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002. schedule	HRC Line Block [partial] (4 pages)	02/12/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12077

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC - Adoption 2002 Presentation 2/14/97

2017-1164-S

rc2847

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR RECEPTION OF ADOPTION 2002 REPORT
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 14, 1997

Welcome to the White House and Happy Valentine's Day. I am delighted that on this day for celebrating all kinds of love, we are gathered to announce a plan that can bring the love of a permanent family to the hundreds of thousands of children waiting in our foster care system.

Two months ago, the President directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to investigate the barriers that keep so many of our children in the limbo of foster care. He asked her to report to him with specific recommendations on how best to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes, and on how to meet a national goal of doubling the number of children placed annually in permanent homes by the year 2002. In a few moments, Olivia Golden, acting assistant secretary of health and human services, will present her department's findings to the President.

I am very impressed by the hard work that went into this report. It is based on extensive interviews, surveys, and consultations with placement agencies, adoption and child welfare advocates, and social workers nationwide. I am particularly pleased that careful attention was paid to the thoughts and observations of adoptive and foster parents because they know better than anyone the strengths and shortcomings of our system.

This report makes it very clear that foster care should never be a permanent solution. No child should grow up in foster care. Children deserve prompt, efficient decision-making from the adults who serve them. They deserve schedules for permanent placement that respect their developmental needs. And they deserve federal leadership to make that happen.

Ensuring the safety and timely placement of a child with a permanent, loving family should be the mission of our foster care system. But for too many years, this mission has been obscured as too many children have literally grown up or spent the majority of their childhoods in the system. They have led transient lives, moving from one foster family to the next, experiencing few constants but growing case files and dreams for permanent families.

There are many reasons for this situation. As an attorney and child advocate, I have experienced firsthand ... [anecdote].

We cannot afford these delays. In recent years we have learned much about the tremendous influence adults caring for children in their earliest years can have on their intellectual, neurological, and emotional development. Children who have adults to talk to them, read to them, and make them feel secure and loved throughout their earliest years will thrive. Those growing up without these steady influences most likely will not.

That is why steps to secure permanent, safe, and loving homes for children -- whether they are with their biological families or others -- should begin as soon as a child enters foster

care, not after 4 days or 5 months or 6 years of shuttling from placement to placement.

We have already witnessed important steps to remedy this situation. Two years ago, the President and Congress made it illegal to deny or delay an adoption simply because the adoptive parents and children were not of the same race. Last year, they strengthened that legislation. The President also signed a \$5,000 tax credit for families who adopt. Families who adopt children with special needs can receive \$6,000.

Decorating the Oval Office today are valentines created by some 600 of Iowa's waiting foster children. Each valentine, sponsored by the Iowa Citizen's Foster Care Review Board, tells the story of a child waiting to be adopted. The paper hearts list the age the child came into the foster care system, the age they became free for adoption and the number of days they have been waiting for a family.

Every year these valentines are placed on trees at the Iowa State Capitol. This Valentine's Day, the children decided to send their valentines to the White House, as well. Some of them sent letters to accompany their valentines, letters such as this one: "Dear President: My name is Raleigh. I am 12, I live in Iowa. I like to play football and basketball. I've been waiting 8 years for an adoptive family. I am hoping for a family with pets, a brother and a sister and nice parents."

Let's all work together so that for Raleigh and the thousands of other children waiting in foster care, their dreams will soon come true.

Now let me introduce Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Olivia Golden, who will tell us more about today's report.

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
INTRODUCTION OF DEANNA COLLINS
FEBRUARY 14, 1997

Over the years, I've met many families created by adoption. I have talked with men and women who have adopted infants, single moms who have adopted siblings, and couples who have opened their homes and hearts to teenagers with special needs. Each of these families shared with me their joy of finding each other. They told me what a transforming experience it was to finally know the love of a mother, a father, a sibling, or a child.

And I have had the opportunity of witnessing such a transformation firsthand. In November 1995, 13-year old Deanna came to the White House to help us recognize National Adoption Month. She touched all of our hearts as she described what it was like to live in a group home and shared her hope of being adopted. Deanna said she wanted to be adopted because then she "would have a place to call home. I would have a room that I could call my room. I would have a family that I could love and would love me back."

Soon after her visit to Washington, Deanna found a permanent, loving family. When I visited her in Kansas City this summer, I almost didn't recognize her. She had grown into a radiant, confident young woman. Deanna Collins, I am very proud to welcome you back to the White House.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Department developed *Adoption 2002* as a blueprint for bipartisan Federal leadership in adoption and other permanency planning for children in the public child welfare system. To prepare this report, the Department of Health and Human Services consulted with child welfare professionals, policy experts, advocates, and foster and adoptive parents at the national, state and local levels. *Adoption 2002* first examines the existing barriers to expediting the placement of children from foster care to permanent homes. Delays in making timely permanency decisions result from high caseloads for judges and caseworkers; incorrect beliefs and outdated assumptions held by child welfare staff; the limited pool of permanent families for children with special needs; and the undefined and unclear legal requirement that States make "reasonable efforts" to reunify a child in foster care with his or her birth family before another goal, such as adoption, can be pursued for the child.

Adoption 2002 outlines an agenda to help overcome these barriers and to accelerate the path to permanency for all waiting children in the public child welfare system. First, the report enunciates a guiding set of principles centered on the needs of the child to give direction to the overall agenda. These principles include that every child deserves a safe, permanent family; that the child's health and safety should be the paramount considerations in all placement and permanency planning decisions; and that foster care is a temporary situation -- it is not an appropriate place for children to grow up. *Adoption 2002* establishes unequivocally that the federal goals for children in the child welfare system are safety and permanency.

The *Adoption 2002* agenda is multifaceted to address the range of barriers and challenges that exist in the child welfare system. The report presents strategies to establish, track and meet State-by-State annual, numerical targets for adoptions and other permanent placements -- targets that will bring us to a national doubling of adoptions and permanent placements in the year 2002. To help States reach their targets, the Department commits to providing expanded technical assistance, rewarding States for incremental increases in adoption levels with per-child financial bonuses, and otherwise recognizing successful performance. The bonus system proposed in *Adoption 2002* is an example of common-sense government, as it not only provides an incentive for increasing the number of adoptions, but also pays for itself, with the cost of the bonuses offset by savings in foster care costs. *Adoption 2002* also includes a proposal to establish competitive grants available to States for dismantling barriers to permanency.

In addition to providing incentives to States to meet new targets, *Adoption 2002* outlines ways in which the Federal government can assume leadership in breaking down barriers to permanency

for children in foster care. The Department will issue strong guidance on the implementation of law signed by President Clinton that makes it illegal to deny or delay the placement of a child based on race or ethnicity, and it will outline the penalties for non-compliance.

Perhaps most important, while working with Congress on its legislative proposals that seek to define the "reasonable efforts" provision, the Department will issue guidance that clarifies its meaning. This clarification will make it clear that in determining when to remove a child from his or family and when to reunify the family, federal law requires that the child's health and safety shall be the paramount concern.

The Department also will issue model guidelines for state legislation to ensure that the child's health and safety is the paramount concern in decisions to terminate parental rights. In addition, the Department commits to exploring alternative permanency options for children for whom adoption is not possible. Furthermore, the *Adoption 2002* urges that the Administration seek legislation that shortens the time before a child's first disposition hearing -- the hearing in which a permanency decision is first made -- from 18 months to 12 months and changes its name to a "permanency planning hearing."

Information gained by the Department in developing the details of the *Adoption 2002* agenda will form the basis of the public awareness campaign that the President directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to undertake, in cooperation with other heads of Federal Departments of Agencies, as a part of his Executive Memorandum. The strategies outlined in *Adoption 2002*, coupled with a strong public information campaign and joined by efforts by State and local officials and by community, business and religious leaders, will ensure that we live up to the President Clinton's call that "no child should be trapped in the limbo of foster care; no child should be uncertain about what the word 'family' or 'parent' or 'home' mean, particularly when there are open arms waiting to welcome these children into safe and strong households where they can build good, caring lives." (12/14/96)

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Draft 2/13/97 2:00pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR ADOPTION EVENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 14, 1997**

Acknowledgments: Sec. Shalala (not present); Olivia Golden; Members etc. TK

I want to start by wishing all of you a Happy Valentine's Day -- I can think of no more fitting occasion to talk about the efforts we are making to give America's neediest children the gift of a loving, safe and permanent home.

