

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

*Pat*

YOU WERE CALLED BY--  YOU WERE VISITED BY--

*Cynthia Morin*

OF (Organization)

*Family Reunion 3*

PLEASE PHONE  FTS  AUTOVON

*(615) 259-4000*

WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Confirmed appt. on July 10th or  
11th. Please call back.*

RECEIVED BY

*Savich*

DATE

*6/29*

TIME

*10:40 am*

NSN 7540-00-634-4018 STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)  
Prescribed by GSA  
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1991 281-781/50014 FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

Children, Youth and Family Consortium of the University of Minnesota  
and  
Department of Human Services of the State of Tennessee

request the pleasure of your company

at a dinner in honor of

Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore


Sunday, the tenth of July

at seven in the evening

The Cumberland Club  
Nashville City Center  
511 Union Street, 26th Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee

R.s.v.p.

Frances DeLa Garza  
(615) 742-8113

JUL 7 REC'D 

Children, Youth and Family Consortium of the University of Minnesota  
and

Department of Human Services of the State of Tennessee

cordially invite you to the

"Family Re-Union III"

Reception

with

Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore

Sunday, July 10, 1994

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Tennessee State Museum

Tennessee Performing Arts Center

505 Deaderick Street

Nashville, Tennessee

R.s.v.p.

Frances DeLa Garza  
(615) 742-8113



2:10pm  
7/7

@402  
will attend  
Laurie Deitch

2:10pm

7/7  
@402 will attend both  
Laurie Deitch

033A 070234 MLDCR#8 WCMF, DC 20066



US POSTAGE

Carol Gasco  
Office of the President  
OEOB  
Washington, DC 20500

Put w/ briefing  
book for  
Tenn. trip

E X E C U T I V E   O F F I C E   O F   T H E   P R E S I D E N T

07-Jul-1994 03:01pm

**TO:** Carol H. Rasco  
**FROM:** Kathryn J. Way  
Domestic Policy Council  
**SUBJECT:** Tennicare

Currently the state of Tennessee has no outstanding issues with HCFA. When Tennicare was negotiated with HCFA Tennessee agreed to establish two "Supplemental Pools" that would be funded from State and Federal dollars. The purpose was to cover extraordinary risk exposure for providers. The payment methodology to be used was to be worked out later. The methodology is under development but to date Tennessee has not claimed any funds as match for the pools. Negotiations are moving forward on a payment methodology and Tennessee is satisfied with the progress being made. Again, it is not so much a matter of withholding payment. Funds were not requested. When the methodology is in place the funds will be available for draw down.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

**PLAN FOR "EXPERTS FORUM" PRECEDING  
FAMILY RE-UNION III CONFERENCE**

**Sunday, July 10th: 1PM-5PM, Tennessee State University Students' Center**

**12:30-1:00** *Audience assembles*

**1:00-1:05** *Vice President Gore is welcomed by President of TSU, Dr. James Hefner*

**1:05-1:10** *Vice President Gore welcomes group, states purpose of meeting...an opportunity to exchange information relating to their work with him and with each other.*

**AGJ:** Thank you for agreeing to spend these additional hours with us to help us understand in greater depth the issues that we face. We want to understand the role that fathers and other men play in the lives of children. One of the things we've already learned in the process of putting together this conference is the need that all of you have to learn more about each other's work. Today should provide us with a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other and prepare for tomorrow.

**1:10- 2:10 "WHY DO CHILDREN NEED MEN IN THEIR LIVES?"**

*Vice President and Dr. Erickson co-moderate a discussion of the latest research in the field of fatherhood and male involvement. They pose a series of questions to the audience. Seated with the Vice President and Dr. Erickson are Rich Weinberg, John McAdoo?, Margaret Beale Spencer? and Richard Luov? Those seated with the Vice President begin the discussion and draw on the expertise of the audience.*

**AGJ:** We need to address the problems that have left so many American children without fathers or any positive male role models. In order to begin to tackle this situation we need to be absolutely clear about the nature and dimensions of the problem that we face. As we hear your thoughts in this area, we must remember that we are concerned with men as nurturers, men as mentors and the preparation of future fathers.

All of you have a particular expertise or interest in the field, and my hope is that in these three dialogues we can learn about the research, the program strategies and the policy implications of your efforts.

POINTS TO BE COVERED IN THIS SESSION

- WHAT DO WE KNOW FROM RESEARCH ABOUT THE IMPACT OF FATHERS IN KIDS' LIVES? WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT FATHER ABSENCE? WHAT EFFECT IS THERE ON THE CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?
- WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF FATHER ABSENCE, AND WHAT IS THE MEANING FOR THE CHILD OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOSS?
- HOW ARE MEN'S ROLES CHANGING? AS THE ROLES OF PARENTS CHANGE WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE INTERCHANGABILITY OF PARENTAL ROLES?
- WHEN NO FATHER IS IN THE CHILD'S LIFE, CAN MEN IN THE COMMUNITY HELP? WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH TELL US ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF OTHER MEN IN CHILDREN'S LIVES?
- WHAT HELPS BOYS GROW UP TO BE CARING, RESPONSIBLE FATHERS?

**2:30-3:30 "WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES FOR BRINGING FATHERS AND OTHER MEN INTO THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN A POSITIVE WAY ?"**

*Vice President Gore and Ralph Smith moderate a discussion of successful programs and the response of communities with members of the audience, especially the practitioners. Seated with them are Charles Ballard, Barbara Clinton and Jim Levine. Here we learn more about the various responses...successes and barriers.*

**AGJ:** Now that we've discussed some of the latest research in the field, we turn to those of you who have been working with men and children to solve some of these problems. We are interested in the response of communities to the need for men in children's lives, as well as the characteristics of successful programs and the barriers that you have encountered in trying to implement them.

Many of you are here today because of your involvement in Ralph Smith's fatherhood initiative. I don't need to tell you what a central role he plays in this field. Ralph will you start us off with some basic understanding of the program issues?

POINTS TO BE COVERED IN THIS SESSION

- WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT WHAT FATHERS NEED? HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT ACROSS DIFFERENT SUB-POPULATIONS?
- WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF WORK AND FAMILY ISSUES TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND THEIR CHILDREN? WHAT IS THE ROLE OF MEN IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS VOLUNTEERS AND MENTORS?
- TO WHAT EXTENT ARE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO THE MOTHER AND CHILD AND NOT THE FATHER? HOW HAVE YOU ADDRESSED THIS?
- WHAT ARE THE MAJOR BARRIERS TO FATHERHOOD AND MALE INVOLVEMENT IN THE INNER CITY? HOW DO YOU APPROACH THIS?
- WHAT ARE THE MAJORS BARRIERS TO FATHERHOOD AND MALE INVOLVEMENT IN RURAL AREAS? HOW HAVE YOU DEALT WITH THIS?
- WHAT ARE SUCCESS HAVE YOU HAD IN PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE "FUTURE FATHERS?" HOW SUCCESSFUL IS "PARENT EDUCATION" FOR FATHERS? WHAT WOULD MAKE IT MORE SUCCESSFUL?

