



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

FACSIMILE

SEP 15 1993

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Violence?

**PLEASE NOTIFY OR HAND-CARRY
THIS TRANSMISSION TO THE
FOLLOWING PERSON AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE:**

DATE: Sept. 15, 1993

TIME: 2:40p.

TO : Carol Rasco

COMPANY : _____

FAX NUMBER: 457-2878 TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Number of pages being transmitted (including this one) 5

FROM: Peter Edelman

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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COMMENTS: _____

DRAFT - not sent to anyone
except Phil Heymann

August 26, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Violence Working Group

FROM: Philip Heymann and Peter Edelman

SUBJECT: Next Steps

Let us see if we can state where we are. We will begin by restating some material from an earlier memo, both to recapitulate and also for the benefit of those who may be reading a memo on this subject for the first time.

The subject of our inquiry is physical harm that is inflicted intentionally or recklessly by people on other people.

There will be four subgroups, on youth violence, family violence, intercommunal violence, and sexual assault. They are described more fully below. (The Department of Education suggests an additional working group on victims' rights.)

Agenda for the subgroups

All four working groups will ask:

1. What is the current size and scope of the problem in the area they are looking at?
2. What do we know about how it came to be the way it is?
3. What is being done to deal with it now by the federal government and by other institutions and actors?
4. What are appropriate remedies and what role should the federal government play with regard to those remedies? How can various parts of the federal government work together and how can the federal government as a whole work in partnership with others in the design and implementation of remedies? When we talk about "remedies," the action items suggested by our work might include legislative proposals, ideas for reconfiguration of and interdepartmental cooperation among existing programs, leadership and speech ideas for the President and cabinet members, media and communications strategies of all kinds, and possibilities for action by institutions and individuals in other parts of American society. The Department of Education suggests common themes for

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each inquiry: community-wide involvement, a variety of approaches, limited resources, a need for sufficient research, and a tension between the need for immediate concrete action and drawing up a comprehensive federal strategy. The ultimate aim of the effort will be a limited number of initiatives in the context of a strategy for a comprehensive federal effort.¹

5. What should the research and evaluation agenda be with regard to the problem set in question? Among other things, the research inquiry should be directed toward:

-- identifying the risk factors and protective factors for the violence area in question, by analogy to those related to drugs and alcohol, with intervention strategies designed to take these factors into consideration; and

-- collecting information on effective programs for use in the creation of other programs.

6. What sort of technical assistance do people need to design and implement relevant remedies in particular neighborhoods and communities?

7. Each subgroup will probably need to solicit outside advice and counsel in the course of its work, so it will need to think through at an early point its modus operandi for doing so.

Configuration of the Subgroups

The four subgroups, with an indication of our ideas as to which department or departments should be the lead or leads, will be:

1. Youth (Education, HHS, Labor)
2. Family, including child abuse, domestic violence (interspousal and interpartner), and elder abuse (HHS)
3. Intercommunal, including hate violence (Justice and HUD)
4. Sexual assault (Justice)

¹ The Department of Education suggests the following dissemination strategies: collaboration with other organizations on a national violence public awareness campaign; providing a resource guide to local communities; quarterly town hall meetings to showcase successful community efforts; and panel discussions of federal officials and community leaders over cable and satellite television, like the panel that was presented at the July 20-21 violence conference.

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All departments are invited to participate in all subgroups, and we apologize for not creating a leadership role for all, but this seems to us to be the most workable approach.

Groups 2, 3, and 4 will operate on a unitary basis, without subgroups (unless they see the need to subdivide after they begin their work). Youth is more complicated and will have seven subgroups, which will be "steered" on an overall basis by the three youth co-chairs and chaired individually as indicated below:

- a. Youth development (Labor, HHS, Education, but with the definite participation of people from all of the departments). This subgroup will have the discrete and specific task of coming up with an interdepartmental youth development initiative. This is as good a place as any to report to all of you that the Labor Department has already begun interdepartmental conversations about the implementation of Youth Fair Chance, a program for which it has \$50 million in new fiscal 1993 funds. They have already met with some of the departments, including HHS and HUD. We can use this subgroup to explore the possibility that Youth Fair Chance can be supplemented with the participation of other departments and become the sort of comprehensive intervention many of us would like to see.
- b. Juvenile justice (Justice and HHS). The charge to this subgroup would at a minimum be a compilation of best practices regarding interventions in lieu of traditional incarceration or institutionalization and reintegration into the community following institutionalization. It might conceptualize some demonstrations, too.
- c. Schools (Education). Education would of course participate in both of the above groups, as well as others, but this group would be particularly concerned with antiviolence curricula and mediation and conciliation initiatives. The Dept of Ed is of course already working on these issues, so the purpose of the group would in effect be for them to get the advice and possible participation of other departments regarding programs in this area.
- d. Place (HUD). The responsibility of this subgroup would be ideas that strengthen places for which HUD takes responsibility. This is at least about public housing, although that may not be all it is about. The point is the same as with schools, i.e. HUD is undoubtedly already working on how to reduce youth violence in public housing, but it may be that the advice and participation of other departments would be of assistance.
- e. Media (HHS). The charge here is about positive messages in the media to press for a reduction in violence. We put HHS in the lead here because of work that CDC has been doing on

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messages, but we would hope that public affairs people from any or all of the departments would be helpful.

f. Research (HHS). We would give this subgroup the responsibility for answering the questions about the scope of the problem of youth violence and the causes, as well as articulating a research agenda. We would expect to have the research perspective represented in all of the subgroups (as well as in the groups on family, intercommunal, and sexual violence).

g. Process (Justice). This group would be chaired by Shay Bilchik and would work, perhaps with Denver and Omaha as case examples of cities with which DOJ has already started to work, on conceptualizing a model planning process for communities to deal with youth violence, including an approach to simplifying the process of approaching the federal government for assistance in the youth area.

Next steps:

1. Phil and Peter will meet with Carol Rasco and Kathi Way to go over all of the above before we proceed.

2. We will have one more (hopefully our last) planning meeting, within the next two weeks. We will be in touch about a date. At that meeting you should be prepared to discuss:

-- Names of chairs of the groups and subgroups;

-- Names of members of the groups and subgroups;

-- Making funds available for travel and other expenses for people the groups need to meet with.

We might close by saying thank you to Madeleine Kunin and the Department of Education, from whom we received a memorandum which was very helpful to us in elaborating the task.

September 15, 1995
3:15pm - pr

SEP 15 REC'D

To: CHR

From: Pat

Re: Attached Fax from Peter Edelman's office

Received call from P. Edelman's office that referenced attached.

Message: If you have time, please review before Friday

Meeting (September 17).

Get cc of
this to Susan
to read before
this meeting
on 17th.
9/15/93
JMB