Both the First Lady and I have said many times that our country is only as strong as our children are safe and healthy. The First Lady has worked harder than anyone I know to ensure all of our children's welfare, and she has devoted her career to making their concerns our first priorities. She deeply believes that every child deserves a loving home, and we would not be here today without her dedication and commitment.

We know that our children's well being depends on two fundamental elements: safety and stability -- for without these, children cannot thrive. But we also know that far too many of our children are endangered in their own homes. The public child welfare system was created to provide a temporary haven for those children . . . but it was not created to let them languish in foster care. That is why our administration has taken action to improve that system, and to make adoption easier.

In December I called on the Department of Health and Human Services to devise an aggressive legislative and administrative strategy to double the number of children we move from foster care to permanent homes annually by the year 2002, and to move them there more quickly. I am proud to say that you went to work immediately to produce this blueprint for achieving our national goal.

Adoption 2002 represents the culmination of your efforts to reach out to the people who understand better than anyone what the barriers are to meeting our goal and how we can overcome them: hundreds of adoptive and foster parents, social workers, family court officials, family advocates, and experts in the field. And your hard work has paid off.

Today, I am pleased to accept this report. **Now, we must move quickly to put our plan into action so that no child is deprived of a safe and permanent home for even one day longer than is necessary.**

First, every state agency, family court and case worker in the country must understand that our children's health and safety are the paramount concerns of the public child welfare

system, especially when determining whether to remove a child from her home or to return her to it. We will work with Congress to make sure that the law explicitly reflects this priority, and we will issue guidelines to the states so there will be no question as to the law's meaning.

Second, to meet our goal of moving 54,000 children into permanent homes in 2002, we will work with states to set yearly targets. To help them reach these targets, I have included \$10 million in my budget to establish competitive grants to develop model strategies for moving children from foster care to permanent families more quickly.

Third, we will propose legislation to give states bonuses for every child that is adopted over the prior year's target, with even larger bonuses when the child has special needs. My budget includes \$108 million to fund these bonuses, but we expect them to pay for themselves, since it costs far more to keep children in foster care than to secure adoptive homes for them.

Fourth, to achieve our goal of moving children out of foster care more quickly, we will work with Congress to shorten from 18 to 12 months the time a child waits for his first hearing. And we are going to call it a permanency planning hearing so that there is no mistake as to its purpose.

Fifth, to give credit for model strategies that are working -- and to spread the word of their success -- we will give national awards for excellence every year in November, National Adoption Month.

Finally, we must redouble our efforts to make sure that no child of one race is deprived of a loving home with a family of another race -- it is illegal, it is wrong, and it hurts our neediest children. The HHS will continue to ensure that states are meeting their obligations under the law, and penalize states that are not.

By putting this plan into action today, we are ensuring that no child will languish in foster care when a loving family is out there, ready, willing and able to open their hearts and their home.

Adoption 2002 is just one part of our strategy to guarantee the well being of our most vulnerable children. By working with states to give them flexibility to improve their children's welfare, we are moving even closer to achieving our goal. That is why I am pleased to announce that I have approved Ohio's child welfare waiver. This waiver gives Ohio the authority to design and test a "managed care" approach to improve child welfare services and move children out of foster care more quickly.

By working together -- across party lines, at every level of government, in our businesses, religious groups, communities, and in our homes -- we will meet our goal of giving every child in America the chance to grow up in a safe and nurturing home.

Thank you, God bless you, and Happy Valentine's Day.

V. CONCLUSION

The *Adoption 2002* report to the President presents a number of recommendations for statutory, regulatory, and administrative actions necessary to double the number of children placed into permanent homes annually by the year 2002. Presidential attention to the needs of children who have been abused and neglected and are languishing in foster care has the potential to change the life experiences of thousands of children.

The Adoption 2002 Initiative builds on the concerns reflected in Congress and by States and communities in their efforts to increase adoption and permanency outcomes for children. Congress is considering important legislative changes in this arena. States are moving to reform their systems by streamlining administrative and judicial procedures to move children more quickly to permanence as well as by amending their laws governing the termination of parents' rights. Foundations are working with the States to ensure that the experience of children in foster care is time limited and results in stability for children. Innovations in the recruitment of adoptive families continue in both community efforts, such as One Church, One Child, and the development of Internet listing services for waiting children.

As a Nation, we have an important opportunity to focus the energy of Federal, State and local governments with that of professional organizations, faith communities, and neighborhood leadership to make a difference for our most vulnerable children.

The time is now. The chance is ours.

Thank you!

DRAFT

ADOPTION 2002 SAFE AND PERMANENT HOMES FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

President Clinton announced today that he will move forward with ambitious legislative and administrative changes to move children more rapidly from foster care to safe, permanent homes. The recommendations are included in "Adoption 2002," a report submitted to the President today by the Department of Health and Human Services, in response to a Presidential directive signed by President Clinton on December 14.

"Adoption 2002" outlines a new action plan to help states set and meet urgent new adoption targets; offer sensible financial incentives for states to increase adoption rates; provide technical assistance to states, courts and communities to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes; and develop a public awareness campaign to promote the importance and benefits of adoption. In developing the report, HHS conducted an extensive consultation process with leaders in Congress, states, child welfare organizations and child welfare experts.

Specifically, the recommended actions to accomplish the President's goal include:

I. Doubling the Number of Children Adopted or Permanently Placed by 2002:

Create Incentives for States: To focus on successful outcomes for children, HHS will work with states to set specific numerical targets leading to the doubling of the number of children adopted or found permanent placement by 2002. To assist states in reaching their targets, the President's budget proposal includes \$10 million in the fiscal year 1998 HHS budget for technical assistance and grants to state agencies, courts and communities to help them develop: an outcome-based approach to permanency placement; collaborative efforts to encourage placements across geographical boundaries; and models to recruit adoptive families. To encourage and reward states for their efforts, the Clinton Administration will propose legislation to offer a new monetary per-child bonus to states that increase the number of adoptions from the public welfare system. The bonuses will pay for themselves, as increasing adoptions will reduce spending in foster care. HHS will publish annual reports on the progress states are making toward their adoption targets and will work with foundations and intergovernmental organizations to promote public annual recognition awards to states for successful, innovative accomplishments.

Breakdown Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption: HHS will continue its aggressive implementation of the Multiethnic Placement Act, as amended by the Interethnic Adoption provisions (IEP) of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, that prohibits adoption agencies from denying or delaying placement of a waiting child based on race, color, or national origin. HHS will issue guidance and provide technical assistance to states to ensure that states comply with the laws.

II. Moving Children More Rapidly From Foster Care to Permanent Homes:

Decrease Procedural Delays: To speed up the process of reviewing a child's status in foster care, HHS will propose to change the federal law to require that a court hearing is held no later than 12 months after a child enters the foster care system. Current law requires that a court hearing is held within 18 months after a child's placement in foster care. HHS also will propose to change the title of that hearing from "dispositional hearing" to "permanency planning hearing" care to encourage that the focus of deliberations for the child is on a finding a permanent, safe home. Under existing law, states are required to make "reasonable efforts" to both prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their families and to reunify children who have been placed in foster care with their natural families. HHS will propose to change federal law in two ways to clarify the "reasonable efforts" provision: to explicitly include the best interests and safety of the child as the first priority in determining whether a child should be removed from his or her home; and to introduce for the first time that "reasonable efforts" be made by states to secure a permanent home for children in foster care who cannot return safely to their homes and for whom adoption is the goal.

DRAFT**THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION RECORD ON ADOPTION**

"We must work tirelessly to make sure that every boy and girl in America who is up for adoption has a family waiting up to reach him or her. No child should be in foster care for one day longer than he or she needs to be."