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**3:30-4:00 BREAK** ...refreshments...opportunity to network...

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**4:00-5:00 "WHAT ARE THE PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IF WE ARE TO BRING MEN INTO CHILDREN'S LIVES IN A MORE POSITIVE WAY? AND HOW CAN WE BRING ABOUT THE NECESSARY CHANGE OF HEART?"**

*Vice President Gore, Tipper Gore, and Commissioner Grunow lead the discussion.*

**AGJ:** Now that we've heard about the research and the programmatic and community response, I'd like to consider the policies that would facilitate positive change. I've asked Tipper and Commissioner Grunow to help me lead this discussion. I thought it might be helpful if we looked at each stage of the child's life and how we might encourage fathers to play a vital role.

**POINTS TO BE COVERED IN THIS SESSION:**

- TO WHAT EXTENT DO CURRENT POLICIES SUPPORT OR HINDER FATHERS? HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY AT BIRTH?
- HOW DO WE RESPOND TO MEN WHO WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED...AND HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?
- WHAT ENCOURAGES OR DISCOURAGES FATHERS?
- HOW CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WORK TOWARD THAT CHANGE MOST EFFECTIVELY?
- WHAT ARE THE WORK AND WELFARE ISSUES? THE WORK AND FAMILY ISSUES? To what extent are they driven by the same concerns?
- HOW DO WE CREATE THE CHANGE OF HEART THAT WILL ENABLE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE?

**4:55 AGJ:** I'm glad that we have another day...because I can see that this discussion is far from over. Thank you President Hefner for your hospitality. I'd like to invite all of you to join us for a reception at the Tennessee State Museum at 5:30.



**FAMILY RE-UNION III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives**

**Monday, July 11 1994**

**8:30-8:35 CONFERENCE OPENS**

*Marti Erickson comes on stage followed by the W.O. Smith Chorus*

**Dr. Erickson introduces CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

**8:35-8:45 W.O. SMITH CHORUS**

*Children leave the stage. Commissioner Grunow steps out to the podium*

**8:45-8:55 INTRODUCTIONS**

- **Commissioner Grunow introduces Governor McWherter**
- **Governor McWherter's remarks (3 minutes)**

*Commissioner Grunow stands to one side during the Governor's remarks*

- **Cmr. Grunow introduces the Vice President**

*Both the Commissioner and the Governor stand to one side*

**8:50-8:55 VICE PRESIDENT WELCOMES AND INTRODUCES  
FILM COLLAGE**

**AGJ: We are very grateful to the Disney Channel who produced the following collage of images of men in children's lives seen through the lens of American film and TV for this conference. (Acknowledge Cory O'Connor and John and Diane Cooke?)**

*The Vice President, Governor McWherter and Commissioner Grunow sit to one side to view the collage. The group of men who will sit on the risers are being assembled backstage.*

**8:55-9:05 FILM COLLAGE**

**9:05-9:20 VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS...latest research, goal for the day, etc. Varying images of fatherhood.**

**9:20-9:25** *Men assemble on risers...large mixed group of varied backgrounds*

**9:25-10:45 MEN'S FORUM**

*Garth Brooks (?) is among the men seated on risers on the stage. The Vice President leads discussion of issues surrounding male involvement in the lives of children.*

*List of men includes, Rick Weissbourd, Charles Ballard, Jim Levine, Ralph Smith, Ross Parke, John McAdoo, Kyle Pruett, Richard Luov, Kent Amos,? (THESE AND OTHERS ARE STILL UNCONFIRMED)*

**AGJ:** We have varied backgrounds and reasons to be interested in the focus of this conference, but we all have one thing in common... we are all men and we are all sons and fathers. Some are grandfathers, foster or adoptive fathers, or have a significant involvement with children other than our own. I think it's important for us to start this conference with a frank discussion of the issues we face. The difficult balance between work and family, the pressures on our time, the barriers of class and race, and the role of the women in our lives in raising children.

**Charles Ballard** heads the Institute for Responsible Fatherhood in Cleveland, and he works to reconnect fathers to their children who are on welfare. His father left his life and he himself became a father at 19, Charles what are some of the issues that you faced?

...

Everyone here has an image of Garth Brooks the entertainer...but it's Garth Brooks the father that I've asked to join us today. In the midst of a hectic schedule and a demanding career, you've put your family and children first...how hard is that to do?

#### QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THIS TIME

- HOW ARE WE INFLUENCED BY OUR OWN FATHERS? HOW ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR TODAY'S FATHERS DIFFERENT? HAVE THINGS REALLY CHANGED THAT MUCH? HOW? WHY?
- WHAT ARE THE ISSUES WHEN WE TRY TO BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY? WHEN OUR WIVES ARE WORKING? FOR SINGLE FATHERS?
- AS MEMBERS OF COMMUNITIES, HOW CAN WE MAKE UP THE GAP IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITHOUT FATHERS? WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS? WHAT ARE THE REWARDS?
- WHAT KIND OF CHANGE DO WE REALLY WANT? ARE WE AMBIVALENT?
- WHAT ROLE DO THE WOMEN IN OUR LIVES PLAY IN THIS EQUATION? HOW

DO WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY MAKE US FEEL ABOUT INVOLVEMENT WITH CHILDREN? ...OUR CHILDREN'S TEACHERS? OTHER PARENTS? CO-WORKERS?

- WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HELP PREPARE OUR SONS TO BE FATHERS? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

*When the discussion ends, the men continue to sit on the risers and the Vice President introduces Tipper Gore who comes on stage.*

**10:45-10:55 VICE PRESIDENT AND TIPPER GORE INTRODUCE CHILDREN'S VIDEO** *They acknowledge the students who produced it. The house lights go down. The men stay on the risers.*

**AGJ:** We have heard some of the issues that we face as men trying to have a more significant involvement in our children's lives. Now we will hear from children of various ages.

