--one on what we know about development and implications for youth programs (roth and b-g), one on mother-daughter relationships (graber and b-g), one on evaluation of youth programs (roth and b-b) and a very new piece on youth services (roth--might be redundant with the others, though).

III. the society for research in child development social policy report that i am writing with jodie roth should be done--possible to have available as a resource).

On Mon, 13 Mar 2000 Sonia_G._Chessen@opd.eop.gov wrote:

- > Thank you so much for participating in our White House Conference on Youth
- > planning call this afternoon. In an effort to keep ourselves organized I
- > have a few pieces of information to pass along and to ask for. To
- > facilitate our planning efforts any materials you can provide (conference

> themes/research/deliverables/speakers/invite nominations must be received

> by Friday, March 17th.

IV. speakers

our chicago project on human development in neighborhoods has a terrific group of youth who have ben meeting with tony earls (felton earls of the harvard school of public health). these kids are articulate and wonderful. great possible speakers. also, group includes white, hispanic and black youth.

i don't know if you are interested in a brief talk on parents and adolescents--if so, i would be happy to participate.

V. invitees

felton earls (tony earls), psychiatrist at harvard medical school

rob sampson, sociologist at u. of chicago (rob, tony and i are running the chicago project--7000 families in 80 neighborhoods)

frank furstenberg, sociologist at u of pennsylvania. doing international youth work as well as national work.

betty hamburg, past-president of w.t.grant foundation and grandmother/godmother of much of the policy research interest in youth development.

her daughter as well--peggy hamburg of DHHS

woody kessel of DHHS

charlie irwin, pediatrician at UCSD..policy work on risk behavior in youth.

paula duke-duncan, pediatrician at U Vt who is also working in school system and at state level on youth issues.

renee jenkins, pediatrician at howard university.

of course, julie richmond at harvard

anyone at the council economic advisors interested in youth?

i am trying to think of folks from NGA, but am blanking.

groups of interest-society for research on adolescence (i am a past president) and society for adolescent medicine (charlie and renee are past-presidents of this group).> > >

best, brooke

I. Conference Program

> It would be extremely helpful as we begin to develop the conference
> program, if you could provide a brief listing of the top 2-3 issues or
> themes [not necessarily programs] that you consider essential to cover in
> the course of our conference. Please email this listing (please feel free
> to explain your choices) so we can give it our full attention.

>

>

> II. Research/Supporting Documents

> If you can think of any research, data, or other materials that support
> your choice of issues or themes or on adolescents in general that you feel
> are essential for us to see, please send them along. In particular, if you
> have anything written on the mother/daughter stuff, I think it would be



Karen Hein <KHein@Wtgrantfdn.org>
03/21/2000 06:17:16 PM

emailed

Record Type: Record

To: MaryEllen C. McGuire/WHO/EOP
cc: Charlie Finlay <CFinlay@Wtgrantfdn.org>
Subject: RE: White House Conference on Youth

Dear Mary Ellen: I just received your email with the attachment describing characteristics of invitees for the conference. I am in DC (not at my office) and it's 6pm, therefore, I don't have access to my address list or staff at the Foundation who could complete all the information you are requesting. Since your deadline is today, I'll give you names, in hopes that either my staff can supply the rest of the information if there are people of interest to you, or they are people for whom you already have the info you need. That's the best I can do under these circumstances.

Regards, Karen

RESEARCHER/ Academics; experts:

Susan Bales (Frameworks, Inc, Potomac MD) communications; reframing issues of youth into more positive view (A);

Frank Gilliam (UCLA) Political Scientist; communications researcher ---similar to Susan Bales' expertise (A) ;

Jane Brown (Univ of N. Carolina) communications researcher---expert on various modes of communications used by young people (from journals to magazines to music, net etc (A)

Marta Tienda (Princeton) Office of Population Research; sociologist; expert in workforce issues, immigration and "vulnerable populations" (A);

Reed Larsen (Univ of Illinois) trends in youth; positive development; he also leads the SRA (Society for Research in Adolescence' 21st Century Study Group) (B);

Tom Cook (Univ of Chicago) trends in transition to adulthood in US compared to Europe; (B)

Jim Connell (Univ of Rochester) framework for community/youth development (A)

EMPLOYERS WITH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE/PARNERSHIPS

Bernie Marcus, Pres/CEO of Home Depot (works with Dorothy Stoneman, founder of YouthBuild) (A)

EXPERTS ON WORK /FAMILY

Kathy Newman (Kennedy School at Harvard):anthropologist and author of, "No Shame in my Game" about young people working at low paid jobs and their career trajectory and experience (A)

=====

From:

Karen Hein, MD

President

William T. Grant Foundation

570 Lexington Avenue (18th Floor)

New York, New York 10022-6837

Geoffrey Canada

Rheedlan Centers for Children and Families

147 St. Nicholas Ave. 3rd Fl.

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(212) 663-0555

(212) 663-0560



"Adams-Taylor, Sharon" <SAdams@aasa.org>

03/27/2000 02:40:33 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP

cc: MaryEllen C. McGuire/WHO/EOP

Subject: RE: WH Conference on Teenagers

Hello Ann,

I was out Thursday and Friday of last week and am just seeing this note from you.

At the meeting, I gave you the names of several people:

Speakers:

Robert Blum -- ADD Health Study, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Karen Pittman -- youth development, International Youth Foundation, Takoma Park, MD

Bonnie Benard -- Resiliency, WestEd Regional Education Lab, Oakland, CA

Joyce Epstein -- Family involvement in schools, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD

James McPartland -- High Schools, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore

Wade Boykin -- Educating poor kids, Howard University, WDC

Tricia L. Bachus -- Preserving strong families; strategies for strengthening the relationship between teens and their parents, Gainesville, FL

Paul Houston -- AASA executive director -- educating the head and the heart of teens

All of these folks are great speakers...let me know if you need contact information.

Themes: I would keep it broad -- youth development and education; keeping kids engaged and connected; relationships are everything.

Research: The Add Health Study. I have several copies (about 10) of the monograph that explains this study's main findings. I only have the hard copies. Let me know if you want them.

Deliverables: We have a wonderful booklet, called "We Care, We Act" that focuses on adolescents and how superintendents see their needs as broad and also see their (superintendents)role as more than academics, books and buses. It's great! We also have an old book that is very popular that focuses on parents.reform.

Invite:

--Me,
-- Ben Canada, (A-A) incoming president of AASA and
superintendent in Portland, OR (we would pay his way) or Joe Cirasoulo,
superintendent in Connecticut, our current president (we'd
pay);
--Diana Lam (Hispanic) superintendent in Providence, RI;
-- Arlene Ackerman, superintendent, DC Public Schools

Let me know how else I can be helpful. Thanks.
Sharon Adams-Taylor

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann_O'Leary@opd.eop.gov [mailto:Ann_O'Leary@opd.eop.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2000 5:01 PM
To: glemus2363@aol.com; lg13@is2.nyu.edu; schwallieg@aol.com;
ferguson@ncea.com; sadams@aasa.org; mrc@alawash.org; sdang@aalead.org;
coneyb@nassp.org; egbangit@naaffa.org; snousen@nea.org
Cc: MaryEllen_C._McGuire@who.eop.gov
Subject: WH Conference on Teenagers

Thank you so much for participating in our White House Conference on Youth brainstorming session last week. In an effort to keep ourselves organized I have a few pieces of information to pass along and to ask for. To facilitate our planning efforts we would appreciate it if you could provide any materials (conference themes/research/deliverables/speakers/invite nominations by close of business on Friday, March 24 or let us know that they are coming. Thank you to those that have already forwarded me some of this information.

I. Conference Program

It would be extremely helpful as we begin to develop the conference program, if you could provide a brief listing of the top 2-3 issues or themes [not necessarily programs] that you consider essential to cover in the course of our conference. Please email this listing (please feel free to explain your choices) so we can give it our full attention.

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With the conference fast approaching we must put together an invitation

list by the end of this month. If you would like to nominate someone for attendance please send their name, a brief description of who they are, and their contact information. If I need further details on a nominee I will call.

As your materials arrive I will share them with the rest of the White House working group. My contact information is:

Ann O'Leary

Office of the First Lady

2nd Floor, West Wing

The White House

Washington, DC 20500

ann_o'leary@opd.eop.gov

202/456-6275 - phone

202/456-2878 - fax

Thank you again for all of your help!!!

-Ann O'Leary

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

National Academy of Sciences
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Institute of Medicine
National Research Council

Institute of Medicine
Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
Board on Children, Youth, and Families

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2000

TO: Ann O'Leary

FROM: Michele Kipke

SUBJECT: Suggestions for the White House Summit on Youth Development

It was wonderful to see you again last week. I was delighted that you were able to spend a considerable amount of time with our Committee on Community-Level Programs for Youth. I hope you found it useful as you consider the agenda for the White House Summit on Youth Development.

I know you and your colleagues in the First Lady's Office have been through an exhausting process of soliciting input and suggestions from a wide range of key stakeholders in the field of youth development. Having been immersed in the committee's discussions last week about youth development, I thought I might share some of my own thoughts and suggestions. The following are three suggested themes around which to focus the day.

Understanding Adolescent Development and the Essential Requirements for Promoting Youth Development

I think it is critically important that the summit first lay a foundation for the discussions that will occur throughout the day. A useful starting point would be a discussion about the essential requirements for healthy adolescent development. In this context, presenters could focus their remarks on the essential ingredients of healthy adolescent development, the outcomes we should strive for as a society, and how entirely feasible it is to achieve these outcomes for the vast majority of adolescents in the United States. I think we want to send reassuring messages to policy makers, the media and general public, parents, and adolescents themselves in an effort to dispel prevailing myths about adolescence – e.g., adolescence is a time of strife and turmoil, adolescents are dangerous, the source of problems rather than a resource to be cultivated, and teens are inherently irresponsible and disrespectful.

Possible presenters include: David Hamburg (President Emeritus, Carnegie Corporation of New York), Michael Cohen (Chair of Pediatrics at Montefiore Medical Center), Robert Blum (Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota), Jeanne Brooks-Gunn (Professor, Center for Children and Families at Columbia University), Kenyon Chan (Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Professor of Psychology at Loyola Marymount), Cynthia Garcia Coll (Professor

of Sociology at University of Pennsylvania), Richard Lerner (Professor of Psychology at Tufts), and Hanh Cao Yu (Social Scientist, Social Policy Research Associates).