-- President Clinton, Radio Address, December 12, 1996

Today, President Clinton endorsed a new action plan, "Adoption 2002," designed to double the number of children adopted or permanently placed by 2002 and move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes; and increase public awareness on the importance of adoption. These actions are intended to give the 450,000 children in foster care what every child in America deserves -- loving parents and a healthy, stable home.

The Clinton Administration has previously taken several important steps to encourage and increase adoptions and to support the families that choose to open their hearts and their homes to these children. Since taking office in 1993, the President has championed programs that find and assist adopting families, and has committed his Administration to breaking down barriers, including high adoption costs and complex regulations. These steps include:

GIVING STATES FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORT

Today, President Clinton granted Ohio a waiver making it the fifth state to test innovative strategies to improve its child protection system. Delaware, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio and Oregon have already been given more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families, and up to five more states will receive approval for similar demonstrations. In addition, this administration has provided states with enhanced technical support and helped improve court operations so they can focus on successful outcomes. To prevent children from entering foster care in the first place, in 1993 the Clinton Administration secured federal funding to work with states, local governments and service providers to develop effective programs to serve children and families at risk.

MAKING ADOPTION AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

In August, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 which provides a \$5000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This policy will alleviate a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs.

BREAKING DOWN RACIAL AND ETHNIC BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

Strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994, the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 also ensures that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.

PROVIDING SUPPORTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND ADOPTION

In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act which enables parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform bill that the President signed into law maintains the guarantee of child protection and adoption, and does not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, foster care and adoption services.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Through speeches, writings, events and public service announcements, the President and First Lady have promoted the importance and benefits of adoption. Today's announcement of a \$1 million public awareness campaign builds on these efforts.

Help States Identify and Address Barriers to Permanency: To encourage and support states to identify and overcome the barriers to permanent placements for children in foster care, the President's FY 1998 budget proposal includes \$10 million for HHS competitive grants to up to 15 states to develop model strategies to reform permanency planning and adoption services. Today President Clinton announced approval of Ohio's innovative managed care demonstration project, the fifth child protection waiver granted by the Clinton Administration. Under existing law, HHS has the authority to conduct demonstrations using waivers to as many as 10 states. HHS will propose a change in federal law to expand the department's authority to grant additional child protection waivers to test alternative permanency arrangements, such as guardianship and kinship care, for children for whom adoption is not a viable option.

III. Increasing Public Awareness:

Call to American Families, Communities and Business: The President's FY 98 budget plan includes \$1 million for a new national public awareness campaign. The goals of this new campaign are to provide better information about the needs of children in foster care waiting to be adopted; to reinforce the message of the importance of adoption and the rewards and responsibilities to prospective adoptive families; and to recruit more Americans to open their hearts and their homes for children, particularly those with special needs. To spread these important messages, the campaign will include public service announcements, print materials and use of the Internet.

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Perhaps most important, while working with Congress on its legislative proposals that seek to define the "reasonable efforts" provision, the Department will issue guidance that clarifies its meaning. This clarification will make it clear that in determining when to remove a child from his or family and when to reunify the family, federal law requires that the child's health and safety shall be the paramount concern.

The Department also will issue model guidelines for state legislation to ensure that the child's health and safety is the paramount concern in decisions to terminate parental rights. In addition, the Department commits to exploring alternative permanency options for children for whom adoption is not possible. Furthermore, the *Adoption 2002* urges that the Administration seek legislation that shortens the time before a child's first disposition hearing -- the hearing in which a permanency decision is first made -- from 18 months to 12 months and changes its name to a "permanency planning hearing."

Information gained by the Department in developing the details of the *Adoption 2002* agenda will form the basis of the public awareness campaign that the President directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to undertake, in cooperation with other heads of Federal Departments of Agencies, as a part of his Executive Memorandum. The strategies outlined in *Adoption 2002*, coupled with a strong public information campaign and joined by efforts by State and local officials and by community, business and religious leaders, will ensure that we live up to the President Clinton's call that "no child should be trapped in the limbo of foster care; no child should be uncertain about what the word 'family' or 'parent' or 'home' mean, particularly when there are open arms waiting to welcome these children into safe and strong households where they can build good, caring lives." (12/14/96)

Guiding Principles for the Adoption Initiative

Based on a firm understanding of the challenges that face children who await permanence in the child welfare system, the Department will pursue the President's goals in a manner which focuses on changing the outcomes for those children who are hardest to place; improves decision-making for children currently entering the system; and reinforces best practices throughout the system. Based on the extensive external consultation, a set of principles has emerged to provide a foundation upon which we can build the important work of the Adoption 2002 Initiative.

- (Italics)
- The Federal Goal for ~~the~~ Children in the Child Welfare System are Safety & Permanence
 - Every child deserves a safe, permanent family.
 - Foster care is a temporary situation, it is not an appropriate place for children to grow up.
 - The child's ^{health and} ~~safety and well-being~~ should be the paramount consideration in all placement and permanency planning decisions.
 - Permanency planning efforts for children should begin as soon as a child enters foster care and should be expedited by the provision of services to families.
 - The timeframes for placement and permanency planning decisions must be respectful of the child's developmental needs and the child's sense of time.
 - Permanency cannot be achieved for children without the partnership of child welfare agencies, the courts and other service-providing agencies (e.g., housing, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment).
 - Adoption is one of a number of pathways to permanency which also includes reunification, guardianship, and permanent placement with relatives.
 - Adoptive families often require services and supports long after legalization to meet the ongoing challenges of caring for their children.
 - Communication and information sharing about effective strategies, innovative programs, and collaboration opportunities is critical to the success of this initiative.
 - The diversity and strengths of all communities must be tapped to create permanency for children.

* Children ^{in foster care} deserve prompt, timely ^{-making} decisions about their future from the adults serving them in the public child welfare system

I. INTRODUCTION

The Presidential Directive on Adoption

On December 14 1996, President Clinton issued a directive to the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Labor, and Commerce and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to promote efforts to increase the number of children who are adopted or permanently placed each year, to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes, to increase awareness about the tens of thousands of children waiting for families, and to encourage all Americans to consider the rewards and responsibilities of adoption. (See Appendix A for the text of the directive.) The directive focuses most specifically on children in foster care who, often because of abuse or neglect, cannot return home safely. The President's attention to this issue reflects the urgent need to find safe, permanent, loving homes for our Nation's most vulnerable citizens.

The President directed the Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) to recommend steps that will double, over the next five years, the number of children from the foster care system who are adopted or placed in other permanent homes. This ambitious goal would mean an increase in the annual number of adoptions from 20,000 to 40,000 and an increase in other forms of permanent placements from 7,000 to 14,000, resulting in 54,000 children achieving permanency in the year 2002. See
Insert
A

The President also identified key ^{issues} ~~issues~~ to be examined in meeting the ~~target~~ goal, ^{including} ~~Strategies~~ ^{identified} ~~included~~: working with Congress to make changes in Federal law; working with States to eliminate barriers to finding children permanent placements; setting annual numerical targets; rewarding successful performance; and raising public awareness. Recognizing the need to move quickly, the directive called upon the Department, in consultation with State and civic leaders, to prepare a report within 60 days. This report recommends actions to be taken to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes and to meet the goal of placing 54,000 children from foster care, in the year 2002, in adoptive homes or other permanent placements.

The Department Responds to the Directive

Consistent with the directive, the Department undertook an intensive consultation process, which included:

- Mailing copies of the directive to over 2,000 adoption and foster care professionals, placement agencies, child welfare advocates, adoptive and foster parents, and national organizations. Recipients were invited to submit comments on specific steps that can be taken to implement the directive. Over 200 thoughtful responses were received via mail, fax and the internet. (See Appendix B for a list of the respondents.)
- Conducting consultations with a wide range of organizations and individuals, ⁱ ~~Included~~ were line workers, program managers, administrators from the eight

INSERT A

The President directed the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to report to him with specific recommendations for strategies that move children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes and at least to double, by the year 2002, the number of children who are adopted or permanently placed each year. This goal translates into an increase in adoptions and permanent placements from 27,000 in 1996 to 54,000 in 2002. If we are successful at implementing these and other strategies at the federal, state and local levels, it may be possible for even more children to secure adoptive homes or other permanent placements.