**MEG:** I think it is significant that these interviews with children were conducted by students from my alma mater...Boston University. We are very grateful for their time and talent, and I would like to acknowledge Professor Sam Kaufman, head of the film school, and students XXX, XXX & XXX who produced it and are here with us today.

**10:55-11:15 CHILDREN'S VIDEO**

**11:15-12:00 PROGRAM RESPONSE**

**AGJ:** Thanks again to the students of Boston University.. that was a powerful eye-opener. Children certainly are able to cut through to the essential questions. Having heard from them and from these men, I think that we have some idea of the dimensions of the problem and the importance of the solution. In the remaining 45 minutes before lunch, I'd like to ask members of the audience, as well as some of those on stage to give us some ideas about solutions, and programs that are re-connecting men with children. Ralph Smith has a great deal of experience in the field, as a law professor, former asst School Superintendent, and former Assistant Mayor, Ralph directs the Center for Fathers and Families in Philadelphia. Ralph will you start us off?

*The Vice President draws on the experience of the crowd to respond to the issues raised in the morning. When appropriate he turns to some of the men who spoke in the morning as their issues are addressed.*

**{12:00-2:30 LUNCH BREAK}**

**12:00-12:30** Crowd proceeds to lunch site  
(Vice President's down time)

**12:30-1:00** Lunch

**1:00-1:15** Marti Erickson's group sings 3 selections

**1:15-1:45** Jesse Jackson speech

**1:45-2:00** Garth Brooks sings with acoustic guitar

**2:00-2:30** Crowd reassembles in T-PAC

**2:30-3:15 WOMEN'S FORUM LED BY TIPPER GORE**

*Tipper, Suzan JC, Bev Godwin, and seven others as yet unconfirmed...Mrs. Gore leads a discussion of the issues surrounding the involvement of men in the lives of their children.*

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THIS SESSION

- HOW HAVE WE BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE ROLE OUR FATHERS PLAYED (OR DIDN'T PLAY) IN OUR LIVES?
  
- HOW ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF OUR MOTHERS?
  
- WHAT ROLE DO OUR HUSBANDS PLAY IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN?
  
- IF WE ARE SINGLE...WHAT OTHER MEN ARE INVOLVED IN OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES?
  
- WHAT COULD WE DO TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR MEN TO BE INVOLVED? ARE THERE ANY WAYS IN WHICH WE WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE THEM INVOLVED?
  
- HOW ARE WE PREPARING OUR SONS TO BE FATHERS?

**3:15-4:00 STRATEGIES...***Policy and Programmatic response to the issues of the day. Vice President Gore and Carol Rasco lead a loosely structured discussion of successful strategies in the field and necessary policy responses. Policy makers can respond freely and immediately to concerns raised from the field. The group includes a about 20 federal and state officials and others with a particular interest in the field.*

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THIS SESSION

- WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?
- WHAT POLICIES NEED TO CHANGE TO RESPOND TO THE ISSUES RAISED TODAY?
- WHAT INITIATIVES CAN WE BUILD ON?
- HOW CAN WE INSPIRE A NATIONAL CHANGE OF HEART..AND INSTILL BELIEF THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE?

**.....at 4:00** *The Vice President opens the discussion to the whole audience In a TOWN HALL FORUM and invites questions and comments from the general audience, closes with summary remarks. The policy panel remains in place to answer questions as necessary.*

**4:50-5:00 VICE PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS...**

**POLICY RESPONSE**

HHS: ??? ROSEWATER, ETC.

HUD: MARK WEISS

DON FRASER

RON CARTER

ONDCP: ED JURETH

LABOR: TOM GLYNN

BERNARD ANDERSON

EDUCATION: ??

JUSTICE: ??

AGRICULTURE: ??

INTERIOR: LES RAMIREZ

NCCC: SARAH WHITMAN

BILL PURCELL: (HOUSE MJ. LEADER, CH. SELECT COMM. C,Y,& F)

ANDY SHOOKHOFF ...JUDGE

LOIS DEBERRY...VICE CH. SELECT COMM.

JANE RANUM... MN SENATOR

BERNARDINE WATSON or other rep. of PPV

3 REPS OF STATES SENT BY GOVERNORS, AL., WA., IN.

TOM DOWNEY

BOB GRUNOW

CHARLES BURSON (AG of TN)

**JESSE JACKSON ??**



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1994

Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson  
Director, Children, Youth & Family Consortium  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108

Commissioner Robert Grunow  
Department of Human Services  
State of Tennessee  
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Dr. Erickson and Commissioner Grunow:

Thank you for your kind invitation to the "Family Conference III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives." Tipper and I both will attend and I am honored to serve as the conference moderator.

As the father of four, this subject is very close to my heart. It is important to me both professionally and personally to learn from those who are thinking about these issues in our changing society. The distinguished group of experts you have collected is impressive.

Tipper and I are looking forward to a reunion with old friends and a chance to meet new ones who share our concern about families and children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Gore".

Al Gore

**Memo to Carol Rasco**

**From Nancy Hoit**

**Date: 6/10/94**

**Subject: Family Re-Union III**

**"The Role of Men in Children's Lives"**

I look forward to having an opportunity to brief you about the content of the conference sometime in the next two weeks. I have enclosed a summary piece about the Family Re-Union conferences, and a more specific piece about this one. These have been prepared for funders and participants. I am also enclosing a copy of the invitation letter which gives the specific logistics. We are so pleased that you will be able to be with us again this year.

I know that you will love getting to know Dr. Marti Erickson who is the Director of the Children, Youth & Family Consortium at the University of Minnesota which, along with the DHS of Tennessee, is co-sponsoring the conference. The Vice President has taken a great interest in her research on the importance of parent-child attachment.

Marti and I are meeting today with the Vice President and Tipper Gore to review the draft conference plan. The final plan should be decided by the middle of next week, and I will be happy to share it with you, and discuss your role in greater detail. I think you will find that the format is going to be lively and unusual. The conference is on Monday, July 11th, but should you plan to arrive early, there will be a forum of leading experts in the field on Sunday afternoon, and a reception following this event.

I want you to know that one of the great joys of the past year in my life has been getting to know Suzan as well as I have. She and I are spiritual, programmatic and political kindred spirits and co-conspirators, and we have enjoyed every minute of our collaborative efforts. Thank you for bringing her into my life.



## FAMILY RE-UNION III

### Background

"**Family Re-Union III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives**" promises to be a very exciting conference. Across the country there is great concern about the "father hunger" of many of our children and the implications for research, program planning and policy formulation.