Reducing Risks and Enhancing Opportunities to Promote Youth Development

Despite the summit's focus on positive youth development, I think there needs to be some attention to the potential risks to adolescent health, development, and well-being. The kinds of risks the summit might want to address, given this Administration's substantial efforts and achievements, include: tobacco, alcohol, and drug use; unintended pregnancy; crime and violence; and academic failure. Effective prevention approaches or "promising practices" could also be showcased. An issue that is receiving increasing scientific and media attention is the sleep needs and difficulties of adolescents; insufficient sleep among teens appears to result not only in poor academic performance but also increased risk of alcohol and other drug use and involvement in motor vehicle crashes. The importance of peers and how peers can influence adolescents in both positive and negative ways could also be addressed here.

Possible presenters include: Sarah Brown (Executive Director, National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy), Joseph Califano (President, Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Columbia University), Delbert Elliott (Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Professor at the University of Colorado - Boulder), Ken Winters (Professor of the Department of Psychiatry at University of Minnesota), and William Dement (Director, Sleep Disorders Center and Professor in Psychiatry, Stanford).

Of course opportunities and strategies for promoting youth development should receive as much if not more time and attention on the agenda. Potential frontline institutions should be acknowledged and recognized for their role in promoting positive developmental outcomes among youth, including families, communities and community-based organizations, schools, religious institutions, businesses, and the media. Strategies for engaging parents and other supportive adults (e.g., mentors), enlisting the support and involvement of communities (e.g., community-based organizations, local leaders and policy makers, religious organizations), and designing integrated service delivery systems should also be discussed. Finally, these presentations could and should offer "tools" or strategies for ensuring the healthy development of youth in school and during the after school hours, in the workplace, through volunteerism and service learning, with school to work programs, and through civic engagement.

Possible presenters include: Jacque Eccles (Professor in Psychology at the University of Michigan), Karen Hein (President WT Grant Foundation), Karen Pittman (Vice President, International Youth Foundation), Peter Benson (President, Search Institute), Gary Walker (President, Public/Private Ventures), Michelle Cahill (Senior Program Officer at the Carnegie Corporation of New York), Jane Quinn (Children's Aid Society), Heather Wise (Director, Harvard Family Research Project at Harvard University), Linda Burton (Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and Sociology, Pennsylvania State University), Anthony Jackson (Director, The Learning Center at the Disney Foundation), and Carter Savage (Boys/Girls Club of America).

Strengthening Relationship Between Adolescents, Their Parents

Finally, I am thrilled that the summit will focus on the importance of parents in the lives of adolescents. Compared to families with young children, there has been much less attention to the home and family environments of adolescents. Yet it is clear that adolescents develop best

when they live and are nurtured within a supportive home and family environment. Thus, despite the fact that adolescents are moving out beyond the family and striving for greater autonomy from parents, parents remain an important influence in the lives of their adolescent children. The summit can accomplish a lot by sending a clear message regarding the importance of involved parents in the lives of teenagers, as well as providing sound advice and reassuring guidance to parents. Moreover, I would hope that the summit would also offer "tools" or strategies for strengthening relationships between parents and their teenagers.

Possible presenters include: Steven Small (Professor of Psychology at University of Wisconsin), Michael Resnick (Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Minnesota), and Laura Sessions Stepp (Journalist, Washington Post).

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance to you at this stage in the process. I will also forward some resource/background reading materials, including reports of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families and its Forum on Adolescence, as well as the final report, *Great Transitions*, from the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development.

Carnegie Corporation of New York

437 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022 • (212) 371-3200 • Fax: (212) 207-6342

David A. Hamburg, M.D.
President Emeritus

March 29, 2000

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Fax: 202-456-6244

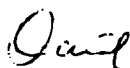
Dear Melanne:

Thanks so very much for giving me the opportunity to suggest some priority invitations to the White House conference. I had a good talk with Mary Ellen about it today. With great self-restraint (and difficulty), I have confined myself to ten experts and three philanthropists. I think these people make great sense for the conference. Some of them should, in my judgement, be presenters – i.e. Michele Kipke, William Dement, Jacque Eccles.

As chair of the National Academy of Sciences Forum on Adolescence, I work closely with Michele. So I am including here a memo that she sent to Ann O'Leary on March 28. I concur entirely – with exception of one point. Michele does not suggest herself as a presenter, but I do so enthusiastically. On the other hand, she identifies me as a possible presenter but I think otherwise. I have had the privilege of a lot of "air time" at previous White House events. For this one, I prefer to pass the baton to younger people. I just want to help make this a meeting of the highest quality and good visibility for the nation – with some stimulating effect beyond our shores.

Your staff is doing a terrific job! Please let me know how I can help in the next phase.

With every good wish,



DAVID
HAMBURG

**Names and Addresses for invitations
to White House Youth Conference
May 2, 2000**

I. EXPERTS

Dr. Beatrix A. Hamburg
Cornell University
Medical College – Department of Psychiatry
1300 York Avenue, Rm. F2311
Mail Box 171
New York, NY 10021

The authentic pioneer who “discovered” early adolescence in a series of seminal papers in the 1960s and 70s. Also, one of the creators of peer-mediated interventions.

Dr. Michele D. Kipke
Director
Forum on Adolescence
National Academy of Science
Board on Children Youth & Families
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Harris Building Room 156C
Washington, DC 20418



Probably the most broadly informed person in the country now on adolescence: the intersections of research, practice and policy. She should give a presentation at the conference.

Dr. William C. Dement
Director Sleep Disorders Center
Stanford University School of Medicine
701 Welch Road, Suite 226
Stanford, CA 94304

The great pioneer in sleep research, including the opening up of research on sleep in adolescence.

Dr. Ruby Takanishi
President
Foundation for Child Development
345 East 46th Street
Suite 700
New York, NY 10017



For ten years, Executive Director of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development.

Dr. Tony Jackson
Director
Disney Learning Partnership
4100 West Alameda Avenue
Burbank, CA 91505



The principal author of the landmark Carnegie report *Turning Points* and also the 10 year follow-up, *Turning Points 2000*. President Clinton worked on the *Turning Points* task force and was its principal national spokesman

Dr. Jacquelynn Eccles
University of Colorado
Institute of Behavioral Science
Campus Box 483
Boulder, CO 80309-0483



One of the best researchers on adolescent development.

Dr. Julius Richmond
Professor of Health Policy Emeritus
Harvard University Medical School
Department of Social Medicine
641 Huntington Avenue
Room 316
Boston, MA 02115

Former Surgeon General, "father" of Headstart, valuable member of Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development

Dr. Frederick Robbins
University Professor of Epidemiology and
Biostatistics
Nobel Laureate in Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
2119 Abington Road
Cleveland, OH 44106

(B)

Nobel for his discovery that made polio immunization possible. Valuable member of Carnegie Council.

Dr. Eleanor Maccoby
Professor of Psychology Emeritus
Stanford University
Department of Psychology
Jordan Hall - Building 420
Stanford, CA 94305-2130

(B)

ED

One of the most respected Child Development researchers in the world. A valuable member of the Carnegie Council.

Sarah Brown
Director
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
2100 M Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037

✓

The spark plug of this very successful enterprise.

II. PHILANTHROPY

Klaus Jacobs
Chairman
Jacobs Foundation for Youth
P. O. Box 101
Seefeldquai 17
CH-8034 Zurich
Switzerland



Founder of Europe's first foundation for youth

Irving Harris B. Harris
Chairman
The Harris Foundation
Two North LaSalle Street
Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60602

The greatest philanthropist for children and youth since Andrew Carnegie.
An old friend of the First Lady.

Dr. Anne C. Petersen
Senior Vice President for Programs
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
One Michigan Avenue East
Battle Creek, MI 49017-4058

Formerly a distinguished researcher on adolescence, then Deputy Director
of NSF, now in philanthropy

Carnegie Corporation of New York

437 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022 • (212) 371-3200 • Fax: (212) 207-6342

David A. Hamburg, M.D.
President Emeritus

March 31, 2000

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Fax: 202-456-6244

Dear Melanne:

I just learned something now that compels me to send you one final top priority invitation for the youth conference. Paul Brest, the new president of the Hewlett Foundation, is considering whether to establish a grant-making program on youth and community. Hewlett will soon be one of the largest and best of all foundations. Brest was Dean of the Stanford Law School and is a good friend of Warren Christopher who values him highly.

So it would be exceedingly timeful and constructive to invite Brest to the White House Conference.

His address is:	Dr. Paul Brest, President Hewlett Foundation 525 Middlefield Road Suite 200 Menlo Park, CA 94025	Melanne Verveer _____
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Let's talk again on Monday.

All the best!

David

Mary Ellen -

*Could we p/s
do this, Ellen
just met with
Paul & we have
other issues with
_____ him.*



Ruby Shamir
04/09/2000 04:26:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP, MaryEllen C. McGuire/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: TEEN CONF SPKRS

Once and for all, I have accumulated all the names of speaker ideas from e-mails that MaryEllen sent to me over the last few weeks. I am sorry I did not do this earlier. Let me know if I missed anything...
Thanks.