States with the largest foster care populations, child welfare administrators and staff from large urban areas, representatives of Tribes and Tribal Organizations, and representatives from national child welfare and adoption-related organizations, advocacy groups, intergovernmental organizations, and several foundations. (The questions that guided the consultations and the list of individuals and organizations consulted appear in Appendix C.)

- ^{Conducting} Consultations ~~were conducted~~ with key congressional staff and ^{receiving} legislative proposals ~~were carefully reviewed~~.

In addition, each of the ten Regional Offices conducted a series of focus groups with key State and local adoption advocates and child welfare professionals. Over 300 people were contacted through this regional outreach process.

This broad based consultation with a wide range of professionals, policy experts, advocates, foster and adoptive parents, and other interested individuals, ~~provided the Department with some of the best thinking from the field allowed our examination of strategies and issues to be grounded in the daily experiences of agency staff.~~ The Department gained many useful ideas and suggestions through this consultation process. Many of these ideas are reflected in the recommendations outlined in this report. (A more complete summary of themes and issues raised during the Department's external consultation process appears in Appendix D.)

→ grounded the Department's examination of strategies and issues in the ~~day~~ daily experiences of participants in the ~~adoption~~ child welfare system.

→ These consultations ~~process~~ will greatly inform the public awareness campaign that the President also directed the Secretary of HHS to undertake, forming the foundation of information upon which the campaign can be built.

II. OVERVIEW

Subsequent sections of this report have been organized in the following manner:

III. ~~ADOPTION IN THE CONTEXT OF~~ THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN
A discussion of some of the issues and challenges in doubling the number of adoptions and in overcoming barriers to permanency. This section also places the adoption-specific issues in the broader context of the challenges facing the child welfare system.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A restatement of each of the elements in the President's directive (in *italics* and preceded by a "♦") and the Department's recommended action steps. Recommendations include possible legislative or regulatory changes. Accompanying each element are recommended action steps, a brief discussion of critical issues, and major issues raised in consultations.

V. CONCLUSION

Final thoughts on the report and how the process of broad consultation has helped to energize and mobilize the field around the shared goal of helping children find stable, permanent, nurturing families.

III. ADOPTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

The President's directive focuses attention on a special group of children waiting to be adopted -- the approximately 100,000 children in the public foster care system who cannot return safely to their own parents and homes. These children waiting for adoption have often been in the foster care system for an extended period of time. They are often "children with special needs," which means that they have characteristics that make them more difficult to place. "Children with special needs" are older children (not infants), children of minority heritage¹, children who are part of a sibling group, or children who have physical, intellectual or emotional disabilities. Effective strategies to move these children to permanence must be grounded in an understanding of the broader child welfare system and the barriers that face children, especially children with special needs, waiting for permanent placement.

homes

Should the guiding principles be first?

A Continuum of Child Welfare Services

The child welfare system is designed to keep children safe and to help them achieve permanence. The concept of permanence is best defined as a stable, legally-sanctioned relationship with caring, protective adults. This may be achieved in a child's birth family, but, for many children in foster care, it may occur through adoption or guardianship. Children attain permanence in a more timely manner when sound child welfare practices are deployed from the time the child initially comes to the attention of the child welfare system. In order to meet the individualized needs of children and families, a range of child welfare services are required, including:

- Community-based prevention programs that support adults in their roles as parents to help resolve problems before they lead to children being abused or neglected;
- Effective child abuse and neglect investigation and risk assessment procedures that allow for appropriate intervention;
- Services for families who are in crisis, but can be safely strengthened and maintained through the provision of intensive, but time-limited, services;
- Foster care services that provide a temporary safe home for children and services to their families, while parents resolve their crises and agencies and the courts decide in a prompt and timely manner whether the parents can care for their children safely; and

¹Children of minority heritage remain in care longer and are over-represented among the children in care who are seeking permanency and require special attention; therefore, they are included among children with special needs.

- Adoption and guardianship opportunities for children who cannot or should not be reunified with their parents and/or whose parents' rights to custody have been terminated.

The ability of child welfare agencies to make timely determinations about permanency is dependent upon the quality, availability and accessibility of services at any point on this continuum. The principal goal of the child welfare system is to protect children and provide a temporary safe haven for them while parents develop the ability to protect their children. Each year, about sixty percent of the children in foster care will safely return home, most within one year. However, some children will be unable to return to their birth families safely. For these children, adoption or guardianship can be the key to a permanent, loving family and the security necessary for healthy development. *and care for themselves*

Characteristics of Children Waiting for Adoption

The children waiting for adoption are primarily those whose parents have been unable or unwilling to resolve the issues that precipitated placement. Of the more than 450,000 children who were in the foster care system in 1994, 100,000 could not return home without jeopardizing their health, safety, and development. The majority of them had a goal of adoption, with 27,000 being legally free and immediately available for adoption. *100,000*

Most foster children awaiting adoption are considered *children with "special needs,"* which means they have characteristics that make them harder to place. The median age of children who are legally free and awaiting adoption is almost nine years old. Slightly over half of the children are of minority heritage. Two-thirds of the children in the special needs category have medical problems, developmental delays and disabilities, and/or behavioral and psychological problems. The most recent data, though preliminary, suggest that the proportion of legally free children who have special needs is increasing. *Another growing problem is the number of children orphaned by AIDS. One factor is the growing*

Barriers to Adoption and Permanence

In addition to the placement challenges posed by the characteristics of children with special needs, there are a number of barriers to permanence spanning the social service and judicial systems. Some of the most significant barriers that delay permanence include:

- **Delays in Child Welfare Agency Practices:** Federal statute requires States to provide "reasonable efforts" to make it possible for a child to return to his or her home. These efforts often take the form of actual services offered and/or provided to the family, such as family counseling, respite care, and substance abuse treatment. If an agency *does* has not offered or provided these services in a timely fashion, the permanent plan for a child may be impeded.

Delays also can result from well-intended *but misguided* practices to preserve families through prolonged and extensive reunification services without adequate consideration of the permanency needs of children. In these situations, adoption or an alternate

Also, delays result from the vagueness of the law, which provides child welfare agencies with insufficient guidance about how to interpret "reasonable efforts" and specifically, when the reasonable efforts requirement has been met and it is appropriate to recommend adoption as a permanent goal for a child.

permanency plan is rarely considered until the 18-month dispositional hearing. High caseloads and rapid staff turnover ~~may~~ ^{causes} also delays ~~consideration of an adoption goal.~~

~~Cross~~ ^{between} jurisdictional barriers ~~exist within~~ State child welfare systems may also result in delays in implementing permanent plans for children. At times, there is an unwillingness to effectively coordinate services to families and share limited resources across State agencies.

- **Delays in Court/Judicial Practices:** ^{impede permanent placements} Delays throughout the judicial process, from the initial determination of abuse or neglect through the resolution of the dispositional hearing, often ~~result from court practices and procedures.~~ The courts' inability to attend to the permanency planning needs of children result from ~~various practices~~ ^{or procedures} such as the backlog of cases on a court's calendar; strict evidentiary requirements established by State's Attorneys; and the extensive time and resources required for an agency to prepare cases for termination of parental rights. In addition, some States' adoption laws include timelines or other family reunification effort requirements that may preclude an appropriately early termination of parental rights.
- **Delays Related to Staff Beliefs and Attitudes:** A limited view of which children are adoptable may contribute to a reluctance to terminate parental rights outside that range. If no adoptive home has been identified, child welfare workers and judges may be reluctant to terminate the parental rights of the child's biological family because no permanent alternatives exist.
^{Also detrimental is}
~~There is also~~ the belief by some that children are not disadvantaged by remaining in foster care for long periods of time. ^{They} believe that foster families will be just as stable as adoptive homes ^{despite evidence that children in foster care frequently move between placements.}

Further, some workers and agencies have delayed or denied adoptive placements because their priority was to seek families with backgrounds similar to those of the children needing permanent homes, ^{even though this practice is illegal.}

- **Limited Pool of Permanent Families for Children with Special Needs:** Despite the requirement in title IV-B to recruit potential foster/adoptive families able to meet the needs of children requiring out-of-home placement, the pool of permanent families for children of minority heritage, older children, members of sibling groups, and children with emotional, developmental, or physical challenges remains insufficient.