Against a steady drum-beat of negative images..."Dead-Beat Dads", "Welfare Moms", "Fatherless Children", there are many interesting efforts at the grassroots level which are succeeding in promoting positive relationships between men and children in both family and community settings. **It is the Vice President's desire to moderate a conversation that creates new levels of understanding, highlights research and successful programs, and begins to create a belief that change is possible.**

### The Conference

The conference will focus on individual **and** community responsibility and will examine the range of barriers and the possible solutions to problems faced by men in every socio-economic bracket. This will not be a political exercise, but like the two conferences which have preceded it, seeks to provide an opportunity to let those who make policy from HeadStart centers to the White House learn from those who are involved in problem solving at the local level.

The final format of the conference will be determined in meetings with the Vice President in the next two weeks, but some preliminary plans include; a speech by the Vice President, a collage of film clips of images of fatherhood through the years from American movies, open forums in which the Vice President will lead discussions of issues and programs relating to male involvement as fathers, grandfathers, teachers, mentors, etc. A children's choir composed of children from the inner city in Nashville will perform. There will be a discussion of successful programs and an opportunity for policy makers to respond.

## **FAMILY POLICY CONFERENCES MODERATED BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **I. The First Conference: "Family Re-Union", April 24, 1992**

Vice President, (then Senator) Gore held a three day conference on family policy in Nashville, Tennessee. Over six hundred professionals from the fields of social service, health, mental health, juvenile justice, education and religion gathered to discuss relationships, programs and policies that strengthen families. Lisbeth Schorr, Salvador Minuchin, Gloria Johnson Powell and the Vice President were the major speakers. The conference sessions examined, "The Family and the Individual; Relationships that Work", "The Family and the Community; Programs that Work", and "The Family and Society; Policies that Work". Participants stressed the importance of seeing individuals in the context of their families and communities and the need to design programs and policies that respond to families as a whole. At the conclusion of the conference, Vice President Gore promised that he would reconvene the group the following year to pursue the subject further.

#### **II. The Second Conference: "Family Re-Union II", July 30, 1993**

In July of 1993, the Progressive Foundation sponsored a second conference. The Vice President spoke at the outset of the conference and then moderated four roundtable discussions. The design of the conference was rooted in the belief that policy should flow from listening to the needs of families, and the first roundtable discussion involved families and those who have spent their professional careers listening to them including Richard Louv, Gloria Johnson-Powell and T. Berry Brazelton.

The second roundtable gave leaders who have created programs that respond to the needs of whole families, rather than the pathology of individual members, an opportunity to discuss the barriers they have had to overcome. The participants included Dr. James Comer, Toby Herr and Dr. Henry Foster. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala concluded with the observation that the role of the federal government should be to "get out of the way and let these talented people do their thing."

The third roundtable brought together some of the foremost thinkers about the systems changes that will be necessary if services are to strengthen families. Domestic Policy Advisor to the President, Carol Rasco spoke and Sid Gardner, Sarah Shuptrine, and John McKnight were among many who challenged the assumptions on which our current system is based. In the fourth session those who have been responsible for creating family centered policy at the local, state and federal level discussed the political reality of their accomplishments. Commissioner Vincent Lane, Mayor Donald Fraser and former Congressman Tom Downey were among the participants.

## MAJOR THEMES EMERGING FROM THE "FAMILY RE-UNION II" CONFERENCE

### I. Family

- **Family Centered Responses**

At both the 1992 and 1993 conferences it was made clear that programs and services should strengthen families in their ability to support their own members. Families must be given the opportunity to express their own needs, and the response to those needs should **meet the needs of families as a whole, not simply address the pathology of individual members.**

- **Fatherhood**

There is a need to recognize the importance of the role of fathers. **Childrens' need** for fathers to be closely involved at all stages of their development, **womens' need** to have men with whom they can share the responsibility of parenting, and **mens' desire to play a major role in their children's lives** were all stressed.

### II. Community

- **People to People Programs**

The **deep and universal human need for relationship** was woven throughout the discussion. Programs such as the Mother to Mother Ministry and the Vanderbilt Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker program that involve human relationships at the local level are the bridges between family and community.

- **Home and Community Based Programs**

The **needs of families are best served in their homes and communities.** this approach permits creative, flexible responses which are appropriate to the individual needs of families and communities, not the dictates of large agencies. The kind of creative "messiness" that enable programs to reflect the particular strengths of a community provide a matrix for ingenuity.

- **Natural Helpers**

Many of the successful programs presented at the conference utilized "natural helpers". Volunteers or paid non-professional community members restored the common touch to services, and provided an **essential link to families.**

### **III. Principles of Service to Families**

- **New Skills and Training for Workers**

New methods are needed to train and support workers to be generalists who are able to respect the integrity of families and build on their strengths. **Systems will not be able to shift from "deficit model" to one that builds on strengths, without an entirely different way of preparing workers at every level.**

- **Coordination, Collaboration and Service Integration**

It is essential to **work across the boundaries of professional and interagency barriers** to provide unified approaches to a family system. It is critical to limit categorical funding which creates a divisive and competitive approach to resources that currently exists destroys creative and flexibility. The needs of whole families involve education, social relationships, health, mental health, work, religion, recreation, etc. Responses to the needs of families must have "whatever it takes" mentality, work across barriers to meet real needs.

- **"On Time Delivery"**

A concept borrowed from production which recognizes the importance of having essential parts available at critical moments in production. Equally **critical moments in the life of a family**, such as the birth of a new child, or, a time of great stress, **provide opportunities for growth and development.** If families are to be served in a way that meets their needs and builds from strength, they must be supported before a crisis occurs. This should be seen as the logical extension of prevention and early intervention, and the ultimate goal of programs that are moving away from crisis management and "deficit" models toward "capacity" models of service.

- **Empower Families and Communities**

Families and communities must be given the authority to become responsible for their own well-being. Outcome measures should always consider the best interests of children and families, and be driven by their needs. Accountability should rest as close to the local level as possible.

### **IV. Results of the 1993 Conference**

The conference served to highlight the fact that services for individuals and families in this country were developed largely in response to the identification of a problem or pathology; poverty, crime, substance abuse, family violence, homelessness, physical or mental disability, teen pregnancy, etc. As each social problem was addressed, a system was developed that included a means of identification of the individual with the problem, a diagnosis of the exact nature of the problem,

training of workers to deal with the problem, and a bureaucracy to deliver the service to the afflicted individuals. In the process of delivering service to groups of "drug abusers", "drop-outs", "homeless", etc. the vital human connections between members of a family, members of a community and helpers with those who are in need became lost. The nurturing capacity of family and community was allowed to atrophy and dependence on formal helping systems developed.