FROM Joy E. Des Marais

Joy E. Des Marais
Director, Strategic Youth Initiatives
National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC)
1910 West County Road B
St. Paul, MN 55113

jdesmarais@nylc.org
651-631-3672 x232
651-631-2955 FAX

FROM DICK Sauer, 4-H

a. Dr. Richard M. Lerner
Professor
Tufts University
105 College Ave.
Medford, MA 02115
Phone: 617-627-3355
Email: rlerne01@tufts.edu

Dr. Lerner is one of the nation's leading figures in developmental psychology, child development and applied developmental science, with an emphasis on children and youth, and he is a dynamic speaker. He could talk about the challenges and issues facing youth today and what parents, other adults, universities, communities, etc. can do about it. Ask Senator Ted Kennedy about Dr. Lerner.

b. Dr. Graham B. Spanier
President
The Pennsylvania State University
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802-1589
Phone: 814-865-7611
Email: gspanier@psu.edu

Dr. Spanier is also an expert in human development. He Chairs the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities and is leading the re-engagement of his university in communities across Pennsylvania with a special focus on children, youth and families. Both he and Dr. Lerner could

talk about what this country does do and what it could do to raise great kids. He could also talk about what Penn State is learning through research and community engagement and bring in what Penn State specifically is doing. He could engage a panel of 3-4 other university presidents who are leading this model across the country.

c. Amy Weisenbach. Amy is 24 years old, a former youth trustee on our Board and now a member of our staff. She is coordinating the building of a national movement, "At The Table," to advance the authentic involvement of young people in governance and other significant decision-making roles. She has the respect of several other organizations across the country who have joined this movement.

d. How about a young person (teen) or two, who has/have exhibited enormous leadership, with nurturing parents, in giving back to community? We could suggest some if you are interested. Two that come to mind are Gabriella Contreras of Tucson, Arizona and Aubyn Burnside of Hickory, North Carolina. They are both no more than 15 years old.

FROM Shay Bilchik:

Possible Youth Speakers -

- Adam Cornell (age 27): former foster youth, graduate of Georgetown, currently a law student. Working for a juvenile justice project in Portland, OR. Contact through Susan Weiss, the Casey Family Program, 206-270-4989.

- Philip Lovell (age 20), founding member of the National Youth Network. Contact through Jerel Eaglin at NCPC, 202-261-4157.

- Leon Little (age 10), founder of Kids Against Violence in Maryland.

- Emily Spencer (age 17), high school student from Norfolk, Virginia who is helping to start a youth involvement program in her high school. Contact through Eydie Andrews, 757-591-5112.

FROM MICHELLE KIPKE

Heather Weiss, Harvard Family Research Project- knows programming, policy, research and how all three fit

Delbert Elliott, UColorado- knows health promotion

Richard Lerner, Tufts- can weave in developmental piece with assets, etc

Hanh Cao Yo, Social Policy Research Associates- can speak to intergroup relations

Michele Cahill, Carnegie- can talk about wrap around services with schools

Linda Marie Burton, Penn State- communities of color

Claire Brindis, UC San Fran- adolescent health and policy

Stephen Small, UWisconsin- a "must have" work is on communities and families, recognized as someone to talk about parent/child relations and families of adolescents

FROM Georgette Offer

a) Michele Cahill, Program Officer, Carnegie Foundation
Cahill, Michelle
Full Name: Michelle Cahill
Job Title: Senior Program Officer
Company: Carnegie Corporation
437 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Bus: (212) 371-3200
Bus Fax: (212) 754-4073
E-mail: mc@carneige.org

b) Karen Hein, President, Grant Foundation
Hein, Karen
Full Name: Karen Hein
Job Title: President
Company: William T. Grant Foundation
570 Lexington Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, New York 10022-6837
Bus: (212) 752-0071
Bus Fax: (212) 752-1398
E-mail: khein@wtgrantfdn.org

c) Maureen Sedonaen, Director, Youth Leadership Institute

d) Geoff Canada, Director, Rheedlan Center for youth and families

e) Dale Blythe, Search Institute
Blyth, Dale
Full Name: Mr. Dale Blyth Ph. D.
Job Title: Director
Company: Center for 4-H Youth Development
University of Minnesota
University Gateway 270B
200 Oak Street, SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Bus: (612) 624-2188
Bus Fax: (612) 624-6905
E-mail: blyth004@tc.umn.edu

f) Gary Walker, Public/Private Ventures
Walker, Gary
Full Name: Gary Walker
Job Title: President
Company: Public/Private Ventures
One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street
Suite 900
Philadelphia PA 19103
Bus: (215) 557-4400
Bus Fax: (215) 557-4469

g) Wendy Wheeler, Director, Innovation Center for Community and Youth
Development, 4H
Wheeler, Wendy

Full Name: Wendy Wheeler
Job Title: Director
Company: National 4-H Council
7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815-4999
Bus: (301) 961-2867
Bus Fax: (301) 961-2894
E-mail: wheeler@fourhcouncil.edu
Web Page: <http://www.fourhcouncil.edu>

h) David Milner, President Community IMPACT! USA
Milner, David
Full Name: David Milner
Job Title: President
Company: Community Impact
1000 16th Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
Bus: (202) 293-9840
Bus Fax: (202) 293-9844
E-mail: dmilner@community-impact.net

i) Ralph Smith, VP, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Smith, Ralph
Full Name: Ralph Smith
Job Title: Vice President
Company: Annie E. Casey Foundation, The
701 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Bus: (410) 547-6600
Bus Fax: (410) 547-6624
E-mail: ralphs@aecf.org

FROM Pat Schwallie-Giddis:

Jason Dorsey, P.O.
Box 49648, Austin, Tx. 78765. Phone 512-423-9555 or 512-259-6877
outstanding speaker and a real advocate for young people. He is one himself as he is only 21 but travels all over the country talking to young people and adults. I strongly recommend him as a speaker.

Drema McAllister-Wilson
Fairlington Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria, VA
22303 Phone 703-671-8557
methodist minister, has two young children of her own (13 & 15) and is an outstanding speaker and advocate for young people. She is a young, dynamic person with real concern and commitment to young people.

FROM SHARON ADAMS-TAYLOR, AASA:

Robert Blum -- ADD Health Study, University of
Minnesota, Minneapolis
Karen Pittman -- youth development, International
Youth Foundation, Takoma Park, MD
Bonnie Benard -- Resiliency, WestEd Regional
Education Lab, Oakland, CA
Joyce Epstein -- Family involvement in schools,

FAX Message from



To:

Fax #:

Shirley

703 - 548 - 6374

From:

STEVEN A. CULBERTSON

President and CEO

Youth Service America

1101 15th Street, NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC 20005

Phone:

(202) 296-2992

Fax:

(202) 296-4030

E-mail:

steve@ysa.org

URL:

www.SERVENET.org

PAGES (including cover sheet):

*Erin will call you with her
perspective!*

But, SAC

National Youth Service Day 2000 on April 14-15th
48 Hours of Youth Serving Youth Across America

SERVEnet: The World of Service and Volunteering on the Internet.
Winner of the 1998 Global Information Infrastructure Award.

www.servenet.org

Facts and Figures on Youth and Volunteering

Youth are constantly told that they are the hope of tomorrow. At Youth Service America we believe that youth are the hope of today. They have amazing energy, commitment, idealism, and creativity. There is every reason for them to address the problems facing their communities today, not tomorrow.

— Steven A. Culbertson, President and CEO, Youth Service America

Youth Service at Record Highs!

- **Volunteering is up 12 percent over the last 10 years:** 74.2 percent of college freshman volunteered their last year of high school in 1998, versus 62 percent in 1989. Only 21.3 percent reported service-learning graduation requirements. (*UCLA / Higher Education Research Institute Annual Freshman Survey, 1999*)
- Out of 13.3 million teenagers aged 12-17, 59.3% volunteer, versus 49% of the adult population over the same time period. Teens say they volunteer an average of 3.5 hours per week versus the adult average of 4.2 hours. (*Independent Sector/Gallup, 1996*)
- **70 percent of young people ages 15-21 have participated in activities to help strengthen their community at some point in their lives.** (*Do Something / Princeton Survey Research, 1996*)
- The number of school districts with community service requirements for students has doubled over the past fifteen years from 13% to 30%. (*USDED, 1999*)
- The number of students involved in school-related service programs has increased from 900,000 to 12,600,000 (1,400%) over the past fifteen years. (*USDED, 1999*)

Dismal Facts

- Only 37% of American adults believe today's children, once grown, will make the world a better place. The majority of American adults (61%) are convinced that today's youth face a crisis in their values and morals, look at teenagers with misgiving and trepidation, and view them as undisciplined, disrespectful, and unfriendly. Even younger children are widely viewed as spoiled, out of control, and neither engaging nor helpful. (*Public Agenda Survey for the Ad Council and Ronald McDonald House Charities, 1997*)
- **Only 20% of young people perceive that adults in the community value youth.** (*Search Institute Survey of Youth 6th to 12th Graders, 1997*)
- An overwhelming majority (93%) of America's 60 million young people believe they can make a difference in their communities, but fewer than one in five civic organizations across the nation are involving young people extensively in their work. (*Do Something Young People's Involvement Survey / Princeton Survey Research, 1998*)

Five Proven Ways to Measurably Increase Teen Volunteering

- Ask them to volunteer;
- Encourage children to get involved in volunteering at an early age;
- Encourage participation by children in youth groups, voluntary organizations, religious organizations, student government, and schools;
- Give young people a positive self-image so that they are able to help others and contribute to their communities, and
- Provide young people with opportunities to take courses that include and even require community service. (*Independent Sector / Gallup, 1996*)

The Impact of Youth Service

- Teenagers volunteer 2.4 billion hours annually – worth \$ 34.3 billion to the US economy. (*Independent Sector/Gallup, 1996, and 1999 hourly value*)
- **The value of service carried out on National Youth Service Day exceeds \$ 171 million.** (*Youth Service America estimates based on Independent Sector value of service, 1999*)
- Youth who volunteer are **more likely** to do well in school, graduate, vote, and be philanthropic. (*UCLA / Higher Education Research Institute, 1991*)
- Youth who volunteer just one hour or more a week are **50% less likely to abuse drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or engage in other destructive behavior.** (*Search Institute, 1995*)
- 81% of Americans who have volunteer experiences when they are young give to charitable organizations as adults. (*Independent Sector / Gallup, 1996*)
- **Youth service makes adult volunteering three times more likely,** creating a critical pipeline. Youth and adult service is worth \$255 billion to the US economy. (*Independent Sector / Gallup, 1996*)
- Teens say the benefits received from volunteering are: learning to respect others; learning to be helpful and kind; learning to understand people who differ from them; developing leadership skills, becoming more patient, and gaining a better understanding of good citizenship. (*Independent Sector / Gallup, 1996*)

Why Do Youth Volunteer?

