

White House Conference on Teenagers: Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth

Despite many positive developments in the last seven years – including declining rates of teen pregnancy, decreases in crimes against youth, and increases in student achievement and college access – parents of today’s teenagers express significant anxiety about the well-being of their children. In many cases, teenagers themselves feel alienated from their communities and insecure about the future. And recent tragedies have made parents and teens of all backgrounds feel helpless in the face of school violence.

The White House Conference on Teenagers will respond to these concerns by:

- Providing a snapshot of today’s teenagers, based on the latest statistics;
- Bringing to the public cutting edge research, including new brain research, about teenagers and their development;
- Acknowledging the challenges and opportunities presented by new technology, the changing workplace, and the increasing diversity of the youth population;
- Presenting advice from the nation’s leading experts on youth development about what works and offering tools for healthy development to parents and teens;
- Focusing attention on ways that families and communities together can teach good values, promote healthy behavior, and support positive youth development; and

When will the conference occur?

Tuesday, May 2, from approximately 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. We anticipate that the opening session, featuring the President and First Lady will take place from approximately 9:30 to 11:30 am. This session may be followed by lunch, breakout sessions for discussion, and a closing reception.

Who will attend the conference?

Approximately 150 individuals will attend the conference. (The size is limited by the available space at the White House.) The on-site audience will include a diverse group of parents, teenagers, policymakers, youth workers, educators, and representatives of faith-based organizations, media, business, and foundations. Additional individuals may participate via satellite at locations around the country. We encourage organizers of satellite locations to show the opening session and then host interactive discussions among participants. We regret that due to scheduling constraints, the timing of the opening session will make it difficult for the west coast to view the conference live; however, we hope that interested organizations will consider taping the event for later viewing.

White House Conference on Teenagers: Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth

Despite many positive developments in the last seven years – including declining rates of teen pregnancy, decreases in crimes against youth, and increases in student achievement and college access – parents of today’s teenagers express significant anxiety about the well-being of their children. In many cases, teenagers themselves feel alienated from their communities and insecure about the future. And recent tragedies have made parents and teens of all backgrounds feel helpless in the face of school violence.

The White House Conference on Teenagers will respond to these concerns by:

- Providing a snapshot of today’s teenagers, based on the latest statistics;
- Bringing to the public cutting edge research, including new brain research, about teenagers and their development;
- Acknowledging the challenges and opportunities presented by new technology, the changing workplace, and the increasing diversity of the youth population;
- Presenting advice from the nation’s leading experts on youth development about what works and offering tools for healthy development to parents and teens;
- Focusing attention on ways that families and communities together can teach good values, promote healthy behavior, and support positive youth development; and

When will the conference occur?

Tuesday, May 2, from approximately 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. We anticipate that the opening session, featuring the President and First Lady will take place from approximately 9:30 to 11:30 am. This session may be followed by lunch, breakout sessions for discussion, and a closing reception.

Who will attend the conference?

Approximately 150 individuals will attend the conference. (The size is limited by the available space at the White House.) The on-site audience will include a diverse group of parents, teenagers, policymakers, youth workers, educators, and representatives of faith-based organizations, media, business, and foundations. Additional individuals may participate via satellite at locations around the country. We encourage organizers of satellite locations to show the opening session and then host interactive discussions among participants. We regret that due to scheduling constraints, the timing of the opening session will make it difficult for the west coast to view the conference live; however, we hope that interested organizations will consider taping the event for later viewing.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS

Program Draft 5/1/00 am

Public
5/1

10:10 **Melanne Verveer** welcomes audience and explains how the program will work, introduces video

Opening Video: Montage of a diverse group of parents and teens speaking about their lives.

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. CLINTON announced into room. MRS. CLINTON proceeds to lectern. THE PRESIDENT sits next to lectern. Panel I is already seated on stage.

MRS. CLINTON speaks. MRS. CLINTON introduces THE PRESIDENT.

10:30 **THE PRESIDENT speaks.** Introduces Ben Casey, Dallas YMCA.

Ben Casey makes remarks.

THE PRESIDENT makes closing remark and departs.

10:45 **MRS. CLINTON** introduces topic of panel (who are today's teens and what do they need) and introduces panel members Jacqueline Eccles, Jay Giedd, Karen Pittman, Rhea Perlman and Danny Devito. She calls on Jacquelynne Eccles to speak first.