A determination to recognize and support the strengths of families and communities leads to an entirely different approach to policy development and service delivery. In this approach, programs and policies build on the inherent ability of families to weather crises when given the proper emotional and economic support.

Recognition of these principles has affected the development of policy in this administration. Relevant principles were incorporated into the Community Empowerment initiative. The need to integrate and consolidate services has been recognized in many of the recommendations of the National Performance Review and state plans to consolidate human services. Many of those who presented have become resources for others who are seeking to redefine the relationship of the service community to families. The Vice President has spoken on several occasions of the need to "Reinvent Family Policy", and his strongly held belief in the importance of involving families has been influential in developing policy.

### **1994 CONFERENCE: "FAMILY RE-UNION III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives"**

The Consortium on Children, Youth and Families of the University of Minnesota and the Department of Human Services of the State of Tennessee, are sponsoring a third conference, which they have invited the Vice President to moderate.

The 1994 Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on July 11 at the Tennessee Center for the Performing Arts. In addition to the Vice President, several figures of national prominence will participate. The Vice President, together with the sponsors and leaders in the field of male involvement and responsible fatherhood will determine the content and structure of the conference in the near future.

While a great deal of work and thought has gone into the relationship between mother and child, ("mother-child bonding", "mother-child enmeshment", "mother-child attachment", etc.), far less has been done on the attachment of children to the men in their lives. Even less attention has been paid to the benefits for young men of learning about their role as nurturers of young children. There has been so much emphasis on men as providers, with all of the attendant negatives... "dead-beat Dads", etc., but little on how communities can encourage men to be involved with children. This subject touches every area of society from the inner city to two-career families.

Although no set plans about content have been made, three possible roles of men in children's lives might be examined:

- **NURTURERS : Men in families;** as partners with women in raising infants and young children
- **MENTORS : Men in Communities,** filling gaps in children's lives, providing role models so the children can develop what **Gloria Johnson Powell** calls "a sense of belonging"
- **FUTURE FATHERS: Youth in every culture** learning to see themselves as **critical to the development of young children,** developing a sense of **usefulness and responsibility**

The subject matter has already generated interest and excitement in the field because of its relevance to all of the issues of social disintegration, the decline of the family, and the increase in violence. Current Administration initiatives such as; Family Support and Preservation, the expansion of Head Start, the National Service Program, Welfare Reform, Community Policing, parental involvement in the schools, etc. could all benefit from discussions of potentially productive and responsible roles for fathers and other men in children's lives.

The objective of the conference is to highlight the positive contribution that men can make in the lives of children, and to identify avenues to increase men's involvement with children. A key aspect of the conference will be to identify and draw from innovative, successful approaches to achieving this increased involvement. The audience of 800 will be composed of experts in this field, and leaders in service delivery, business, education, religion, academia, health and mental health, as well as representatives of federal, state and local government. The conference will provide an opportunity for them to learn more about efforts to resolve some of the conflicts in the rapidly changing expectations of fathers in the nineties, the socialization of young men in preparation for fatherhood, and the larger responsibility of the community and society as a whole.

The Children, Youth & Family Consortium is committed to the development of a comprehensive outcome product from this meeting. The Consortium has worked in collaboration with the Center for Fathers and Families at the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Children's Network in identifying expert practitioners in the field who will attend the conference. A database of resources is currently being accumulated, and the Consortium's Electronic Clearing House will be utilized to disseminate information which is accumulated before, during and after the conference. If additional resources are available, a more extensive product can be developed.

**THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, June 17, 1994

**CONTACT: 202-456-7035**

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**VICE PRESIDENT TO MODERATE ANNUAL FAMILY CONFERENCE**

**Event To Focus On Role Of Men In Children's Lives**

**\*\*\*\*\* MONDAY, JULY 11 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE \*\*\*\*\***

WASHINGTON -- Continuing an effort he began three years ago to support and strengthen families across America, Vice President Al Gore, accompanied by his wife, Tipper Gore, will moderate the Third Annual Family Reunion Conference Monday, July 11 at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center Polk Theater in Nashville.

Family Reunion III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Children, Youth and Families Consortium of the University of Minnesota. It is the third in a series of family policy conferences moderated by the Vice President. This year's conference will focus on the role of men in children's lives and reconnecting young people with their fathers.

"Men play a crucial role in children's lives. Unfortunately, many young people across this country are growing up without them," Vice President Gore said. "This conference will help bring together policy makers, family members and experts in the field to discuss and discover ways to reconnect fathers and other men with children."

"Balancing the demands of work and family is difficult. It takes every member making an effort for it to work well. That's why it is so important to address the role of fathers within the family -- to understand why ineffective patterns of fatherhood have developed over the years and to learn new approaches to bring them back into the family circle. Our children are depending on us," the Vice President said.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson and President Clinton's Domestic Policy Council Director, Carol Rasco, will join the Vice President at the all-day conference. The conference will include men and women's forums; entertainment; policy roundtable discussions and a town hall meeting moderated by Vice President Gore.

Additional information about times, location, and press coverage will be released as it becomes available. For more information about credentialing and logistics the media should contact Princine Lewis or Jennifer Miller at 615-742-8113.

##

# DRAFT

## FAMILY RE-UNION III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives

Monday, July 11 1994

Tennessee Performing Arts Center

- 8:30-8:35 CONFERENCE OPENS**  
Dr. Erickson introduces children's chorus
- 8:35-8:45 "THE SELECT SINGERS", W.O. SMITH NASHVILLE  
COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL**
- 8:45-8:55 INTRODUCTIONS**
- Commissioner Grunow introduces Governor McWherter
  - Governor McWherter introduces the Vice President
- 8:50-8:55 VICE PRESIDENT WELCOMES AND INTRODUCES  
FILM COLLAGE**  
Images of men in children's lives seen through the lens of  
American film and TV
- 8:55-9:05 FILM COLLAGE**
- 9:05-9:20 VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**
- 9:25-10:45 MEN'S FORUM**  
Vice President Gore leads 30 men who have made a  
commitment to children, their own and others, in a discussion  
of the issues surrounding their involvement
- 10:45-10:55 VICE PRESIDENT AND TIPPER GORE INTRODUCE  
CHILDREN'S VIDEO**
- 10:55-11:15 CHILDREN'S VIDEO**  
A series of interviews with children of different ages and  
backgrounds about their fathers and the men in their lives
- 11:15-12:00 PROGRAM RESPONSE**  
The Vice President invites responses from those who are  
actively engaged in programs working with men and children