This report outlines an agenda to help overcome these barriers to adoption and to accelerate the path to permanency for all waiting children.

The Department is committed to working with all sectors of the American community to implement the activities of the Adoption 2002 Initiative in a way that adheres to the principles of sound child welfare practice. The next section of this report presents a series of recommendations to help remove the barriers to permanency for children in foster care and support improvements throughout the child welfare system. The Adoption 2002 Initiative will be a powerful tool to help the Nation realize the goals of safety, permanence, and well-being for every child.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Today, therefore, I direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with State and civic leaders, to report to me within 60 days on actions to be taken to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes and at least to double, by the year 2002, the number of children in foster care who are adopted or permanently placed out of the public foster care system.

-- President Clinton
December 14, 1996

President Clinton's directive contained ~~specific areas for which he requested~~ ^{in a number of specific areas.} recommendations from the Department. Many of the strategies highlighted in the President's directive focus on activities that the Federal government can undertake. However, the President also emphasized that placing children in nurturing families is a national priority and responsibility that requires efforts on the part of ~~Federal~~, State, and local governments as well as community, business, and religious groups. The Federal role in this initiative is ~~one~~ ^{largely} of supporting States and communities ~~as they strive to achieve the goals~~ by providing financial incentives, technical assistance, policy and programmatic leadership, and recognition of successful efforts. In this section of the Department's report, each element of the President's directive is cited and specific proposed actions are outlined and discussed.

- ◆ **INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ADOPTIONS** - *To increase the number of children who are adopted or permanently placed each year, this report should include, but should not necessarily be limited to, recommendations in the following areas:*

Setting Goals (a) *Plans to work with States on setting and reaching State specific numerical targets, ...*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To set numerical targets leading to a doubling in the number of children who are adopted or placed in alternative permanent homes by the year 2002:

- By September 30, 1997 the Department, through its Regional Offices, ^{will} ~~will work~~ ^{and} collaboratively with the States ~~to establish~~ preliminary numerical targets for adoption and guardianship. All States will establish both preliminary baseline data for fiscal year 1997 on the number of adoptions and guardianships and proposed annual incremental targets for fiscal years 1998-2002, leading to a national doubling in the annual number of adoptions and guardianships completed by fiscal year 2002.

Discussion:

Establishing numerical targets with States, including annual benchmarks to move States to the goal of doubling the number of adoptions from the foster care system by the year 2002, provides an outcome-driven framework for the Adoption 2002 Initiative. This approach also offers a way to link adoption efforts at the Federal, State, and community levels in pursuit of specific results for children.

In order to establish baselines and targets, the Department will form partnership agreements with the States, building on the work already underway between the Department and the States. In December 1995, the Children's Bureau organized a national meeting of State adoption managers, national advocacy organizations, private non-profit organizations, adoptive parents and Federal staff. The participants produced an outcome-focused, ~~holistic~~ framework for adoption services for children with special needs. Because of its emphasis on results, this framework can be the foundation upon which to base results-oriented activities under the President's directive.

The Regional Offices of the Administration for Children and Families have launched discussions with the States about the President's directive and more goal-directed methods to increase the number of children who are permanently placed. Some States and local jurisdictions have already strongly endorsed the President's initiative with letters of support. (See Appendix E.)

- ◆ *Technical Assistance (a) . . . using the technical assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services National Resource Centers to make information on best practices available to States and to engage community leaders, parents, and the business and faith communities;*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To assist States and communities to reach their targets for increased numbers of adoptions and alternative permanent placements for children in foster care:

- The Department will provide the best adoption expertise in the nation to State agencies, courts and communities to improve the timeliness of permanency decisions and to increase the number of adoptions and other permanent placements for children in foster care unable to be reunified with their families.
- Technical assistance will support the development of collaboratives that encourage placements across geographical boundaries; models to improve the recruitment of families for children with special needs; and the development and dissemination of model legislation, best practice guidelines, multi-disciplinary training curricula and implementation guides on the Multiethnic Placement Act (as amended) and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

- The President's fiscal year 1998 budget seeks \$10 million annually for three years (FY 1998-FY 2000) to support these efforts.
- The Department will also review and may revise the title IV-E training regulations to assure a comprehensive approach to child welfare training with a focus on the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve timely permanency planning.

Discussion:

The Department's proposed technical assistance strategy recognizes the need to provide the best information available to agencies, courts, institutions and professionals who make key decisions daily about children's futures. Respondents in the Department's consultation frequently cited the need for the Federal government to foster the sharing of information and best practices across the country.

Some of the specific activities the Department expects to undertake include:

- Providing technical assistance to child welfare agencies and to courts to implement an outcome-focused approach related to the best interests of the child, permanency, timeliness, and quality of care.
- Developing and disseminating materials such as:
 - model guidelines for family assessment;
 - guidelines for State legislation relating to terminating parental rights and guardianship;
 - legislative options for States developing stand-by guardianships for children with terminally ill parents;
 - curricula for collaborative training with agencies, attorneys, and judges;
 - effective judicial and agency practices;
 - recruitment and family development models;
 - information for courts and agencies related to the Multiethnic Placement Act (as amended) and the Indian Child Welfare Act;
 - guidelines for conducting administrative reviews. ; and
 - information on the adoption tax credit ,
- Convening Regional forums to encourage peer-to-peer exchanges of information and successful strategies.
- Awarding grants to multi-State and intrastate collaboratives (operated by the States or other entities) that encourage placements across geographical boundaries; and to local collaboratives designed to recruit families for children with special needs.

← ♦ **Financial Incentives** (b) *Proposals to provide per child financial incentives to States for increases in the number of adoptions from the public welfare system. Options considered should have little to no net costs, as increases in the number of adoptions from the public system will reduce foster care costs, thereby offsetting much if not all of the incentive payments;*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To encourage States to meet their adoption goals and to reward them when they do:

- The Department proposes a bonus for children adopted from the public foster care system. For each child adopted over the base number for that year a per child bonus would be awarded to the State. ~~Additionally, a supplemental bonus would be awarded to the State for every title IV-E special needs child adopted over the previous year's number.~~ The bonuses would be established as an amendment to the title IV-E Adoption Assistance program. States could use their bonus funds to improve or increase services, including post-legal adoption services, to children and families in the child welfare system.

→ A higher bonus would be paid to the extent these increases are among special needs children.

Discussion:

The Department is proposing a system that would provide a per-child bonus to each State that increases its annual number of adoptions from foster care system. This proposal places an emphasis on special needs children by providing an extra incentive for their adoption.

The bonuses would be paid to the States in the year following the year in which they were earned beginning in 1999. The bonus money would be available for use by the State for any activity or service which is allowable under title IV-E, of the Social Security Act. These include a wide range of services to children and families, including post-legal adoption services.

budget includes
The President has requested \$108 million in FY 1998 for bonus payments to the States. Based on this proposal, each State would receive a bonus for every child adopted from the State foster care system above the baseline or the annual starting point. An additional higher bonus supplement will be added to the bonus for every child adopted from the State foster care agency who is also eligible to receive assistance under a title IV-E adoption subsidy agreement (i.e., a special needs child). This bonus is only available in a given year based on the number of title IV-E children adopted in excess of the baseline or annual starting point. During the Department's consultation with State officials were supportive of the goal of doubling the number of adoptions.

(Many of these changes are per Wt OMB)

→ would be paid to the extent these increases were among special children.