Jacquelynne Eccles discusses adolescent development, including the stages, peer cues, behavioral pressures, and the need for independence.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Jay Giedd, a scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Jay Giedd presents his recent research that suggests that an important phase of brain development occurs around puberty and what happens at that time matters and can set the stage for later successes or failures.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Angela Diaz, a doctor with the Mt. Sinai Center on Adolescence, who will speak from the audience.

Angela Diaz discusses the health care needs of teens she sees in her work and the challenges serving them.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Karen Pittman, of the International

Youth Foundation.

Karen Pittman lays out the assets that all teenagers need – a caring adult, healthy habits, safe places, a good education, and the opportunity to give back.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Emily McDonald, age 17, who is involved in community service in her hometown in Appalachia. She will speak from the audience.

Emily McDonald describes her community, her classmates, her involvement in service, her relationship with her parents and grandmother.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Rhea Perlman and Danny DeVito.

Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman speak about their experience as parents of teenagers and about the Afterschool Alliance.

11:30 **MRS. CLINTON** comments, thanks panel, and invites panel II to take the stage. Panel I leaves the stage and panel II, consisting of Laura Sessions Stepp, Edd Speaker, Robert Blum, Geoff Canada, and Gabriella Contreras are seated.

MRS. CLINTON introduces the topic of the second panel – what parents can do to help teens and what communities can do to help teens and parents – and introduces first panelist, Laura Sessions Stepp, author of *Our Last Best Shot* and Washington Post families reporter.

Laura Sessions Stepp outlines what we know about good parenting of teenagers.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Edd and Edwin Speaker.

Edd Speaker discusses his experience as a parent and introduces his son, Edwin, who will speak from the audience.

Edwin Speaker discusses the important influences in his life.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Robert Blum, University of Minnesota and Add Health study.

Robert Blum discusses research that underscores the importance of teens being connected to their families and the community.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Ellen Galinsky, President of the Work and Family Institute, who will speak from the audience.

Ellen Galinsky speaks about the need for employers to think creatively about ways to help parents of teens connect with their children.

MRS. CLINTON comments and *if time permits*, introduces Judith McHale, COO of Discovery Communications, who will speak from the audience.

Judith McHale discusses the new media and the need for tools for parents to help safeguard their children.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Susan Bales, President of the Frameworks Institute, who will speak from the audience.

Susan Bales discusses research on the media's treatment of teens and how it differs from reality.

12:00 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Geoff Canada, author of *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun* and founder of the Rheedlan Centers for Children and Families.

Geoff Canada speaks about the role of community in the life of a teenager, particularly in the inner city.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Harvard anthropologist Dr. Katherine Newman, author of *No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City*, *if time permits*.

Katherine Newman speaks about the responsibility of employers of youth to do more to help them succeed.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Jay Engelin, Principal of the Year, *if time permits*.

Jay Engelin discusses the importance of parent involvement in middle and high school, high school reform, and afterschool programs.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Gabriella Contreras, age 14.

Gabriella Contreras speaks about her own experience with youth violence in her community and ways youth can be resources for other youth.

MRS. CLINTON comments and provides closing comments. Mentions breakouts and lunch, invites satellite downlinks to continue talking and let us know what they conclude.

12:30 **Break for lunch.**

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS

Program Draft 4/27/00 pm

10:13 **Melanne Verveer** welcomes audience and explains how the program will work, introduces video

10:15 **Opening Video:** Montage of a diverse group of parents and teens speaking about their lives.

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. CLINTON announced into room with keynote speaker, **Cabinet members**, and **members of Congress**. All take seats in the audience except **THE PRESIDENT** and **MRS. CLINTON**. **MRS. CLINTON** proceeds to lectern. **THE PRESIDENT** sits next to lectern. Panel I is already seated on stage.

MRS. CLINTON speaks. **MRS. CLINTON** introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

10:30 **THE PRESIDENT speaks.** Introduces Ben Casey, Dallas YMCA.

Ben Casey makes remarks.

THE PRESIDENT makes closing remark and departs.

10:45 **MRS. CLINTON** introduces topic of panel (who are today's teens and what do they need) and introduces panel members Jacqueline Eccles, Jay Giedd, Karen Pittman, Rhea Perlman and Danny Devito. She calls on Jacqueline Eccles to speak first.

