

**NLWJC - Kagan**

**DPC - Box 065 - Folder-016**

**Welfare-Work Participation Rates**

Wp - wp-to-work implementation  
and  
wp-time limits



Cynthia A. Rice

09/30/97 10:44:25 AM

Record Type: Record

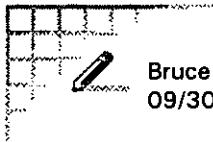
To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: A few questions--since I'm missing your meetings

From Bruce fyi--

----- Forwarded by Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP on 09/30/97 10:46 AM -----



Bruce N. Reed

09/30/97 09:03:10 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: A few questions--since I'm missing your meetings 

1. Remind me to put the fear of God into Labor this afternoon about helping mayors
2. I agree with your recommendation on data -- we shouldn't recommend a wimpy option. Down the road, should we recommend something serious?
3. I'm fine with whatever you want to ask of Arizona. Just make sure Podesta knows what we're doing.
4. I look forward to a TANF reg briefing. You're no doubt very sick of it already.
5. Any chance of having anything ready on child support by Saturday? It doesn't matter -- I'm just curious. Rahm and I are pushing a fatherhood radio address to coincide with the Promise Keepers march, and we're looking for anything to bolster our case.

Thanks -- sorry to ruin your evening last night.

Cynthia A. Rice



Cynthia A. Rice

09/29/97 05:41:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

Subject: A few questions--since I'm missing your meetings

Sorry I missed this morning's meeting -- after all the Q&A excitement, I had to go with Nicole to a

noon meeting of the House Women's Caucus re: the child care conference (we're trying to divide up all these meetings). Also, I will miss our staff meeting tomorrow because I somehow let Betsey Myers talk me into appearing on a panel in the Indian Treaty Room at the same time.

So let me ask you a few things via email:

### QUESTIONS

Department of Labor Guidance: What else should I be doing to ensure that the DOL guidance gives as much discretion as possible to the PICs? I just put in a call to Ray Uhalde to ask him

1) what is their lawyers' latest interpretation of how much authority the governor has to set state-wide policy; and 2) what is the revised timetable/ process given their decision on Friday to embark on a NGA-NaCo-NCSL-Mayors joint consultation process. Emily believes that we will go a long way toward making our friends happy if we make sure that PICs have the freedom to choose from among the eligible activities and individuals in the statute. I will do my best to put the fear of God in them -- but Bruce can you reiterate this with Kitty or make the point at tomorrow's strategy meeting? Can anyone else think of anything else we can do?

HHS Report on Data Processing: This sounds dull, but I think it's a test of whether this Administration is serious about time limits. HHS has fallen into the trap. Here are the key points:

- 1) Currently, though states are forbidden from providing TANF to families for more than 5 years, there is no system in place to track individuals who move from state to state;
- 2) The law requires HHS to produce a report on what would be required to create a computer system to track how long people have been on welfare;
- 3) HHS has produced a lengthy technical report with 5 options ranging from one that is weak and cheap to one that is thorough and expensive.
- 4) The HHS report then recommends we start with the weak and cheap option and eventually move toward the more expensive and complicated one (which will never happen).

I think we should avoid making a recommendation among the options. There's no way we win on this one -- either we don't believe in time limits or we want to impose more costs and technical burdens on the states. I think the report should be re-crafted to lay out alternatives without choosing one. What do you think?

### REMINDERS

Arizona Privatization Proposal: The Dept. of Ag needs to respond by Friday to Arizona's privatization proposal -- either say yes, say no, or ask for more information. We had a DPC-USDA-OMB meeting on this ten days ago, and as a result USDA has drafted what with a few edits I think will be a pretty good "ask for more information letter." Diana is shepharding this, but she's out today and my role is to remind you that we need your feedback (Elena attended our meeting, so she got the detailed info, Bruce -- let me know if you want to see it directly). I think if we decide what we want and then close the loop with Gotbaum and perhaps Podesta that should work.

### UPDATES

Child Support Enforcement: There are many obstacles to a good child support event, but I'm trying to cut my way through the jungle. I won't bore you with the details, but I hope to have more positive news soon.

TANF Regs: Diana and I owe you a memo or briefing on HHS' proposed TANF regs. We've had some conversations with OMB, and they want to give HHS a series of questions and comments by week's end, so we're trying to draft some for OMB by COB Wednesday. I'll ask Cathy and Laura if