The baseline or starting point for determining each year's incentive funds will be determined based on data submitted by the States to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), the federally-mandated foster care and adoption data collection system. For the purposes of establishing baseline data only, a State that has not yet submitted reliable AFCARS data may produce data from an alternative source, provided that it can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the alternative data provided are reliable.

more to #2 of discussion

The Department's proposal provides a concrete reward to States for good performance, without increasing the expenditures of Federal dollars. ^{those in} Cost savings come from adoption subsidy levels that are equal or less than foster care maintenance payments. Additionally, ~~the administrative costs for maintaining a child in a finalized adoption is significantly less than maintaining a child in foster care.~~ and administrative costs

The cost of bonuses paid will be offset by

- ◆ **Implementing the Multiethnic Placement Act** "(c) A proposal to ensure continued aggressive implementation of the Multiethnic Placement Act, as amended by the Interethnic Adoption Provision of the Small Business Job Protection Act;..."

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To continue the Department's aggressive implementation of the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA), as amended by the Interethnic Adoption Provision of the Small Business Job Protection Act:

- The Department will ^{issue in 60 days} expedite the issuance of guidance regarding the amendments to MEPA contained in the Interethnic Adoption Provision. This guidance will focus on the implications of the deletion of permissible consideration language, the new penalty structures, and the approach the Department will take to implementing systematic compliance review protocols. ^{to supplement information earlier disseminated to the States.}
- The Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will expedite the revision and implementation of compliance reviews. In addition, the Department's Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will include in its monitoring review process a focus on MEPA compliance.
- The ACF and OCR will provide States with technical assistance over the next several months regarding compliance with MEPA.
- The OCR will continue its expeditious review of individual complaints.

Discussion

The Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA) was designed to decrease the length of time that children wait to be adopted, prevent discrimination in the placement of children on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and facilitate the identification and recruitment of foster and adoptive families who can meet children's needs. The MEPA, as amended by the Interethnic Adoption Provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, prohibits delaying or denying the placement of any child on the basis of race, color or national origin; requires States to diligently recruit prospective adoptive and foster care families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed; and requires the Federal government to impose fiscal penalties for States not in compliance with the anti-discrimination prohibition. (extra space)

After the passage of MEPA, the Department worked aggressively to ensure that State laws and policies conformed to the statute's provisions. The Department issued guidance in April 1995, notified States of their non-compliance, and worked with 27 States and the District of Columbia to achieve policy compliance. In fiscal year 1997, the OCR will begin reviewing agencies for practice compliance. Beginning in 1995, Regional Offices reviewed State title IV-B plans to ensure that child welfare services programs included recruitment plans for adoptive and foster care parents. The Department will undertake a similar course of action to ensure compliance with the Interethnic Adoption Provision.

Since the enactment of the Interethnic Adoption Provision, the Department has issued an Information Memorandum to the States and title IV-E agencies informing them of the changes to the MEPA. The Department is presently drafting guidance to address how the changes to the discrimination prohibition (particularly the repeal of the "permissible consideration" language that accommodated the consideration of cultural, ethnic, or racial background as one of a number of factors used to determine the best interests of a child) should be implemented. The Administration for Children and Families also is developing processes for assessing penalties, implementing corrective action plans, and conducting systematic monitoring of State practices. The Office for Civil Rights is revising its compliance review instrument that focuses specifically on transracial adoptive and foster care placements.

- ◆ **Tracking Progress of the States (d) Plans to compile and publish an annual State-by-State report on success in meeting the numerical targets;**

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To publicize the progress made by each State and the Nation as a whole in reaching numerical targets:

- The Department will issue an annual ^{state by-state} report, beginning in the Spring of 1999, on the Nation's progress in meeting the goals of the President's directive. The annual report

will provide State-by-State figures on key measures of success including not only the number of children in foster care who are adopted or placed in guardianship, but measures that reflect the experience of children in the child welfare system, such as the length of time in care and the timeliness of permanency decisions.

- The report will be disseminated widely to national and State policymakers, advocates, State agencies and courts and other interested individuals through targeted mailings and distribution by the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. The report will also be made available electronically through the Department's homepage on the World Wide Web.

Discussion:

The focus on collecting and using quality data in the area of adoption and permanency will advance our national efforts to strengthen the collection and availability of reliable child welfare data. To ensure that the public stays focused on how well the Nation and the individual States are meeting established goals, the Department is committed to disseminating timely information as widely as possible.

◆ **Recognizing Success** *(e) Plans to recognize successful States.*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To foster public recognition of successful, innovative practices:

- The Department will work in collaboration with foundations and intergovernmental organizations to establish annual awards to be made each November during the commemoration of National Adoption Month. Beginning in 1997, these awards will recognize States, local agencies, courts, private organizations, employers and others who are making key contributions to national efforts to support adoption and to promote permanency for children in the child welfare system.

Discussion:

In addition to publishing annual findings on how the States are progressing toward numerical adoption and guardianship goals, the Department is enthusiastic about the prospect of recognizing innovations in adoption and permanency planning practices by States, and other public and private entities. This will be an opportunity to identify and publicly recognize outstanding practices and will help provide a means to publicize successful actions that can be replicated in other parts of the country.

- ◆ **MOVING CHILDREN WHO CANNOT RETURN HOME MORE QUICKLY TOWARD PERMANENT HOMES** - *To move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes, the report shall also recommend changes to Federal law and regulations and other actions needed to emphasize the importance of planning for permanency as soon as a child enters the foster care system. The Secretary's report should include, but should not necessarily be limited to, recommendations in the following areas:*

Removing Barriers to Permanency (a) *Plans to provide States with funding to identify barriers to permanency and to develop targeted strategies to find permanent homes for children who have been in foster care a particularly long time;*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To assist State child welfare agencies, courts and nonprofit organizations to identify and overcome barriers to permanency:

will? or how?

- Through its annual discretionary grant award process, the Department will award new and continuing grants under the Adoption Opportunities Act to assist in overcoming barriers to adoption for special needs children. Grants made under the Adoption Opportunities Act address a variety of issues such as: improving the recruitment of minority families; encouraging collaboration to strengthen services to children with disabilities; developing non-adversarial options for permanency, such as concurrent planning, voluntary relinquishment of children and family mediation; and developing training and resource materials to help adoptive parents meet the needs of adopted children who are of a different race or ethnicity.
- For fiscal year 1998, the President's budget requests \$10 million in additional funds for the Adoption Opportunities Act to support a special cluster of barrier reduction grants to the States. These grants would be awarded competitively to State agencies to develop model strategies to reform permanency planning and adoption services, both for children currently in foster care who are unable to return to their families and for children just entering the foster care system. To be eligible to compete for these grants, applicant States would need to participate with the Department in the setting of numerical targets to double the number of adoptions and permanent placements by the year 2002, develop a goal-oriented plan for meeting their goals, and involve the courts in developing their applications and strategies. Up to 15 grants would be awarded.
- The Department will also continue to work with the States to fully implement the Court Improvement Program, authorized in conjunction with the Family Preservation and Support Act. This program provides a grant to the highest court in each participating State to assist in assessing and addressing barriers to permanency from

*list these
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the perspective of the courts. The program has helped to bring courts and agencies together to examine barriers to permanency and to develop a plan to address these issues. States are now completing their assessments, and are ready to move forward in implementing changes in the court's handling of child welfare cases.

Discussion:

Identifying and addressing barriers is crucial in our national efforts to move children in foster care more quickly to permanent homes, whether this be through reunification, adoption, or placement in an alternative permanent home. Many different factors can serve as a barrier to permanency, ranging from worker decision-making, to the lack of availability of needed services for families, to court delays, to the supply of adoptive families. Addressing barriers to permanency, therefore, requires a multi-facet strategy where the Federal government can make a number of important contributions. *ed* ✓

For example, during the Department's consultation with the field, many individuals mentioned that the Court Improvement Program has been helpful both in focusing the judicial system's attention on child welfare issues and in bringing courts and child welfare agencies together to identify and address barriers to permanency. To augment the important work already begun, the Department is proposing the awarding of competitive grants to up to 15 States that form an effective collaboration between the State agency and the State court and that involve other key stakeholders, including Tribes, community representatives, and citizen review boards.