- **73% of young people think their efforts can have a positive impact on their communities.** (*Do Something Young People's Involvement Survey / Princeton Survey Research, 1998*)
- Major reasons cited by teens for choosing to volunteer are: they feel compassion for people in need; they can do something for a cause they believe in; they believe if they help others that others will help them. (*Independent Sector / Gallup, 1996*)
- **Teens rank volunteering, along with helping the environment and eating healthy, as one of the top three issues they consider "cool."** (*Teenage Marketing and Lifestyle Study, 1998*)
- Teens are nearly four times more likely to volunteer if they are asked. (*Independent Sector / Gallup, 1996*)
- Many more young people would become involved in their communities if their teachers, coaches, friends, and family members helped them learn about possibilities for getting involved. Young people who learn from someone they know about community-based organizations are three times as likely as other young people to volunteer. (*Do Something Young People's Involvement Survey / Princeton Survey Research, 1998*)

Volunteering and the US Economy

- The volunteer workforce represents the equivalent of over 9 million full-time employees at a value of \$255 billion; the assigned hourly value (for 1998) was \$14.30. 56% of adults volunteered a total of 19.9 billion hours – a 13.7% increase from the 1996 study. (*Independent Sector, 1999*)
- Contributing households with a volunteer gave over 2 and a half times more on average than those without a volunteer. In fact, 84% of all charitable contributions were given by households where there was at least one volunteer. (*Independent Sector, 1999*)
- In a recent survey of corporations, **three out of four employees said they participate when corporate-sponsored volunteer projects are offered (half of all companies do so).** Volunteering can be a way of learning new management skills in a low-risk setting, according to Professor James Austin of the Harvard Business School. (*Wall Street Journal, 1998*)

** TIME SENSITIVE
PLS. DELIVER ASAP*



Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

440 First Street, NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • FAX 202/638-4004
Website: <http://www.cwla.org>

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

DATE: 3/24/00
TO: MaryEllen McGuire
AGENCY: Off. of the First Lady, OEOP 100
FROM: * Robin Nixon 942 0309

NUMBER OF PAGES, (INCLUDING THIS FORM): 15

COMMENTS: Sorry about the
un-readable email - this
should be easier. Robn

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CWLA AT THE
NUMBER INDICATED ON THE TOP OF THIS PAGE. FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION REGARDING CONFERENCES/INSTITUTES/TRAIN-
INGS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB PAGE AT: <http://www.cwla.org>

SAVE THE DATES!!

2000 CWLA

Conferences/Training

March 22-24, 2000

Walker Trieschman Center's Effective
Supervision: Course 1
Holiday Inn
Dedham, MA

April 12-14, 2000

Walker Trieschman Center's Effective
Supervision: Course 1
Holiday Inn
Dedham, MA

May 10-12, 2000

Finding Better Ways 2000,
The Adam's Mark Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

May 18-19, 2000

Manage Care Institute: So You Want To Be
Lead Agency
Wyndham Miami Biscayne Bay
Miami, FL

May 24-26, 2000

Walker Trieschman Center's Effective
Supervision: Course II
Holiday Inn
Dedham, MA

June 21-23, 2000

National Resource Center On Information
Technology in Child Welfare
Doubletree Hotel
Arlington, VA

June 29-30, 2000

Managed Care Institute: Taking Care of
Business
Executive Tower Inn
Denver, CO

August 2-4, 2000

Florence Crittenton Roundtable,
San Francisco, CA

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Recommended Speakers and Invitees White House Conference on Youth

Recommended SPEAKERS	Comments
1. Dr. Michael Carrera Children's Aid Society New York, NY 212-949-4800	Pregnancy Prevention and Youth Development Specialist Author of <u>Lessons for Lifeguards: Working with Teens When the Topic is Hope</u> Dr. Carrera is a dynamic speaker and has pioneered the development of a youth development model rather than a problem-reductin model for pregnancy prevention.
2. Dr. Karen Pittman Vice-President International Youth Foundation Baltimore, MD 410-347-1500	Dr. Pittman is one of America's foremost experts on what it takes to promote the positive development of young people. Author of numerous articles on youth development, former director of the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research at the Academy for Educational Development.
3. Larry Brendtro PO Box 57 Lennox, SD 57039 605-647-5244	Author of <u>Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future</u> Noted teacher, youth worker, and practitioner, Mr. Brendtro is one of the nation's leading experts on how to encourage, rather than discourage, troubled youth.
4. Risa Garon Executive Director, Children of Separation and Divorce 2000 Century Plaza, Suite 121 Columbia, MD 21044 301-384-0079 410-740-9553	Children of Separation and Divorce provides training to judges, lawyers, and parents on supporting children and youth through the process of separation and divorce. This organization also provides individual and group counseling to children, youth and parents on this critical issue affecting so many of America's families. Ms. Garon is a dynamic speaker and committed youth advocate.
5. Barbara Kingsolver	Author of <u>High Tide in Tucson</u> , a book of essays including several on raising children

53

✓

Novelist www.kingsolver.com	in the U.S. Ms. Kingsolver strongly advocates for the creation of opportunities for parents to spend more time with their children, and for our society to invest more commitment and resources in America's youth.
INVITEES	
Teens and Parents	
(A) Ben Rosenbleet (age 17), mom Freddie Berg C/o Risa Garon 2000 Century Plaza, Suite 121 Columbia, MD 21044 301-384-0079 410-740-9553	Ben and his mom have participated in the services offered by Children of Separation and Divorce. This family would be excellent panelists in a discussion of the developmental issues associated with separation and divorce.
(A) Shay Migl (15), parents Shawn Peterson and (step dad) David Peterson 3200 Holly Ridge Drive. Chesapeake, VA 23323 757-487-9603	Shay is a high school freshman at Deep Creek High School in Norfolk, VA. Shay would be a wonderful participant in the discussion of the transition from middle to high school, as well as how young people can give back to their school and community. Shay and her best friend Emily (see below) have been working together to establish a support group and youth development program at their high school.
(A) Emily Spencer (age 16) and Bonita Reddick, sister and guardian 535 Eilers St. Norfolk, VA 23404 757-489-3337	Emily and her best friend Shay (see above) were troubled by the fear and anxiety experienced by high school freshman in a new environment. They have been working together to start a support group and youth development program for their peers at Deep Creek High School in Norfolk, VA.
Youth Serving Agencies	
(A) Sue Krahe, Executive Director, Our Town Family Services PO Box 26665 Tucson, AZ, 85726 520-323-1708	Our Town is an exemplary multi-disciplinary youth serving agency. Ms. Krahe has been a leader in the community in efforts to coordinate youth serving systems and in collaborating with other local agencies to build a strong continuum of support for youth & families in Tucson.

(A) Nan Dale, CEO, The Children's Village Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 914-693-0600	Ms. Dale developed the Work Appreciation for Youth (WAY) Program, which has demonstrated long term positive outcomes for very hard to serve youth in residential care, and has become a national model for a mentoring-based employment preparation program
(A) Philip Coltoff, CEO, The Children's Aid Society 105 East 22 nd St. New York, NY 10010 212-949-4800	Mr Coltoff was a founder of the Coalition for Community Schools and provides training and technical assistance to youth-serving agencies throughout the country in establishing community schools.
(A) Sokoni Karanja, Executive Director, Center for New Horizons	Dr Karanja is a former McArthur scholar and founder of Center for New Horizons. His agency delivers youth services utilizing an Afro-centric model focusing on the strengths of the children, families and community.
(A) Elba Montalvo, Executive Director, Committee for Hispanic Children and Families 140 West 22 nd St. Suite 301 New York, NY 10011 212-206-1090	Director of one of the leading Hispanic service agencies on the East Coast, Ms. Montalvo is a leader in advocacy and community support for Hispanic families.
(A) Jestina Richardson, Executive Director United Homes for Children 90 Cushing Ave. Dorchester, MA 02125 617-825-3300	Ms. Richardson is the chair of the nation's only association for African-American child welfare administrators.
(A) Terry Cross, National Indian Child Welfare Association, partner with CWLA in the National Resource Center for . 3611 SW Hood Street, Suite 201 Portland, OR 97201 503-222-4044	Mr. Cross is a renowned expert on cultural diversity and on issues affecting affecting Native American children, youth, and communities.
(A) Ruth Massinga, CEO, The Casey Family	Ms. Massinga directs one of the nation's largest child welfare organizations. The Casey Family

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Program, Seattle, WA The Casey Family Program 1300 Dexter Avenue N. Seattle, WA 98109 206-282-7300	Program emphasizes the need for stability and long-term connections for youth in foster care, so that these vulnerable youth can achieve a successful transition to adulthood. The Casey Family Program is a leader in the development of model support systems for foster youth. This is a critical issue, as more than 20,000 foster youth "age out" of foster care each year with no resources or support for entering early adulthood.
(A) F. Jerome Doyle, President and CEO, Eastfield Ming Quong, Campbell, CA Eastfield Ming Quong 251 Llewellyn Avenue Campbell, CA 95008-1940 408-379-3790	Mr. Doyle directs one of the few community-based youth and family service agencies in the country focusing on the needs and well-being of Asian families and communities.
(B) Rose Washington, Executive Director, Berkshire Farms Center and Services for Youth Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth 13640 Route 22 Canaan, NY 12029-3500	Ms. Washington is a leading national advocate for the needs of abused and neglected teenagers who become involved with the juvenile justice system.
(B) James Mills, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, Pinellas Park, FL Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County 6698 68th Avenue North, Suite A Pinellas Park, FL 33781-5060	Mr. Mills has pioneered efforts to integrate child welfare, primary prevention, youth development, and community development efforts in Pinellas County. This multi-systemic approach demonstrates best practice for meeting the needs of all youth and families in a community.
(B) Michael Piraino Chief Executive Officer National Association of Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA) 100 West Harrison, North Tower, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98199 206-270-0072	CASA coordinates volunteer child and youth advocacy programs across the U.S. CASA volunteers look out for the interests of children and teens in family court who may not have anyone speaking on their behalf.