# DRAFT

**12:00-2:30 LUNCHEON**

**Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza**

**Entertainment by "Free Spirit"**

**ADDRESS BY REVEREND JESSE JACKSON**

**2:30-3:15 WOMEN'S FORUM LED BY TIPPER GORE**

**Mrs. Gore leads a conversation with six other women about the role of men in their children's lives**

**3:15-4:00 STRATEGIES...**

**Vice President Gore and Carol Rasco lead a discussion among the representatives of federal agencies, and state and local government about the policy responses to the issues raised during the day.**

**4:00-4:55 TOWN HALL FORUM**

**During the final hour of the conference, the Vice President will open the discussion to the entire audience**

**4:55-5:00 VICE PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS...**

PLAN FOR "EXPERTS FORUM" PRECEDING  
FAMILY RE-UNION III CONFERENCE

Sunday, July 10th: 1PM-5PM, Tennessee State University Students' Center

12:30-1:00 *Audience assembles*

1:00-1:05 Vice President Gore is welcomed by President of TSU,  
Dr. James Hefner

1:05-1:10 Vice President Gore welcomes the group

1:10- 2:10 **"WHY DO CHILDREN NEED MEN IN THEIR LIVES?"**

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2:30-3:30 **"WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES FOR BRINGING FATHERS AND OTHER MEN INTO THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN A POSITIVE WAY ?"**

Vice President Gore and Ralph Smith moderate a discussion of successful programs and the response of communities with members of the audience, especially the practitioners. Seated with them are Charles Ballard, Barbara Clinton and Jim Levine.

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3:30-4:00 **BREAK**

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4:00-5:00 **"WHAT ARE THE PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IF WE ARE TO BRING MEN INTO CHILDREN'S LIVES IN A MORE POSITIVE WAY? AND HOW CAN WE BRING ABOUT THE NECESSARY CHANGE OF HEART?"**

Vice President Gore, Tipper Gore, and Commissioner Grunow lead the discussion.

# Family Re-Union III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives

May 27, 1994

Dear Colleague:

The Children, Youth and Family Consortium of the University of Minnesota and the Department of Human Services of the state of Tennessee invite you to attend a family policy conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on Monday, July 11.

**We are pleased and proud to announce that Vice President Al Gore will speak and will moderate the entire conference.**

Continuing a tradition of commitment to "re-inventing family policy," the conference will be the third in a series that the vice president has moderated. This year the conference is titled:

## **"Family Re-Union III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives"**

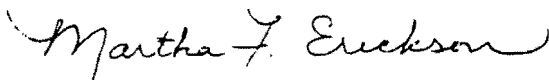
The conference will feature other major national figures and experts from across the country. We will focus on the latest information on fatherhood and male involvement, and we will showcase some of the nation's most successful programs.

There is no registration fee for the conference. Registration begins at 7:45 am. at The Tennessee Performing Arts Center, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville.

Rooms have been blocked at a group rate at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (615-259-2000). Because of the tremendous excitement that is being generated by the prospect of this conference, we ask that you respond promptly. Acceptances will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to seeing you in Nashville on July 11th.

Sincerely,



Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson  
Director, Children, Youth and Family Consortium  
University of Minnesota



Commissioner Robert Grunow  
Department of Human Services  
State of Tennessee

HR call: Nancy McFadden (Justice)  
Nash (Ag)  
Revin (Ann/Wald / whom?)  
Mary Jo - Peter

Bus to TSH (12:15?)  
" back for museum

Torion  
B. J.  
↓  
Liz King  
C. B. B.

**Memo to :** Carol Rasco  
**From:** Nancy Hoit  
**Date:** 6/22/94  
**Subject:** "Family Re-Union III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives"

We are so pleased that once again you are able to play a major role in this conference. Great excitement and enthusiasm has been generated as practitioners in grassroots programs, academics in the field and those who make policy at every level are looking forward to learning from each other. I am enclosing a detailed plan of the Sunday forum and the conference itself. If you should be able to attend both days we would love to have you consider the following events:

Casual clothes  
Informal

On Sunday, there will be an "Experts' Forum" from 1-5 PM at Tennessee State University. We will examine the relevant research, programmatic and policy issues in some detail. There will be 75-100 people in attendance.

Henry Bibler/RT

• Following the forum there is a **reception at the Tennessee State Museum from 5:30-7:30**. The attendance will be approximately 150-200.

• **The Vice President would like to join him and Mrs. Gore at a private dinner** at the Cumberland Club which follows from 7:00-9:30. 40 guests who are particularly interested in the work of the conference will attend.

• The final forum of the day will be a policy response from representatives of federal agencies, state legislators and others. **The Vice President hopes that you will agree to co-moderate this session with him.**

As we examine the question of the role of men in children's lives, we are interested in understanding:

- MEN AS NURTURERS
- MEN AS MENTORS
- FUTURE FATHERS

We know that your thoughts will be critical to our understanding, and we look forward to your participation.

Nancy R. Hoit  
1175 Main Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

To: Pat

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Pages Including Cover \_\_\_\_\_

Receiver's FAX: 202-458-2878

Additional Comments:

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For further information, or if there are problems in transmission:

Hoit Phone: 617-749-5563

Hoit FAX: 617-749-5638

*Cynthia  
Morin*

615-259-4000

**PLAN FOR "EXPERTS FORUM" PRECEDING**  
**FAMILY RE-UNION III CONFERENCE**

**Sunday, July 10th: 1PM-5PM, Tennessee State University Students' Center**

**12:30-1:00 Audience assembles**

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Dr. James Hefner**

**1:05-1:10 Vice President Gore welcomes the group**

**1:10- 2:10 "WHY DO CHILDREN NEED MEN IN THEIR LIVES?"**

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Vice President Gore, Tipper Gore, and Commissioner Grunow lead the discussion.

**FAMILY RE-UNION III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives**

**Monday, July 11 1994**

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*7-9 dinner  
(small/private)  
per Nancy (no ~~to~~ public discussion  
re minutes)*



*Sent  
June 13  
pr*

**FAMILY RE-UNION III: THE ROLE OF MEN IN CHILDREN'S LIVES**

Yes, I will attend the conference on Monday, July 11, 1994.