These grants will be used to develop model strategies to reform permanency planning and adoption services, i.e., concurrent planning, expanding court capacity, partnerships for recruitment, and modification of State law and policy. The focus will be on children waiting as well as children newly entering the foster care system, to ensure more timely decisionmaking. These decisions will reflect the best interest of the child and provide appropriate services to support moving children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes.

- ◆ **Addressing Permanency Planning Earlier Through Timely Hearings** (b) *Proposals to shorten the period of time between a child's placement in foster care and his or her initial hearing at which a permanency determination is made; (c) A proposal to clarify that the purpose of "dispositional hearings" is to plan for permanency and, as appropriate, to consider referrals for family mediation, termination of parental rights, adoption, legal guardianship, or other permanent placements;*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To encourage more timely permanency planning and improved judicial decision-making for children in foster care:

and will work with Congress toward that goal.

- The Department recommends that the Federal statute requiring an 18-month dispositional hearing be amended to require that this hearing be held no later than 12 months after a child's placement in foster care.
- The Department further recommends amending the Federal statute to change the name of the "dispositional hearing" to "permanency planning hearing."
- The Department will provide guidance to: *The states in — days to:*
 - Clarify the purpose of the dispositional hearing;
 - Clarify the purpose of the 6-month administrative review; and
 - Clarify that States have the flexibility to increase the frequency of the dispositional hearing as well as the 6-month administrative review.
- The Department proposes several additional activities specifically addressing court-related barriers to permanency:
 - Convening a forum of leaders in the legal profession, judges, attorneys, agency administrators and advocates to develop strategies for adding to the courts' focus on improved outcomes for children.
 - Identifying and disseminating information about innovative reforms and model practices derived from the assessments of the Court Improvement Programs and other efforts.
- Finally, the Department encourages the President to communicate with State chief justices and national legal organizations to emphasize the importance of elevating the status of child welfare proceedings (including child protection, permanency planning, termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings) within the courts.

Discussion:

The President's directive called on the Department to examine issues around the timeliness of judicial hearings affecting the duration of a child's stay in foster care and his or her movement towards permanency. Specifically, the directive instructed the Department to examine ways to shorten the period of time between a child's placement in foster care and the initial dispositional hearing at which permanency planning issues are addressed.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-272) created the framework for existing Federal child welfare programs and requirements. Among the provisions of the law are requirements for administrative and court reviews to ensure that children's needs for permanent homes are addressed. The law requires that, within 18 months of placement, and every 12 months thereafter, a dispositional hearing must be held to determine the child's permanent placement and, specifically, whether:

- the child should be returned to the parent;
- the child should be continued in foster care for a specified period;
- the child should be placed for adoption; or
- the child should (because of the child's special needs or circumstances) be continued in foster care on a permanent or long-term basis.

This hearing was intended to be the time when a definitive permanent plan for the child would be set by the court. However, these permanent plans are not always set within the 18 month timeframe, sometimes because of the confusion surrounding the purpose of the dispositional hearing.

The Department's proposals reflect themes heard during the Department's outreach and consultation process. There was significant agreement that the permanent plan for a child should be set earlier than 18 months after a child's entry into foster care. We also heard support for providing guidance that would clarify the purpose of the dispositional hearings. While the Department believes that the changes outlined above will encourage more timely decisions regarding permanency planning for children, it must be emphasized that services must begin as soon as the child enters substitute care.

In addition, to addressing the timeliness of hearings, there is widespread support for reviewing and strengthening court practices to achieve better outcomes for children in the child welfare system.

- ◆ **Clarifying "Reasonable Efforts"** *(d) A proposal to clarify the "reasonable efforts" requirement and other Federal policy as it relates to permanency and safety;* *law*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To ensure the protection of children and to make certain that Federal laws regarding reasonable efforts, reunification of children with their families and termination of parental rights are understood by all involved in permanency planning:

- The Department will issue administrative guidance within 60 days that clarifies the "reasonable efforts" provision of title IV-E. This action will advance the goals of safety, permanency, and well-being by making it clear that decisions regarding a child's removal from family, reunification and/or permanent plan should be made with to child's health and safety being the paramount concern.
- The Department recommends that the "reasonable efforts" provision of title IV-E law be amended to make explicit that child safety is the paramount concern in decisionmaking for children in the child welfare system. The Congress has developed a number of proposal to address this issue and we will work with them to achieve the necessary statutory changes.

See attached - exact same as earlier based

- The Department will also work with the States to implement provisions in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended by the Congress in 1996. These provisions require that, as a condition for receiving funds under the Basic State Grant program, (1) the State may not mandate the reunification of a surviving child with parents found to have aided or abetted or committed murder, voluntary manslaughter, or serious bodily injury to their children; and (2) conviction of any of the above mentioned felonies constitutes grounds for the termination of parental rights. The Department will work with Congress to incorporate similar provisions into title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

See Attached - exact as earlier found

Discussion:

Since 1980, Federal law has required that "reasonable efforts" be made both: (1) to prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their families; and (2) to reunify children, when possible, who have been placed in foster care with their families. The goal of this provision was to reduce the phenomenon of children languishing unnecessarily in foster care. The Federal "reasonable efforts" requirement has been both heralded as being essential to effective child welfare practice and criticized for being unclear and a barrier to child safety and permanence.

Consultation with the field revealed that there is wide variation in how the current "reasonable efforts" law is interpreted by caseworkers, agencies, and judges around the country. There was a strong consensus that some clarification of the reasonable efforts requirements is needed to allow for better, more timely decisionmaking in individual cases, although there were divergent opinions on what degree of specificity would be useful from the Federal government.

replace

The proposals outlined above will send a clear message that Federal law requires that the safety of children be the primary consideration in making decisions about when to remove or reunify children with their families, as well as when to terminate parental rights, while providing State agencies and courts with the flexibility needed to make sound individualized decisions for children in the child welfare system.

- ◆ **Standards for Securing Permanency** *(e) Plans to ensure that States give appropriate weight to permanency planning by establishing standards for securing permanency through adoption or guardianship, once a decision has been made that a child cannot be returned home;*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To ensure that States give appropriate attention to permanency planning for children in foster care unable to return home to their families: ✓

who are

Clarifying “Reasonable Efforts”: in box -- strike *Federal Policy* and replace that with *law*

REPLACE:

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To ensure the protection of children by clarifying or proposing changes to legislation regarding “reasonable efforts,” reunification of children with their families, and termination of parental rights:

- The Department will issue administrative guidance within 60 days that clarifies the “reasonable efforts” provision of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. This clarification will advance the goal of giving every child in our nation’s public child welfare system a safe and permanent home by making it clear that in determining whether and when to remove a child from his or her family, whether and when to reunify the family, and whether and when to seek an alternative permanency plan, the child’s health and safety shall be the paramount concern.
- Members of Congress have developed a number of proposals to address this issue, and the Department will work with them to achieve statutory changes reinforcing this administrative clarification.
- The Department in particular will work with Congress to more clearly and appropriately define the circumstances in which “reasonable efforts” to reunify a family should not be undertaken. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended by Congress in 1996, already requires that, as a condition for receiving funds under the Basic State Grant Program:
 - 1) the State may not mandate the reunification of a surviving child with parents found to have aided, abetted or committed:
 - murder
 - voluntary manslaughter
 - serious bodily injury to their children; and
 - 2) conviction of any of the above mentioned felonies constitutes grounds for the termination of parental rights.

The Department will work towards amending the Title IV-E provision of the Social Security Act by incorporating an expanded version of this list of circumstances in which reunification is not appropriate.

- The Department will also issue model guidelines for State legislation that will advance the goal of giving every child in our nation’s public child welfare system a safe and permanent home by making it clear that in determining whether and when to terminate

parental rights, the child's health and safety should be the paramount concern.

REPLACE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF "DISCUSSION" WITH:

The proposals outlined above will send a clear message that Federal law requires that the health and safety of children shall be the paramount concern in making decisions about whether and when to remove children from families, whether and when to reunify the families, and whether and when to seek alternative permanency plans. They also will make clear to the States the Administration's view that the child's health and safety should be paramount in determining whether and when to terminate parental rights.