(A) Sister Mary Rose McGeady, President Covenant House 346 West 17th Street New York, NY 10011 212-727-4000	Sister Mary Rose is a leading advocate for the needs of homeless, runaway, abused, neglected and otherwise marginalized youth in America.
(A) Gary French Boston Police Department Youth Violence Strike Force 364 Warren St. Roxbury, MA 02119 617-343-4444	Mr. French works directly with kids on the street. He has contributed significantly to successful collaboration among young people, police, and community members to help make Boston a safer city by increasing the level of supports and opportunities available to youth at-risk.
(A) Thomas C. Vandenberg, President and CEO Uhlich Children's Home 3737 North Mozart Street Chicago, IL 60618-3689 773-588-0180	Mr. Vandenberg runs a large multi-service agency serving hundreds of Chicago's neediest families. Mr. Vandenberg, who lost his 15-year-old son to gun violence, is also a leading advocate and spokesperson for victims of handgun violence.
(A) Ralph Kelly, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, Frankfort, KY Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice Capital Complex East, Building 3, 3rd Fl 1025 Capital Center Drive Frankfort, KY 40601-8205 502-573-2738	Commissioner Kelly, one of the leading juvenile justice commissioners in the country, has expertise in both child welfare and juvenile justice issues. He has focused on strengthening the continuum of care and support necessary to promote positive youth development and prevent involvement in risky and delinquent behaviors.

National Non-Profits	
(A) Dick Sauer, CEO National 4H Council 7100 Connecticut Ave. Chevy Chase, MD 20815 301-961-2820	
(A) Donna Butts Executive Director Generations United 440 First Street, NW, 4 th Floor Washington, DC 20001 202-662-4283	Generations United (GU) develops intergenerational programs and services, as well as advocacy. GU is unique in its focus on strengthening relationships between youth and the older generation, in engaging older and younger people in community service partnerships, and in emphasizing the importance of the roles older Americans play in the lives of teens.
(A) Jack Calhoun, Executive Director National Crime Prevention Council 1700 K St., NW Second Floor Washington, DC 20006 202-466-6272	Mr. Calhoun is a leader in the areas of youth leadership and youth involvement in community efforts to reduce crime and violence. NCPC sponsors both the Youth As Resources program and the National Youth Network.
(A) Josh Horwitz, Executive Director The Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence 1000 16 th St., NW Suite 603 Washington, DC 20036 202-530-5888 x 28	Mr. Horwitz has developed a unique and highly successful gun violence prevention program which engages youth as community spokespersons and advocates for positive youth development. Hands Without Guns provides opportunities for youth to develop media messages about what young people can do to contribute to community safety and well being.
(A) Gordon Raley Executive Director National Collaboration for youth National Assembly of national Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations 1319 F Street, NW, Suite 601 Washington, DC 20004 202-347-2080	The Collaboration brings together a large number of youth development organizations in the interests of promoting best practice and policy for youth services and youth development at the community level.
(A) Gary Walker, President Public/Private Ventures	Public Private Ventures conducted groundbreaking research on the effectiveness of mentoring and the positive impact that an adult role model can have on a young person's life.

One Commerce Square 2005 Market Street, Suite 900 Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-557-4402	
(A) Mark Soler, President 1325 G Street, NW, Suite 1020 Youth Law Center Washington, DC 20005 202-637-0377	The Youth Law Center is a leading youth advocacy organization that promotes improvement of services to youth served by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and which pursues significant litigation on behalf of those young people whose needs are not being met by those systems.
(B) Mr. Richard Murphy Vice-President Center for Youth Development and Policy Research Academy for Educational Development 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW Washington, DC 20009 202-884-8266	The Center is located in the Academy for Educational Development and has been a major national voice for promoting youth development as the framework for youth services. Mr. Murphy is also a foster parent and has a long history of involvement with foster care.
(B) Howard Davidson Director ABA Center on Children and the Law 740 - 15 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-662-1750	The ABA Center on Children and the Law is a leading center for knowledge development and advocacy regarding the rights, protection, and positive development of America's children and youth.
Foundations that Support Youth Programs	
(B) Paula Antonovich Director of Children's Programs Benton Foundation 1634 Eye Street, NW, 12 th Floor Washington, DC 20006 202-638-5770	
(A) Cindy Ballard Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth 1000 Broadway, Suite 302 Kansas City, MO 64105 816-842-4246	

(A) Douglas W. Nelson, President The Annie E. Casey Foundation 701 St. Paul Street Baltimore, MD 21202 410-547-6600	
(A) Pam Stevens, Youth Development Program Director Edna McConnell Clark Foundation 250 Park Avenue, #900 New York, NY 10017 212-551-9100	
(A) Christine DeVita, President Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation Two Park Avenue, 23 rd Floor New York, NY 10016 212-251-9710	
(B) Gary Yates President and CEO The California Wellness Foundation 6320 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700 Woodland Hills, CA 91367 8181-593-6600	
(B) Pat Reynolds Program Officer Stuart Foundation 188 The Embarcadero, Suite 420 San Francisco, CA 94105 415-495-1144	
(A) Lorraine Zippiroli, Director, Children, Families & Communities The David and Lucile Packard Foundation 300 Second Street, Suite 200 Los Altos, CA 94022 650-948-3696	

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Grassroots Organizations	Comments
(A) A Youth Representative from: San Diego Youth Congress 4438 Ingraham St., Suite 2 San Diego, CA 92109 858-490-1670	The San Diego Youth Congress is a unique representative organization of young people from the greater San Diego Community, who work together to ensure that youth issues are addressed and that youth voices are heard on the issues that concern them.
(B) Anthony Welch Do Something 423 West 55 th St., 8 th Floor New York, NY 10019 212-523-1175	Do Something is a unique youth leadership and community program which provides small grants to young people who want to contribute to positive change in their communities. Each year, Do Something awards \$100,000 to the winner of a national "Brick" award for community service.
(A) Beverly Watts-Davis, Executive Director San Antonio Fighting Back United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County 850 East Drexel San Antonio, TX 78210 210-533-6592	Fighting Back is a leading grassroots effort to reduce substance abuse and violence in the community. Ms. Watts-Davis mobilizes community members, young people, and other stakeholders around these issues that impact so many youth and families.
Educators	Comments
(B) Cindy Brown Director of Resource Center on Educational Equity Council of Chief State School Officers One Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20001 202-408-5505	
Faith-Based Organizations	Comments
(A) Patricia O'Neal-Williams National One Church, One Child, Inc. 2811-2E Industrial Plaza Drive Tallahassee, FL 32301	National One Church, One Child, Inc. is an initiative that informs African-American church congregations about the role other congregations and the larger community can plan in ensuring permanency for African-American children in foster care systems.

904-488-8251	
Parent Organizations	Comments
(A) Shirley Hedges President National Foster Parent Association 608 Hanson Street Madisonville, KY 42431 502-825-0097	Leader of the only national association whose members are the thousands of families who care for abused and neglected children in the foster care system.
Research/Academics/Experts on Adolescence	Comments
(B) Dr. Tom Grayson, Director Transition Research Institute College of Education University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 113 Children's Research Center Champaign, IL 61820 217-333-2325	This institute has been at the forefront of federal transition initiatives and model programs for the past 15 years. They are a clearinghouse for information as well as researchers. Excellent resources and staff that are committed to providing technical assistance and customer service.
(A) Joy Dryfoos, Consultant 20 Circle Drive Hastings-on-Hudson New York, NY 10706 914-478-3489	Ms. Dryfoos is a noted authority on the needs of America's adolescents, and has done significant work on the impact on teens of exposure to violence.
(B) Reed Larson Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Ecology University of IL at Urbana/Champaign	Author of <u>Being Adolescent: Conflict and Growth in The Teenage Years</u> . Dr. Larson is an expert on adolescence from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(A) Milbrey McLaughlin, Stanford University Professor and Director Teacher Context Center School of Education, CERAS 402 Stanford University	Ms. McLaughlin has recently published groundbreaking research which demonstrates the importance of community based youth organizations and youth development activities in the lives of adolescents.

**New York University***A private university in the public service***School of Education****Metropolitan Center for Urban Education****82 Washington Square East****Pless Hall, Room 72****New York, NY 10003****Tel: (212) 998-5100****Fax: (212) 995-4199****FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION****DATE:**

3/24/00

TIME:

4:55

TO:

Mary Ann C Mc Gue

CO:

The Office of the First Lady

TEL:

202-456-2016

FAX:

202-456-6244

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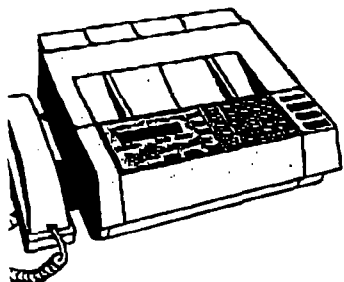
(Including this page)

FROM:

DR. LARUTH GRAY

NUMBER:

(212) 998-5137

COMMENTS:

Ann_O'Leary@opd.eop, 12:58 PM 3/24/200, Re: Request

To: Ann_O'Leary@opd.eop.gov
From: LaRuth Gray <laruth.gray@nyu.edu>
Subject: Re: Request
Cc:
Bcc:

1. Conference Program (I realize these aren't topics, but maybe you can frame topics from these thoughts)
 - a) a take off theme from Spielberg's "Tolerance" project. He sums it up "You can't talk about the Holocaust which talking about slavery, N. Ireland/Britain, Japanese Internment, Kosovo.
 - b) Can we lower the decimal level of the rhetoric on the airwaves and in Cyberspace so that we begin to respect each other and understand the nature of civility.
 - c) Black Male teen suicide: Between 1980 and 1995, the suicide rate of Blacks aged 10 - 19 increased by 114 percent; Black aged 15 - 19, by 126 percent.
 - d) The environment - Young people are concerned about it
 - e) Teens report concerns about nuclear holocaust
 - f) Relevance and commitment of adult role models
2. Research/Supporting Documents
 1. Some Things do Make a Difference for Youth: A Compendium of Evaluations by American Youth Policy Forum, Institute for Educational Leadership (1997)
 2. Suicide Among Black Youths - United States, 1980 - 1995, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tonja Durant, lead author.
3. Deliverables: Westchester's Children's Association has run Teen Conferences for middle and high school students since 1990. I will send it later. They have a wonderful platform now.
4. Speakers:
 - * Geoffrey Canada, author of Fists, Sticks, Knives and Guns.
(I'm faxing materials on him.)
 - Beverly Tatum, Professor at Mt. Holyoke College
 - Judy Berry Griffin, President of A Better Chance (Faxing materials)
 - (Address: 419 Boylston Street
Boston, Mass. 02116-3382
617-421-0950 or 800-562-7865
 - Mychal Wynn, author of Building Dreams: Helping Students Discover Their Potential
PO Box 70906
Marietta, GA 30007
770-518-0369
5. Invitees
 1. Cora Greenberg, Exec. Director of Westchester Children's Association
470 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, NY 10605 (This is a wonderful organization.
They began, about 30 years ago, the first runaway shelter in the County. I'm faxing a sheet on them.
 2. Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones, President of National Alliance of Black School Educators, 2816 Georgia Ave., NW, Washington, DC. (Former School Superintendent in Boston and Richmond.)
 3. Ms. Martha Young, Director of Youth Programs, City of Philadelphia
 4. Ms. Dierdra A. Gray, Assistant to the County Executive, Westchester County, NY (I'm faxing a note on her. Her address: Office of the County Executive, 148 Martine Avenue, Rm. 936, White Plains, NY 10601)
 5. Dr. Gwendolyn Baker, Former CEO, UNICEF, New York and Former Executive Director, YMCA (Address: 301 E. 87th St. NY, NY 10128)