Please fill out and return via mail or fax by July 1, 1994. For security purposes the Secret Service requires the following confidential information:

Full Name CAROL HAMPTON RASCO

Organization THE WHITE HOUSE

Profession ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC POLICY

Address THE WHITE HOUSE

City WASHINGTON State D.C. Zip 20500

Telephone (Day) 202-456-2216 (Fax) 202-456-2878

Social Security # 431-86-7061 Date of Birth 1-13-48 Sex F Race \_\_\_\_\_

**SPACE IS LIMITED—PLEASE RESERVE EARLY. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Information please contact: (615) 712-8113 (phone) (615) 259-4040 (fax)

E X E C U T I V E   O F F I C E   O F   T H E   P R E S I D E N T

29-Jun-1994 12:52pm

TO:            Patricia E. Romani

FROM:          Carol H. Rasco  
                Economic and Domestic Policy

SUBJECT:      RE: Syndey Padgett

This should be listed as an option on the schedule for that day with the logistical info.

Any time we list options please list the option at the point on the calendar that it comes in the day...if that makes sense. In other words, options shouldn't ever be listed at top of schedule or bottom unless that is the point in the day they actually occur.

Cases like this group or anyone else may periodically call and ask for a number where I can be reached out of town...we don't give that out. They can call here if there is an emergency. Important to list contact phone numbers for me on events like this as you always do anyway.

Thanks.

**PLAN FOR "EXPERTS FORUM" PRECEDING**  
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**Vice President Gore, Tipper Gore, and Commissioner Grunow lead the discussion.**

**Memo to Carol Rasco**

**From Nancy Hoit**

**Date: 6/10/94**

**Subject: Family Re-Union III**

**"The Role of Men in Children's Lives"**

I look forward to having an opportunity to brief you about the content of the conference sometime in the next two weeks. I have enclosed a summary piece about the Family Re-Union conferences, and a more specific piece about this one. These have been prepared for funders and participants. I am also enclosing a copy of the invitation letter which gives the specific logistics. We are so pleased that you will be able to be with us again this year.

I know that you will love getting to know Dr. Marti Erickson who is the Director of the Children, Youth & Family Consortium at the University of Minnesota which, along with the DHS of Tennessee, is co-sponsoring the conference. The Vice President has taken a great interest in her research on the importance of parent-child attachment.

Marti and I are meeting today with the Vice President and Tipper Gore to review the draft conference plan. The final plan should be decided by the middle of next week, and I will be happy to share it with you, and discuss your role in greater detail. I think you will find that the format is going to be lively and unusual. The conference is on Monday, July 11th, but should you plan to arrive early, there will be a forum of leading experts in the field on Sunday afternoon, and a reception following this event.

I want you to know that one of the great joys of the past year in my life has been getting to know Suzan as well as I have. She and I are spiritual, programmatic and political kindred spirits and co-conspirators, and we have enjoyed every minute of our collaborative efforts. Thank you for bringing her into my life.

## FAMILY RE-UNION III

### Background

"**Family Re-Union III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives**" promises to be a very exciting conference. Across the country there is great concern about the "father hunger" of many of our children and the implications for research, program planning and policy formulation.

Against a steady drum-beat of negative images..."Dead-Beat Dads", "Welfare Moms", "Fatherless Children", there are many interesting efforts at the grassroots level which are succeeding in promoting positive relationships between men and children in both family and community settings. **It is the Vice President's desire to moderate a conversation that creates new levels of understanding, highlights research and successful programs, and begins to create a belief that change is possible.**

### The Conference

The conference will focus on individual **and** community responsibility and will examine the range of barriers and the possible solutions to problems faced by men in every socio-economic bracket. This will not be a political exercise, but like the two conferences which have preceded it, seeks to provide an opportunity to let those who make policy from HeadStart centers to the White House learn from those who are involved in problem solving at the local level.

The final format of the conference will be determined in meetings with the Vice President in the next two weeks, but some preliminary plans include; a speech by the Vice President, a collage of film clips of images of fatherhood through the years from American movies, open forums in which the Vice President will lead discussions of issues and programs relating to male involvement as fathers, grandfathers, teachers, mentors, etc. A children's choir composed of children from the inner city in Nashville will perform. There will be a discussion of successful programs and an opportunity for policy makers to respond.

## **FAMILY POLICY CONFERENCES MODERATED BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **I. The First Conference: "Family Re-Union", April 24, 1992**

Vice President, (then Senator) Gore held a three day conference on family policy in Nashville, Tennessee. Over six hundred professionals from the fields of social service, health, mental health, juvenile justice, education and religion gathered to discuss relationships, programs and policies that strengthen families. Lisbeth Schorr, Salvador Minuchin, Gloria Johnson Powell and the Vice President were the major speakers. The conference sessions examined, "The Family and the Individual; Relationships that Work", "The Family and the Community; Programs that Work", and "The Family and Society; Policies that Work". Participants stressed the importance of seeing individuals in the context of their families and communities and the need to design programs and policies that respond to families as a whole. At the conclusion of the conference, Vice President Gore promised that he would reconvene the group the following year to pursue the subject further.

#### **II. The Second Conference: "Family Re-Union II", July 30, 1993**

In July of 1993, the Progressive Foundation sponsored a second conference. The Vice President spoke at the outset of the conference and then moderated four roundtable discussions. The design of the conference was rooted in the belief that policy should flow from listening to the needs of families, and the first roundtable discussion involved families and those who have spent their professional careers listening to them including Richard Louv, Gloria Johnson-Powell and T. Berry Brazelton.

The second roundtable gave leaders who have created programs that respond to the needs of whole families, rather than the pathology of individual members, an opportunity to discuss the barriers they have had to overcome. The participants included Dr. James Comer, Toby Herr and Dr. Henry Foster. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala concluded with the observation that the role of the federal government should be to "get out of the way and let these talented people do their thing."

The third roundtable brought together some of the foremost thinkers about the systems changes that will be necessary if services are to strengthen families. Domestic Policy Advisor to the President, Carol Rasco spoke and Sid Gardner, Sarah Shuptrine, and John McKnight were among many who challenged the assumptions on which our current system is based. In the fourth session those who have been responsible for creating family centered policy at the local, state and federal level discussed the political reality of their accomplishments. Commissioner Vincent Lane, Mayor Donald Fraser and former Congressman Tom Downey were among the participants.

## MAJOR THEMES EMERGING FROM THE "FAMILY RE-UNION II" CONFERENCE

### I. Family

- **Family Centered Responses**

At both the 1992 and 1993 conferences it was made clear that programs and services should strengthen families in their ability to support their own members. Families must be given the opportunity to express their own needs, and the response to those needs should **meet the needs of families as a whole, not simply address the pathology of individual members.**

- **Fatherhood**

There is a need to recognize the importance of the role of fathers. **Childrens' need** for fathers to be closely involved at all stages of their development, **womens' need** to have men with whom they can share the responsibility of parenting, and **mens' desire to play a major role in their children's lives** were all stressed.