Jacqueline Eccles discusses adolescent development, including the stages, peer cues, behavioral pressures, and the need for independence.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Jay Giedd, a scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Jay Giedd presents his recent research that suggests that an important phase of brain development occurs around puberty and what happens at that time matters and can set the stage for later successes or failures.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Angela Diaz, a doctor with the Mt. Sinai Center on Adolescence, who will speak from the audience.

Angela Diaz discusses the health care needs of teens she sees in her work and the challenges serving them.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Karen Pittman, of the International Youth Foundation.

Karen Pittman lays out the assets that all teenagers need – a caring adult, healthy habits, safe places, a good education, and the opportunity to give back.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Emily McDonald, age 17, who is involved in community service in her hometown in Appalachia. She will speak from the audience.

Emily McDonald describes her community, her classmates, her involvement in service, her relationship with her parents and grandmother.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Rhea Perlman and Danny DeVito.

Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman speak about their experience as parents of teenagers and about the Afterschool Alliance.

11:30

MRS. CLINTON comments, thanks panel, and invites panel II to take the stage. Panel I leaves the stage and panel II, consisting of Laura Sessions Stepp, Edd Speaker, Robert Blum, Geoff Canada, and Gabriella Contreras are seated.

MRS. CLINTON introduces the topic of the second panel – what parents can do to help teens and what communities can do to help teens and parents – and introduces first panelist, Laura Sessions Stepp, author of *Our Last Best Shot* and Washington Post families reporter.

Laura Sessions Stepp outlines what we know about good parenting of teenagers.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Edd and Edwin Speaker.

Edd Speaker discusses his experience as a parent and introduces his son, Edwin, who will speak from the audience.

Edwin Speaker discusses the important influences in his life.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Robert Blum, University of Minnesota and Add Health study.

Robert Blum discusses research that underscores the importance of teens being connected to their families and the community.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Ellen Galinsky, President of the Work and Family Institute, who will speak from the audience.

Ellen Galinsky speaks about the need for employers to think creatively about ways to help parents of teens connect with their children.

MRS. CLINTON comments and *if time permits*, introduces Bob Davis, CEO of Lycos, who will speak from the audience.

Bob Davis discusses the new media and the need for tools for parents to help safeguard their children.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Susan Bales, President of the Frameworks Institute, who will speak from the audience.

Susan Bales discusses research on the media's treatment of teens and how it differs from reality.

12:00

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Geoff Canada, author of *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun* and founder of the Rheedlan Centers for Children and Families.

Geoff Canada speaks about the role of community in the life of a teenager, particularly in the inner city.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Jay Engelin, Principal of the Year, *if time permits*.

Jay Engelin discusses the importance of parent involvement in middle and high school, high school reform, and afterschool programs.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Harvard anthropologist Dr. Katherine Newman, author of *No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City*, *if time permits*.

Katherine Newman speaks about the responsibility of employers of youth to do more to help them succeed.

MRS. CLINTON comments and introduces Gabriella Contreras, age 14.

Gabriella Contreras speaks about her own experience with youth violence in her community and ways youth can be resources for other youth.

MRS. CLINTON comments and provides closing comments. Mentions breakouts and lunch, invites satellite downlinks to continue talking and let us know what they conclude.

12:30

Break for lunch.

SUGGESTED AGENDA-
MaryEllen 3/23

I. VIDEO Montage:

Get out key messages: time piece, kids don't feel listened to, kids don't feel connected, kids are stressed, parents feel powerless, parents don't know how to talk to their kids/make them listen, parents are stressed and don't know when it will end or where to go for health, parents are worried about the world their kids are growing up in

II. HRC Speaks:

Paint a portrait of today's teen, the reality of teens today; shatter myths while framing problems. Underlying Message: kids are more potential than problem.

III. POTUS Speaks:

Frame the roles of parent, schools, communities, youth and society at large (media, policymaker) in shaping today's youth. End with responsibility of policymakers: to provide more resources, more money to cbo's that work to give parents and kids the tools they need [could plug census here – get them in so you're counted and get the resources you need]
Underlying Message: kids are the hope of today not tomorrow, don't waste anymore time.