An invitee

Ms. Dierdra A. Gray

Ms. Dierdra A. Gray, Assistant to County Executive Andrew Spano, has coordinated youth and educational services since the County Executive took office in 1996. She has, among other activities, spearheaded two interesting initiatives: 1) Bridging the digital divide for welfare families; and more importantly, 2) coordinated the work of providing 4 year Scholarships for College for students whose families are on welfare. Department of Social Service Guidelines are being stringently followed. The Jardon Scholars are being funded through a partnership of the County and a wealthy donor family.

*INVitee***Cora Greenberg**

Cora Greenberg, a social worker and educator, is the Executive Director of the Westchester Children's Association, an 85-year-old children's advocacy and service organization. WCA works to identify children's unmet needs and to promote policies and programs that meet those needs. WCA is the lead agency of the Campaign for Kids, a coalition of over 80 Westchester organizations working to keep children's issues at the top of the public agenda. WCA was also the founder of the Yonkers Family Court Children's Center, and a co-founder of both the Institute for School Age Child Care and the Westchester Center for School Community Partnership. Additionally, WCA sponsors annual youth conferences that bring together hundreds of teens to discuss timely issues.

Immediately prior to joining WCA, Ms. Greenberg was the Associate Executive Director of Project Reach Youth, a multi-service youth and family agency in Brooklyn, New York, where she was instrumental in developing model programs in youth development, family literacy and after school education. Earlier, she had served as Executive Director of Interfaith Neighbors, a pioneering youth program founded and supported by more than 20 churches and synagogues on Manhattan's Upper East side, and as a Program Coordinator at United Neighborhood Houses, an umbrella for the 36 settlement houses and community centers in New York City.

Ms. Greenberg holds an MSW degree from Hunter College School of Social Work and an MSEd from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Her undergraduate degree is in Theater Arts from SUNY Binghamton. She lives in Pleasantville with her husband and two children.

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Youth Platform Westchester Youth Convention 1999

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WCA's Westchester Youth Convention was held on Wednesday, March 17th 1999 and attended by about 240 teens from 23 high schools and community organizations throughout the county. Participants met in small group caucuses to develop recommendations in six issue areas: Sexuality, Substance Abuse, Dating Violence, Self-Esteem, Eating Disorders and Suicide. The recommendations included the following themes:

- **Peer Support and Education**

- Train students to be peer educators on sexuality, drug and alcohol abuse.
- Develop youth-to-youth support groups where teens can share ideas and experiences.
- Match high school students to younger elementary and middle school students for one-to-one mentoring and for group peer education.
- Hold regular "student conference days" in which students can talk about issues of common concern in small group settings.
- Develop a youth "hot line," staffed by trained teens, where young people can call for support, crisis intervention and information.

- **Education and Sensitivity Training**

- For students, to increase tolerance, interpersonal skills, knowledge about specific issue areas.
- For teachers, to increase cultural sensitivity and ability to provide emotional support.
- For parents, to increase knowledge on sexuality and substance abuse.

- **Information and Resource Guide**

- Develop and publish a community-specific guide or pamphlet with information on *where* and *how* youth can find help.

- **Role of Schools**

- Integrate education on these key issues into the school curriculum with greater frequency and intensity.
- Encourage peer-to-peer support by making time, space and training available.
- Develop mandatory community service program and provide a wide range of extracurricular activities. These are vital in helping teens develop self-esteem as well as important skills.

- **Role of Wider Society**

- Strictly enforce existing laws regarding sale of alcohol to minors in bars and stores.
- Restrict sale of diet pills to prescription use.
- Promote diverse images of healthy individuals in mass media.

On *Geoffrey Canada*
Produce Speech While True Congo

HOPE

From tough boys to tender men

A Conversation with GEOFFREY CANADA

by Kimberly Ridley

January / February 1998

Geoffrey Canada is the author of the acclaimed *Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America* and president and CEO of the New York-based Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families [see *Hope* #6]. Canada, who grew up on the tough streets of the South Bronx, returned to the inner city to oversee and create programs that have made Rheedlen a haven of learning and hope for hundreds of at-risk children and their parents. He has won many honors for his work with children at Rheedlen, including a prestigious Heinz Award for the Human Condition. The father of three sons and one daughter, Canada calls all of the kids who come through Rheedlen's doors "my children." It was his concern for these children, especially the boys, that prompted him to write *Reaching Up for Manhood: Transforming the Lives of Boys in America*.

"...[T]here is a false sense of security in our country about how boys are faring," Canada says in his new book. "More than 1,300,000 arrests of boys under the age of eighteen were made in 1995..." he writes, also noting that boys are slipping at school, dying young from violence, and becoming absent fathers in record numbers. While Canada acknowledges that girls, too, are in trouble, he says boys face a unique set of problems. In short, he writes, "We must all spend more time trying to understand what happens to boys--and how we can help shape them into better men."

Boys are so often told not to cry when they hurt themselves or feel sad. What are the consequences of teaching boys to deny their pain?

Well, I think you see this huge disconnect between boys and their feelings, which allows them to get involved in very violent activities. And you wonder, how in the world could they have done that? When adults teach boys to separate themselves from their feelings, boys also get separated from the consequences of their actions. Their empathy often extends to their closest friends, their closest relatives, and not at all to people outside of that range. So a boy will shoot up a corner where he doesn't know anyone and feel absolutely nothing. It is the same kind of disassociation with feelings that happens often when people are in war and face traumatic conditions.

Can we teach boys to be strong and tender?

Yes. Starting very early, we need to acknowledge that little boys have feelings, that they are tender, that they are emotionally as fragile as girls are. Like girls, boys need a lot of support, a lot of stroking. Every time they fall, they need strong hands to pick them up and caress those little knecs and little elbows and say, 'It's okay,' if the

Jeffrey Canda

little boy is crying. 'It probably hurt and you know you'll feel better.' And I think we have to begin to be very conscious about doing that so boys don't learn to dismiss their feelings.

How can men become role models of compassion and caring for boys?

At Rheedlen, a group of college and high school boys and girls work in our after-school program. It's at least fifty-fifty, which is very unusual in working with young children, and the males are involved in feeding, holding, walking, and reading to young children. For a lot of these children, both the young males who are doing the caretaking, and for the young children, both boys and girls, this is their first contact with caring males who are acting in a nurturing way. If you've had a big fella who you would consider to be a tough guy wiping your nose, getting your milk for you, you begin to realize that this is a totally appropriate thing for a male to do. It does not mean you are less male if you can be tender and warm and caring.

You describe a male mythology that leads many boys to ruin. What are the most destructive aspects of this mythology?

I think that the issue of virility--that a male has to have as many sexual encounters as possible, that it is part of being a male, it's part of what you talk about, and joke about, and get respect for--is extremely damaging. It does not allow for the development of normal relationship skills between the guy and his girlfriend. It is totally destructive to family life and to the ability of men to make a commitment to a vow and keep that commitment.

In a society where everyone is always titillated with sex, if you have been taught that this is a goal in and of itself, this creates men who act almost robotically around sexual relationships. And when you understand and see the amount of rape that goes on, you realize that men honestly don't get this idea of violating another person. They just don't get the horror of that unless they can realize what would it be if it happened to them. Then they go, 'That's really horrible,' but they don't think of it as horrible happening to women, and that's part of that disconnect that's happening around the issues of sex and how men treat--and are taught to treat--sex as an end in and of itself.

What about violence?

Boys are taught that violence is okay; they're taught to play violent games. And I really worry about the impact this has had on men both in their acting violently and in their acting aggressively, because it's different kinds of violence. Usually people think I'm strictly talking about someone pulling a gun and shooting another person, but I'm also talking about the violence in which people will allow others to live in inhuman conditions. For example, someone who owns property that they know is infested with rats and cares nothing about it. I think that kind of aggression--to make money even if others suffer--is taught to boys very early on and I think it gets in the way. Look at the wars around the world and the kinds of damage that's done to other people. Men lead all the statistics in being the perpetrators of this kind of violence.

*Gilroy Canda***What concerns you most about relationships between parents and children?**

I think that we have sort of lost touch with our children. We don't quite know what to do with them. We haven't given them a reason that they're alive. They're not alive to play video games and to eat at McDonald's, and that's what many of them get from us. That leads to a life that has no meaning to it. So after you've played the latest game, what do you do then? How should you feel? There are a lot of young people who are literally reaching out for something to believe in, and that void can be filled with very damaging things. Many young people have no idea of where they fit into this universe. They don't have a sense of themselves where they feel purposeful and connected and part of something that's good, and it leads them to lurch from one extreme to the other looking for something that satisfies that need.

How can parents reconnect with their children and help them find a sense of meaning and purpose in their lives?

We need to spend some time and energy to investigate where and how we fill our children's need for moral and spiritual development. That's connected to the family but also extends outside of the family. You can't just teach family values and teach nothing about what it means to be part of the larger community. That is a critical part of the development that children need and we as adults maybe have to sacrifice our own sort of desires. So even if it's not a formal religious institution, there are other kinds of places where they really talk about values.