### II. Community

- **People to People Programs**

The **deep and universal human need for relationship** was woven throughout the discussion. Programs such as the Mother to Mother Ministry and the Vanderbilt Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker program that involve human relationships at the local level are the bridges between family and community.

- **Home and Community Based Programs**

The **needs of families are best served in their homes and communities.** this approach permits creative, flexible responses which are appropriate to the individual needs of families and communities, not the dictates of large agencies. The kind of creative "messiness" that enable programs to reflect the particular strengths of a community provide a matrix for ingenuity.

- **Natural Helpers**

Many of the successful programs presented at the conference utilized "natural helpers". Volunteers or paid non-professional community members restored the common touch to services, and provided an **essential link to families.**

### **III. Principles of Service to Families**

- **New Skills and Training for Workers**

New methods are needed to train and support workers to be generalists who are able to respect the integrity of families and build on their strengths. **Systems will not be able to shift from "deficit model" to one that builds on strengths, without an entirely different way of preparing workers at every level.**

- **Coordination, Collaboration and Service Integration**

It is essential to **work across the boundaries of professional and interagency barriers** to provide unified approaches to a family system. It is critical to limit categorical funding which creates a divisive and competitive approach to resources that currently exists destroys creative and flexibility. The needs of whole families involve education, social relationships, health, mental health, work, religion, recreation, etc. Responses to the needs of families must have "whatever it takes" mentality, work across barriers to meet real needs.

- **"On Time Delivery"**

A concept borrowed from production which recognizes the importance of having essential parts available at critical moments in production. Equally **critical moments in the life of a family**, such as the birth of a new child, or, a time of great stress, **provide opportunities for growth and development.** If families are to be served in a way that meets their needs and builds from strength, they must be supported before a crisis occurs. This should be seen as the logical extension of prevention and early intervention, and the ultimate goal of programs that are moving away from crisis management and "deficit" models toward "capacity" models of service.

- **Empower Families and Communities**

Families and communities must be given the authority to become responsible for their own well-being. Outcome measures should always consider the best interests of children and families, and be driven by their needs. Accountability should rest as close to the local level as possible.

### **IV. Results of the 1993 Conference**

The conference served to highlight the fact that services for individuals and families in this country were developed largely in response to the identification of a problem or pathology; poverty, crime, substance abuse, family violence, homelessness, physical or mental disability, teen pregnancy, etc. As each social problem was addressed, a system was developed that included a means of identification of the individual with the problem, a diagnosis of the exact nature of the problem,



training of workers to deal with the problem, and a bureaucracy to deliver the service to the afflicted individuals. In the process of delivering service to groups of "drug abusers", "drop-outs", "homeless", etc. the vital human connections between members of a family, members of a community and helpers with those who are in need became lost. The nurturing capacity of family and community was allowed to atrophy and dependence on formal helping systems developed.

A determination to recognize and support the strengths of families and communities leads to an entirely different approach to policy development and service delivery. In this approach, programs and policies build on the inherent ability of families to weather crises when given the proper emotional and economic support.

Recognition of these principles has affected the development of policy in this administration. Relevant principles were incorporated into the Community Empowerment initiative. The need to integrate and consolidate services has been recognized in many of the recommendations of the National Performance Review and state plans to consolidate human services. Many of those who presented have become resources for others who are seeking to redefine the relationship of the service community to families. The Vice President has spoken on several occasions of the need to "Reinvent Family Policy", and his strongly held belief in the importance of involving families has been influential in developing policy.

### **1994 CONFERENCE: "FAMILY RE-UNION III: The Role of Men in Children's Lives"**

The Consortium on Children, Youth and Families of the University of Minnesota and the Department of Human Services of the State of Tennessee, are sponsoring a third conference, which they have invited the Vice President to moderate.

The 1994 Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on July 11 at the Tennessee Center for the Performing Arts. In addition to the Vice President, several figures of national prominence will participate. The Vice President, together with the sponsors and leaders in the field of male involvement and responsible fatherhood will determine the content and structure of the conference in the near future.

While a great deal of work and thought has gone into the relationship between mother and child, ("mother-child bonding", "mother-child enmeshment", "mother-child attachment", etc.), far less has been done on the attachment of children to the men in their lives. Even less attention has been paid to the benefits for young men of learning about their role as nurturers of young children. There has been so much emphasis on men as providers, with all of the attendant negatives... "dead-beat Dads", etc., but little on how communities can encourage men to be involved with children. This subject touches every area of society from the inner city to two-career families.

Although no set plans about content have been made, three possible roles of men in childrens' lives might be examined:

- **NURTURERS : Men in families;** as partners with women in raising infants and young children
- **MENTORS : Men in Communities,** filling gaps in children's lives, providing role models so the children can develop what **Gloria Johnson Powell** calls "a sense of belonging"
- **FUTURE FATHERS: Youth in every culture** learning to see themselves as **critical to the development of young children,** developing a sense of **usefulness and responsibility**

The subject matter has already generated interest and excitement in the field because of its relevance to all of the issues of social disintegration, the decline of the family, and the increase in violence. Current Administration initiatives such as; Family Support and Preservation, the expansion of Head Start, the National Service Program, Welfare Reform, Community Policing, parental involvement in the schools, etc. could all benefit from discussions of potentially productive and responsible roles for fathers and other men in children's lives.

The objective of the conference is to highlight the positive contribution that men can make in the lives of children, and to identify avenues to increase men's involvement with children. A key aspect of the conference will be to identify and draw from innovative, successful approaches to achieving this increased involvement. The audience of 800 will be composed of experts in this field, and leaders in service delivery, business, education, religion, academia, health and mental health, as well as representatives of federal, state and local government. The conference will provide an opportunity for them to learn more about efforts to resolve some of the conflicts in the rapidly changing expectations of fathers in the nineties, the socialization of young men in preparation for fatherhood, and the larger responsibility of the community and society as a whole.

The Children, Youth & Family Consortium is committed to the development of a comprehensive outcome product from this meeting. The Consortium has worked in collaboration with the Center for Fathers and Families at the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Children's Network in identifying expert practitioners in the field who will attend the conference. A database of resources is currently being accumulated, and the Consortium's Electronic Clearing House will be utilized to disseminate information which is accumulated before, during and after the conference. If additional resources are available, a more extensive product can be developed.

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