IV. THE RESEARCH: WHAT DO WE KNOW? Mind, Body & Spirit

- Mind: Brain piece. The brain is still developing, it's not too late, what happens now does matter and can set the stage for later successes. Cognitive development- different kids learn in different ways. Social Development
- Body: Puberty. Development issues and the differences in girls and boys when developing. Sexuality.
- Spirit: Mental health, emotional needs, hormones affect on mood. Need for independence, "personal growth"

V. WHAT DO TEENS NEED TO SUCCEED/Assets (First five are America's Promise)

- A Caring Adult: parents/mentors, get out some positive feelings kids have about adults/parents. Celebrate good things adults are currently doing. Get out the message that kids need to be nurtured, still need their parents/caregivers. Free flowing communication and feedback.
- A Health Start/Healthy Habits: Physical fitness, prevention piece.
- Safe Places: Time- what are kids doing with the time versus what could they be doing. Afterschool, community orgs, need for programs, resources.
- Marketable Skills: education, opportunity, training
- Opportunity to Serve: To develop values, empathy, character, citizenship.
- Independence: to search for identity. How do parents set limits, how do you know when enough is enough?
- Connections/Community: need to be connected to as many institutions as possible starting with the institution of family, small schools initiative, need to get to know adults, etc, know people care.

- What needs
- who parents
are
- what kids
do
- what can
can do

Panel II

• Parent Expert
Assets
Perhaps-part
of com.
family

Panel ① American Teen Today: Who are
stats - who
① Time Use
② Biology
③ Developmental
youth speakers they

VI. OPTIMUM ROLES: PARENTS, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, WORK, TEENS & SOCIETY AT LARGE (POLICYMAKERS & MEDIA)

- Parents: communicate, set limits and boundaries, first teacher and mentor [teach by example], advocate in community for resources, instill values, nurturer, unconditional love [Deliverables: A series of how to talk to your kids pamphlets (about drugs, sex, etc); General parenting tips; Pamphlet on how to tell if kid is in trouble?; List of parent resources/orgs]
- School: Educate and enlighten, teach the whole child- including arts piece, prepare child for careers & college opportunities, social skills and character building (don't allow for bullying, labels), extend the day (afterschool programming), outreach (immigrant parents), a race piece [Deliverables: Tips for parents to work w/educators and vice versa; Guide on how to identify kids in need]
- Community: Provide venues for parents and kids to come together, facilitators, resource providers, outreach (immigrant parents, disenfranchised)
- Work: Provide family friendly workplaces (not just about little kids), provide workplace mentoring programs, provide teens with meaningful employment/opportunities [Deliverables: A best employers list? How to evaluate your child's workplace?]
- Teens: Take responsibility for yourselves, you are resilient, are a resource, do matter, get involved, be an active citizen, a good friend, volunteer, communicate your needs [Deliverables: A guide to development- what's normal? – kids love to read about themselves, why do you think magazines are such a big part of a young girl's life; list of resources, a teen clearinghouse?]
- Media/Technology: Consider your impact on teens, portray them fairly and responsibly, provide useful and meaningful information [Deliverables: parent guide to internet/media; youth poll on media consumption]
- Policymakers: provide more money for community based resources, technical assistance/models for collaboration

*Throughout all talk about how society/communities/schools are and are not investing in the development of our youth

VII. LUNCH

Could be showing excerpts from teen dramas

VIII. BREAKOUTS/Concurrent sessions

- Preparing Youth for the World of Work: What opportunities do youth believe they have in terms of education, training and work? What motivates young people to seek out careers and take steps to make them a reality? What concern youth about inequalities in the labor market? How can one evaluate teen workplaces? Host: DOL
- Building Local Capacity for Community Youth Development: What is role of community as a whole? How can faith based, community based and volunteer organizations work together to provide for youth? How do we break through bureaucracies to get results for our youth? Host: HUD, A Member [with some ideal EZ in their district]

- Communicating with Youth: How to Talk with Today's Teens: How can parents learn to speak and listen to their children in ways that allow them to be heard and understood? Are kids ready to talk? How can kids cross the bridge- learn to talk to their parents about drugs, sex, etc. HOST: HHS
- Prevention in Place: Stopping High Risk Behavior Before it Starts: prevention piece
HOST: DOJ/ONDCP
- The Values We Teach: How do young people develop their values? What values are they learning and from who? Role of media and community at large.
HOST: Tipper, Member, ED
- Opportunities to Serve: Bringing Young People into the Community: What is considered to be meaningful service? How can kids contribute? Where do they start? HOST: CNS

IX. CLOSING SESSION

-Come to a shared sense of community between parents, schools, work, teens, media, policymakers. Underlying message: help young people grow roots and wings

Yma
Cass

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS

Program Draft 4/7/2000

Melanne -

9:30 **Opening Video:** Montage of parents and teens. Gets out key messages: time piece, kids don't feel listened to, parents don't think their kids listen, kids are stressed, parents are worried. In the end takes a universalist approach demonstrating that we essentially all have the wants and needs.