We also need to teach children that part of your responsibility as a human being is to help other people. For me this was so easily taught, because we had elders in our family that we had to do for. It was a pain to go over to great-grandma's house, but I took pride in being the person who could change the lightbulb and go to the store for her. It taught me early on that I had something to offer that was real and that was valuable. And it is absolutely critical that young boys get that in their lives early on. That it's part of your responsibility, not for money, not for praise, but certainly because all of us have to give something back as part of life.

Have you seen a boy turn his life around by helping others?

There was a young boy who was in my karate class and who was very poor. He had a tough time adjusting to the structure of school and work and he was always angry and upset. He had bad family circumstances, and so felt that he had lots of justification for his anger, a lot of it came from pain, and a lot of the pain was expressed through violent acting out and getting into fights.

We had him help with the cooking class and I taught him two recipes: how to make pancakes and how to make biscuits. It became his responsibility to supervise the making of pancakes and biscuits for our Saturday morning program. That ability to not only do something for everybody else, but then watch the people eat what he'd done, really changed that boy. He grew out of his anger, assumed some responsibility, and volunteered to do other things. Suddenly he turned into a person who was doing all kinds of things for other young people.

I saw him five or six years later, and I didn't recognize him. He told me he was in college here and he was doing fine. And he asked me, 'Do you remember when I used to cook?' He had this smile, and I asked him if he still remembered the recipes, and he said he still makes biscuits and pancakes once a week. Just through a very basic thing that people do with their children all the time, teaching him how to cook, teaching him how to do something that other people benefit from, this young person's life was really changed.

You acknowledge in your book that risk-taking is a natural part of childhood. How can we help boys develop the skills and judgement they need to evaluate risks?

First, you have to share your own stories with them. Young people say, 'Well that was the old days, it's different now.' But let me tell you how to use the stories you tell: You encourage them to tell their story.

The most difficult thing to do is to hear their stories without editorializing on them. Because when they honestly tell you, 'There was this time when I was in junior high school and this kid pulled out a knife,' and you want to say, 'What? And you didn't tell me about that?' Instead, listen to them and say, 'Wow, how do you think you handled it?' Let them explore measuring and evaluating the risks they took and why they took them, and how they felt. You just have to encourage them to talk about these issues, so that they can hear several things. One, they can hear that there's a person who will listen to them. Two, they'll hear there's a person who respects their ability to think. And most importantly they'll hear there's a person they can come back to and talk to again when they find themselves in a position and want some objective advice.

Your own father wasn't there for your growing up. How did you learn to be a loving parent?

I really think it was my grandfather. I left the Bronx to stay with my grandparents on Long Island while I was in high school. I was struck with how strong he was, how powerful, how honest and loving he was. He wasn't a man to display his emotions, but he cared very, very deeply for his family. We used to smoke cigarettes, which he was very allergic to, and at the time we just thought he was being a fussy old man. Now that I don't smoke, I think I'd have a heart attack if someone decided they were going to smoke in my house after I told them politely not to. I think about these things now and I realize this man did not *have* to put up with us, but he did so with love and a concern for all of us.

How can we connect boys who don't have a caring male relative with nurturing men?

The challenge for us as men is to start at a place that's comfortable, not to try to go and work with the most disadvantaged boys if we're not prepared to do that, if we're not trained to do that, if we haven't raised our own children. Start with boys who need a little less, who might need a man to take them places, maybe to be part of a little league team or something like that where you know it's an activity that has boundaries and a starting and an ending point, and doesn't take up too much time.

Jeffrey C. Cunniff

Then grow from that into doing more adventuresome things with boys. You start these relationships slowly and let them develop naturally, because what you want is to be a mentor and a friend over time. If you can do that over a period of five years, you'll make a real difference in that child's life.

What you're saying in *Reaching Up for Manhood* goes far beyond a call for a return to traditional values. Can you talk about that?

Part of what I'm trying to say in this book is that we have to fundamentally shift the way we think about boys. We don't want the end product to be a promiscuous, tough, hard, little thing who's willing to kill or die over slights that, if they ever got to be my age, they would find funny. We want to raise young men who are caring, hard working, thoughtful, and creative. To do that, we have to treat them differently, refocus our attention on some areas, and try to lay out a strategy for raising boys differently. We need some benchmarks to ask questions about boys to determine: Is this a caring person? Is this a person who loves peace? Is this a person who is comfortable with himself? Is this a person who's connected to some sort of spiritual or value development? Is this a person who could share their feelings and feel that it doesn't diminish who he is as a young boy or young man? These are the kinds of questions I want people to start asking about boys.

What gives you hope that we can bring about the kinds of changes in raising boys that you speak about?

I see hope in the group of young men who were boys when I began to work with them, and who are men now in the way that they have turned out. This is going to be sort of hard to understand, but I think in the end you can probably see where I'm coming from.

We just recently had a personal tragedy. One of the kids that I raised, a young man in my martial arts class, was killed. He was shot in a relatively nice part of town. He and his brother were riding a bike and asked some guy to get out of the way. The guy took offense, pulled out a handgun and shot the kid in the head and killed him. Because we were all so close, everybody came together and it was the hardest time that this group of us has ever had to face.

These men are all trained martial artists in their early twenties, powerful men, unafraid. The natural tendency is to say, 'Let's go out and find this guy and kill him and get even.' All that male stuff that you grow up with. The alternative to doing that is simply to cry, to say, 'I hurt, I'm in pain.' And we cried. We cried a lot and hugged one another and it was the kind of hugging that only can happen when people acknowledge that they need one another, that they need other men in their lives.

So it's been an extremely sad, hard time, but I am so proud of my boys for handling this in the way that I think will allow them to heal themselves and to move forward. It's going to take time, but we'll stay together and we'll heal one another. That gives me a lot of hope. These young men will be good men. Good parents, and good family men, and good upstanding citizens even though they've suffered and they've hurt and they've had a lot of pain. They've grown through it in the way that I think is the answer and the promise for boys in this country. *

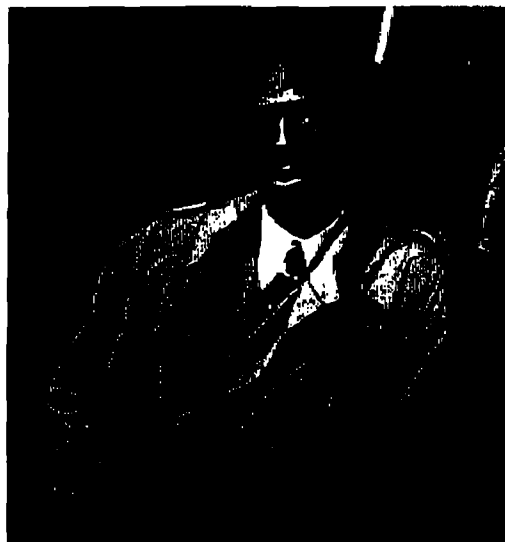
*Geoffrey Canada
President, Spaulding*

THE HEINZ AWARDS

Recipients

Human Condition

Geoffrey Canada



Geoffrey Canada received the Heinz Award for the Human Condition in recognition of his battle against what he calls the "monsters" preying on the children of the depressed inner-city. As President and CEO of the New York-based Rheedlen Centers

for Children and Families, he not only has created model programs, but sets an example for all adults wanting to protect children from crime, drugs, lawlessness and despair.

Geoffrey Canada knows life in the inner city at first hand. It's where he grew up, and he remembers what it's like to be a child there. "I haven't forgotten about the monsters," he says. "I remember being small, vulnerable and scared."

Geoffrey Canada was one of those rare and fortunate young men and women who are able to rise above and move beyond the inner city. Once they leave, they rarely return. But Canada did return, motivated by a desire to save young people whose lives might otherwise be snuffed out by bullets or smothered by hopelessness. He decided to live in Harlem, the community in which he works, in order to provide what, in his own youth, he so wished for: a role model. He is optimistic in seeking practical answers to what pessimists view as intractable problems. The fact that he has no illusions is the very thing that

*on Judy Guggen
Public White House Press*



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A Better Chance's Mission

Since the founding of A Better Chance in 1963, its mission has rested on a single goal: **to substantially increase the number of well-educated minority youth capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society.** Through a range of programs, A Better Chance works with students of color—from the sixth grade through college—to help them access expanded educational and career opportunities.

The A Better Chance mission consists of five parts:

- **To provide educational opportunities to students of color** with the talent and potential to excel academically through their recruitment and placement into some of the nation's most outstanding secondary schools;
- **To provide assistance and guidance to the schools, students and families** to ensure the best possible learning experiences;
- **To provide direct academic and career development assistance, and to generate opportunities and support for these students in the corporate and public sectors;**
- **To expand the universe of students served by A Better Chance, and to develop and nurture their potential;** and
- **To advocate** for our students and for our educational viewpoints and strategies.

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Important A Better Chance Statistics

Total 1999 Enrollment

All programs, grade six through college **2,759**

College Preparatory Schools Program At A Glance

Students Enrolled, grades 7-12	1,192
African-American	813
Hispanic/Latino	235
Asian-American	93
Native American	14
Multiracial	37
Male	497
Female	695
Ind. Boarding Schools	530
Public School Programs	474
Ind. Day Schools	188

1998 Applicants

Total Applied: 1,923
Placed: 325

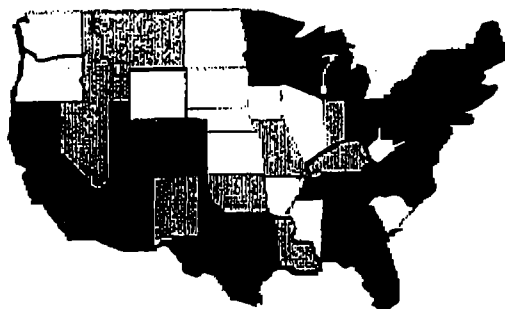
Alumni

Graduates, 1963-1999 **9,358**

Schools and Colleges

Independent Boarding Schools	97
Independent Day Schools	84
Public School Programs	27
Total Schools	208
Affiliated Colleges	83

NATIONWIDE PRESENCE



- 27 states with member schools
- Students from 34 different states
- 21 states with both schools and students

Interesting Facts About the College Preparatory Schools Program of A Better Chance

- To date, A Better Chance has **placed more than 10,000 middle and junior high school students** in some of our nation's finest college preparatory schools, both public and private.
- More than **99%** of A Better Chance graduating seniors **immediately enroll in college**. This year, nearly 60% enrolled in one of our **Affiliated Colleges**.
- One-third of A Better Chance Scholars come from families receiving welfare or who are living at or below the federal poverty line.
- 65% of A Better Chance Scholars come from single-parent families.
- **4,000 volunteers nationwide** contribute their time and energy to identifying academically able children who can benefit from the A Better Chance experience.
- The **208 member schools** of A Better Chance are distributed among 27 states.
- A Better Chance **alumni** currently reside **in all 50 states**.

