



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

2/8/82
Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Health
Washington DC 20201

25 JAN 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO : Agency Heads
Managers, Administrators and Program Specialists

FROM : Surgeon General

SUBJECT : Federal Interagency Meeting on Research and Prevention on
Mental Retardation

This is written to share with you my excitement that health care in the United States has entered a new era; an era of concern for prevention -- not just cure. Secretary Richard Schweiker has repeatedly suggested the importance of such concern as a significant part of the policy endorsed by the Department of Health and Human Services, and has expressed belief that the three areas which offer the greatest promise for improving American health care are biomedical research, disease prevention and health promotion.

Within the organizational structure of the Department, these activities cover a broad spectrum of programs and involve the expertise of numerous health specialists. Noteworthy is the fact that despite their diverse objectives, they are "inseparably linked by our over-riding goal of promoting and protecting the well-being of the 200 million people we serve." In this regard, I plan to meet with representatives of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation and top managers, administrators and program specialists from other federal agencies to discuss their agendas in research and prevention. Deliberations will focus on:

- . the general state of the art relative to prevention of mental retardation from biomedical causes,
- . specific past and present research or prevention activities sponsored by agencies within the Department,
- . proposed known strategies for minimizing the occurrence of mental retardation in future generations, and
- . innovative approaches to biomedical research and prevention

It is my hope that a significant outcome of this meeting will be establishment of a federal interagency committee on research and prevention.

Specifics regarding the meeting date and site are as follows:

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Date: Monday, February 8, 1982

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Place: Conference Room 729-G
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Eagerly, we anticipate your positive reply to this memorandum of invitation prior to Friday, January 29. Should previously made commitments prevent your active participation, however, please notify Mrs. Laverdia Roach (245-9563) of the person who will represent your agency.

Enclosed find a copy of the tentative meeting agenda. The final agenda will be forwarded to you upon receipt of your response.


C. Everett Koop, M.D.

Attachments