9:33 **POTUS and HRC announced into room**

9:34 **HRC Speaks:** Paint a portrait to today's teens, shatter myths while family problems. Underlying message: Kids are more potential than problem.

tie to earlier work on life with conf. also post little bit

9:44 **POTUS Speaks:** Deliverables. Underlying message: kids are hope of today not just tomorrow, youth are resources.

young

9:59 **KEYNOTE:**

- Testimonial by teen- this is my life today - *sameer Shah*
- Celebrity- ie Grant Hill who could talk about what it was like being a teen growing up, how he made it through, what his parents did right - *African Amer. did from the Gooch*

10:05 **PANEL I/ Who are today's teens? What do they need? [5 min/adults, 3min/teen, 10min give and take]**

- **Brain Research-** brain is still developing, what happens now matters and can set the stage for later successes, *Dr Giedd, Jacqueline Eccles, Jeannie Brooks-Gunn*
- **Physiologist-** puberty piece, hormones, growth piece, mood
- **Behaviorist/ Developmentalist-** stages of development, peer cues, behavioral pressures, need for independence, *Richard Lerner*
- **Assets Piece-** kids need caring adult, healthy habits, safe places, good education, opportunity to serve, *Peter Benson*

Melvin Grumbach art.

- **Teen/Girl-**
- **Teen/Boy-**

Teen Girl - Multiracial? Hispanic?

① Karen Pittman

- and Karen Pittman

10:41 **Panel I leaves stage/Panel II seated**

10:43 **PANEL II/ How can parents and the community get teens what they need? [5min/panel, 3min/popups, give and take 20min]**

- **Parent-** talking about the challenges they have faced and how they've worked around them
- **Parent Researcher-** someone to synthesize parent piece, *Steve Small, Kerby Alvy*
- **Communication Piece-** how do we talk to our kids, *Jim Youniss*
- **"At Risk" Piece-** how to generally attack at risk behavior through good parenting, *Sarah Brown, David Hawkins, Richard Catalon, Del Elliot*
- **Values Piece-** how can we teach our kids right from wrong, instill the right values, *Bill Damon*

*- Steve Case - media to the parents
- Laura Sessions Stepp*

Larry Steinberg

pop ups

Agela Dray - Mt. Sinai Health Community Schools

Marta Tienda - labor economist

Ron Ferguson - youth leader

Pray

Dry

Good Canada

Reputation Franklin

David Hamberg

- **Work and Family Piece-** how does the work world need to change to support our raising better kids, *Ellen Galinsky?*

POP UPS THROUGHOUT- expressing how they can help/support parents in raising responsible and resourceful teens

- **Religious Community-** ~~Seventh Grade Fund?~~ ~~Our Youth Pastor?~~ *Ten Binyon, Coates, Priest, Beach?*
- **School-** ~~teach to the whole child,~~ involve families as a whole, afterschool programming, educator in the field talking about what they are doing, *Lois Harrison Jones, Steve Edwards? NASSP Pres. 7 to go* *h.s. reform parental involvement*
- **Business-** unless on panel, put families first, happy families = happy workers, also ways to provide meaningful employment for teens, *Ellen Galinsky?*
- **CBO-** *YMCA Dallas which involves parents talking about their program*
- **Media Researcher-** Consider your impact on teens, portray them fairly and responsibly, consider messages you are putting out there for kids to consume, consider the parents point of view- how can you assist them in setting teenage media consumption habits? *Center for Media education? Jane Brown? Catherine Montgomery*
- **Policymaker/Municipal-** how communities can put kids at the top of their agenda, need to provide venues for children and their families to enjoy time and activities together, *Rochester Mayor? Boston Police Commissioner?*

*your program
your as
resources*

11:46 Reflections/Closing: HRC Thank you and good bye, mentions breakouts later in day, invites people to lunch, invites satellite downlinks to continue talking into the day within their local communities.

11:48 End