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David A. Hamburg, M.D.
President Emeritus

April 4, 2000

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

I found our conference call yesterday very stimulating and hope it was helpful to you. Your staff is doing an excellent job. The latest formulation from your office is very good indeed.

I have talked with Michelle Kipke and Betty Hamburg since yesterday's call. Both of them have deep knowledge, extensive contacts and astute judgement. I am incorporating their views in this letter.

One major theme of the conference is helping parents to communicate more effectively with their own adolescents. The same goes for other responsible, caring adults—e.g. in schools, clinics, and community organizations. This may well be a recurrent theme of the conference in which various speakers illuminate constructive patterns of interaction between adults and adolescents. So let me say something here—probably more than is necessary—about this crucial aspect of youth development.

The Importance of Parents in the Lives of Adolescents

Adolescence is a time of major developmental changes in children and parents and of significant transformations in family relations. Raising adolescents can be stressful and difficult for parents. During this period, parents are likely to feel less adequate and more anxious and stressed than when their children were younger. Although this period may not be as antagonistic and tense as popular and clinical literature have suggested, adolescence can be a challenging time for families. Parents often struggle to adjust to their adolescent's development as well as to their own mid-life developmental changes. These changes are affected by variations within and outside the family, such as the

marital relationship, economic, social, and community resources, family structure and its stability, as well as other stressful life events.

In a classic study, based on carefully designed survey research, Rosenberg (1965) studied 5077 juniors and seniors in 11 public high schools throughout New York State. He studied parental interest as indicated by the parents' knowledge of and relationship to their child's friends, parents' reactions to academic performance, and parents' responsiveness to the child as judged by dinner table interactions. He concludes that low parental involvement and interest are highly correlated with low self-esteem in the child. He says it is 'not the punitive responses which are most closely related to low self-esteem but the indifferent ones'. He points out that low self-esteem leads to characteristic responses. The individual is 'more vulnerable in interpersonal relations (deeply hurt by criticism); he is relatively awkward with others (finds it hard to make talk, does not initiate contacts); assumes that others think poorly of him or do not particularly like him; he tends to put up a "front" to people; he feels relatively isolated and lonely.' There is low faith in people. In short, coping with the stresses of early adolescence is facilitated by parental interest and involvement expressed on a regular and continuing basis..

There have been a number of recent changes in American society and in the nature of adolescence that have also contributed to the challenge of raising adolescents today, including:

- The length of time in which adolescents rely on their parents for financial, emotional and material support is increasing with more and more young adults in their early 20's living at home and/or are financially dependent upon their parents resulting in a protracted period of responsibility for parents and a greater uncertainty regarding how to raise adolescents;
- Parents have become confused about how best to prepare adolescents for future adult roles as a result of rapid sociocultural change and the multiple and often competing sources of information and values that are increasingly complex in our diverse society; and parents are more worried as a result of the greater number of potentially dangerous activities, substances, and influences to which contemporary adolescents are exposed.

Compared to research on families with young children, there has been much less attention to the home and family environments of adolescents. Yet it is clear that adolescents develop best when they live and develop within a supportive home and family environment. New research in from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health—the largest and most comprehensive study ever conducted on adolescent health, development, and well-being—reveals that adolescents who have strong emotional attachments to their parents and teachers are much less likely to use drugs and alcohol, attempt suicide, engage in violence or become sexually active at an early age, and they are more likely to experience success with their peers and at school. Thus, despite that fact that adolescents are moving out beyond the family and striving for greater autonomy from parents, parents remain an important influence in the lives of their adolescent children.

Many parents mistakenly believe they should get out of the way when their children reach adolescence, letting them become instant adults! But the transition to adulthood takes place over a period of years. Young adolescents still have a lot of growing and learning to do; they still need the supportive guidance of their parents and family. Although adolescents are moving toward independence, they still are intimately tied to their families, which are much more important to them than they usually admit or even understand. This close connection is essential for young adolescents. Strong family relationships can be a potent force to help them deal with the radically transformed conditions of contemporary life.

In survey after survey, young adolescents from all ethnic and economic backgrounds lament their lack of parental attention and guidance in making educational and career decisions, in forming adult values, and in assuming adult roles. Their responses are supported by decades of research on families and adolescents.

The conclusions drawn from this research are that adolescents develop best when they have a supportive family life characterized by warmth and mutual respect; by the serious and sustained interest of their parents in their lives; by parental responsiveness to their changing cognitive and social capacities; by the articulation of clear standards linked to discipline and close supervision; by the communication of high expectations for achievement and ethical behavior; and by democratic, constructive ways of dealing with conflict. Such a family atmosphere can provide powerful protection against the risks of engaging in unhealthy practices and antisocial behavior as well as against poor health, particularly depression.

During early adolescence, three approaches—parent involvement in middle grade schools, parent peer support groups, and parental guidance on healthy adolescent development—can be helpful as parents renegotiate relationships based on the changing needs and capacities of both parties. These approaches can be incorporated into any number of settings: the first two in schools, religious institutions, and community and youth organizations; the latter wherever preventive health-care services are available to adolescents.

These three approaches to supporting parents during their children's transition into adolescence are most appropriate for families who have adequate financial resources. For families experiencing financial hardship or living in high-risk situations, family support approaches must be expanded to address the economic, social, and cultural factors that constrain the capacities of these families to carry out their essential protective and guiding functions.

Various institutions need to reformulate their policies in light of these facts about youth development.

- Schools, cultural, arts, religious, and youth organizations and health-care agencies in the community should examine the extent to which they involve parents in activities

with adolescents and should develop ways to engage parents and adolescents in mutually rewarding activities.

- Professionals such as teachers, nurses, social workers, physicians, psychologists, youth development specialists, and others who work with adolescents must be prepared to work not only with individual adolescents but also with their families.
- Employers should extend to parents of young adolescents the workplace policies now available for those with young children, including flex time, job sharing, telecommuting, and part-time work with benefits.
- Community institutions such as business, schools, and youth organizations should become involved in providing after-schools programs.
- Congress should consider extending the child care tax credit to the early adolescent period, ages ten to fourteen.

Some Crucial Items for the Agenda (in no particular order)

Michele Kipke could do a superb presentation on Youth and Families—viewed as fundamental to healthy and productive adolescent development.

In view of Hillary's keen interest in brain development, mentioned again recently, Melvin Grumbach (U.C. San Francisco) could do an excellent overview of Brain and Hormones at Puberty. He is a pioneer scientist in this field and a very good speaker.

In a similar vein, William Dement (Stanford), could do a terrific job of Brain and Sleep in Adolescence. He would cover sleep disorders and ways that parents can be helpful.

Duane Alexander could do a superb presentation on Longitudinal Research: How Adolescents Grow Up Now.

For targeted intervention focusing on a specific adolescent problem, Sarah Brown would be superb on Preventing Teen Pregnancy.

For generic interventions, presenting a Comprehensive Strategy for Youth Development, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn (Columbia University) would be first-rate. She has written beautifully on this—putting the pieces together—and she is an excellent speaker.

For Media and Adolescents—or Parents Communicating with Adolescents—Laura Sessions Stepp would be outstanding.

For Upgrading Adolescent Education, Anthony Jackson would be just right. He is just about to publish an exciting ten-year follow up on *Turning Points* (President Clinton's report). Tony is African American, a scholar who works closely with practitioners and a good speaker.

Jane Quinn (Children's Aid Society) is the leading expert on youth in community organizations. She is the principal author of A Matter of Time, already a classic in the opportunities of the non-school hours. She is a lively and engaging speaker.

Jacque Eccles (University of Michigan) is one of the best in the field of adolescent development. She could speak effectively on various topics—e.g. Frontline Institutions Fostering Adolescent Development.

Improving Health in Adolescence could be very well covered by either Michael Cohen (Montefiore Medical Center, New York) or Robert Blum (University of Minnesota).

Katherine Neuman (Harvard) could do an excellent job on Teens and Work. Her research is informative.

I have not seen the new Stanford study on teens and the Internet but the newspaper accounts were interesting.

There are many other good options, but these strike me as particularly valuable.

Breakout Groups

There are various ways to do this but I am inclined to think that the most straightforward way is by sectors or frontline institutions. The important orientation is one of joint problem-solving. The challenge is how can each sector do a better job with youth. I would include parents and adolescents in each breakout group. So as educators help educators, and health professionals help health professionals, and policymakers help policymakers, they would benefit from the close-up perspectives of adolescents and parents.

Melanne, I don't know how you have been able to maintain this pace for seven years around-the-clock. I marvel at what you and your staff are able to accomplish, juggling many balls all the while. This is as far as I can go today. Tomorrow I'll be in Denver speaking at an Institute of Medicine regional meeting on youth violence. I'll be back on Thursday. In any event, I'm always reachable if you need me. Remember St. Petersburg? I'll never forget!

I hope all this is helpful and I stand to do more as you may see the need.

With every good wish,



David A. Hamburg

DAH/rar

Resource Materials:

Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development (1995). Great Transitions, Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Steinberg, L. & Levine, A. (1997). You and Your Adolescent: a Parent's Guide for Ages 10-20. New York: Harper Perennial.

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine (1999) Risks and Opportunities: Synthesis of Studies on Adolescence. Forum on Adolescence. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

Rosenberg, M. (1965) *Society and the Adolescent Self-Image*, Princeton.