Several current and proposed activities will expand our knowledge and experience regarding guardianship and its relationship to relative care. Using demonstration authority, the Department will work with the States to gain better information on how guardianships are currently used; the relationship between guardianships, relative care and adoption; and the important ways in which guardianships differ from adoption. Based on these demonstration efforts, the Department will consider whether criteria might be developed regarding when and for which children such alternatives are appropriate. Co-guardianships (which are being used in several places for children with incarcerated or terminally ill parents) and family mediation methods which emphasize permanency options for children will also be explored.

Under the child welfare waiver demonstrations, Illinois, North Carolina, and Delaware are currently exploring alternative permanency options that include support for subsidized guardianships (similar to adoption assistance agreements) primarily for kinship care providers. Several other States have applied for similar demonstrations. All waiver demonstrations will be rigorously evaluated. Because we believe that this approach allows for a careful and thorough examination of alternative permanency arrangements and other emerging topics in the field of child welfare, the Department is also requesting an expansion in the number of child welfare demonstration waivers that may be granted. *limited* *if the existing authority*

Finally, it should be noted that the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) included a provision requiring the States to consider giving preference to relatives as caretakers for children eligible to receive foster care maintenance subsidies under title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Policy guidance for the States is currently under development. This is the first Federal legislative preference for placing children with relatives. We hope that it will lead to an earlier identification and location of relatives who are willing and able to provide permanent, nurturing homes for children in the child welfare system.

is insufficient to fully examine alternative permanency arrangements.

- The Department recommends that title IV-E of the Social Security Act be amended to require "reasonable efforts" to secure a permanent home for children in foster care when adoption or another permanent placement is the goal for the child.
- The Department will propose regulatory changes to clarify that States may simultaneously work toward reunification and develop an alternative plan for children in the event that they are not able to be reunified. The Department will also disseminate effective models of practice.
- The Department will work with States to encourage use of the Federal Parent Locator Service at the time a child enters foster care to locate absent parents and other relatives who may be able to provide permanent homes for the child.

Discussion:

As discussed above, there is a Federal standard that requires States to make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of children and to reunify families when consistent with child safety. However, there is currently no comparable standard or requirement to find alternative permanent homes for children once the decision has been made that they cannot safely be reunified with their families. Too often, children are made to wait in foster care for long periods of time, even after the decision has been made that adoption is the most appropriate permanency option for the child. Passage of legislation to require reasonable efforts to secure a permanent home for children will help to ensure that States give priority attention to the issue of permanency.

In addition to setting a standard for permanency in the law, the Department will clarify its policies to ensure that States understand that they may concurrently work with families to help them safely resume care of their children and develop an alternative plan for permanency in the event that the child and family cannot be reunified. This practice of concurrent planning was frequently endorsed during the Department's consultation as an effective means to ensure timely decision-making for children. In addition, the Department will share information and best practices with the States on how to conduct concurrent planning.

An additional step the Department proposes to assist States in making timely and informed decisions about permanency is to work with State child welfare and child support enforcement agencies to facilitate use of the Federal Parent Locator Service to identify and locate absent parents or other relatives who may be interested in providing a permanent home for a child in foster care. (The Federal Parent Locator Service is currently used by State child support enforcement officials.) Even if an absent parent or other relative is unable to provide a home for the child, ruling out this alternative early in a child's placement will allow the agency and court to move expeditiously towards adoption or another permanent alternative.

- ◆ **Alternative Forms of Permanency** *(f) Plans to examine alternative permanency arrangements, such as guardianship, when adoption is not possible.*

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

To gain a better understanding of alternative permanency arrangements:

- The Department proposes to continue to study and evaluate guardianship as an alternative form of permanency when adoption is not possible. The Department will work with the States of Illinois, North Carolina, and Delaware in evaluating the assisted guardianship efforts being undertaken as part of these States' child welfare demonstration waivers.
- The Department ^{may seek} ~~will request~~ a limited expansion of the child welfare demonstration waiver authority to test additional approaches to permanency and timely decisionmaking. *if the current authority is found to be insufficient.* SAB
Lang-
- The Department will also continue to explore relative and/or kinship care as a means of ensuring permanency for children. Demonstration grants regarding kinship care are permitted under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, as reauthorized in 1996. The Department intends to fund projects in the future under this authority to improve our knowledge of the use of kinship care in ensuring children's safety and permanency. Examples of topics that might be addressed under this demonstration authority include the development of best practices for the licensing and approval of relative homes and the development of training curricula focused on permanency for children in relative care. ✓

Discussion:

When adoption is not appropriate, children need stable, permanent living arrangements. Examples include some children placed in long-term kinship care arrangements and some older children with special needs without realistic adoption prospects. This is also an important issue for American Indian children under Tribal jurisdiction. Many Tribes consider kinship care the cultural equivalent of adoption.

Many people with whom the Department consulted recommended that the Federal government help pay for the cost of subsidized guardianship arrangements, as it does for adoption, under title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The Department does not recommend this step at this time. Because guardianships are easily revoked and, therefore, do not offer the legal protection of adoption, the criteria for the use of guardianship as a form of permanency must be carefully examined. There is limited understanding of the factors which shape decisions about adoption and guardianship by relatives. Premature changes in title IV-E reimbursement policies might result in unintentional incentives to shift children into guardianship arrangements when an adoption could be achieved.

press packet

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

IOWA CITIZEN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

JERRY R. FOXHOVEN, BOARD CHAIRPERSON

DEANN L. JONES, DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

TO: Jason Wolin
 FROM: DeAnn Jones
 DATE: 2-13-97

[Signature]

RE: Responses to questions on Iowa Valentine Project

1. The Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board agency (ICFCRB) is a state agency created in 1984 to monitor the effectiveness of the Iowa foster care system to move children to permanent homes. *This is an executive branch agency of the Governor.*

2. The Valentine Adoptive Child Watch Project is a citizen project created in response to interviews with foster children waiting for adoption. The children felt like no one knew they existed and that they would grow up without ever being what they considered a "real member" of a family because no one knew they were waiting to be adopted. All 1000 waiting Iowa foster children with terminated parental rights are represented by a construction paper heart each Valentine's Day. The child's story of waiting is printed on his or her paper heart and their heart is placed on a Valentine Tree. *State-wide*

3. Each year when the Valentine Trees are made, children who have been adopted, children who are waiting to be adopted, and citizens volunteering their time, gather at the state capitol to help build each Valentine tree. In getting ready for this year's project, the children said "We think President Clinton should know about us!" And so the school children who cut out the hearts prepared an extra set. And the senior citizens who write the child's story on the hearts filled them in. And now the children wish to send them to the White House so that President and Mrs. Clinton can see and touch their hearts and know their story of waiting. *5,000 total in foster care - 1,000 of those waiting*

The only thing they do is promote permanency for foster children.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	re: personal (3 pages)	02/13/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12077

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC - Adoption 2002 Presentation 2/14/97

2017-1164-S
rc2847

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Guiding Principles for the Adoption Initiative

Based on a firm understanding of the challenges that face children who await permanence in the child welfare system, the Department will pursue the President's goals in a manner which focuses on changing the outcomes for those children who are hardest to place; improves decision-making for children currently entering the system; and reinforces best practices throughout the system. The Federal goals for children in the child welfare system are safety, permanency and well-being. Based on the extensive consultation, a set of principles has emerged to provide a foundation for important work of the Adoption 2002 Initiative.

- Every child deserves a safe, permanent family.
- The child's health and safety should be the paramount considerations in all placement and permanency planning decisions.
- ➔ ● Children in foster care deserve prompt, timely decisionmaking from the adults serving them. The timeframes for placement and permanency planning decisions must be respectful of the child's developmental needs and the child's sense of time.
- Permanency planning efforts for children should begin as soon as a child enters foster care and should be expedited by the provision of services to families.
- Foster care is a temporary situation; it is not an appropriate place for children to grow up.
- ➔ ● Permanency cannot be achieved for children without the partnership of child welfare agencies, the courts and other service-providing agencies (e.g., housing, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment).
- Adoption is one of a number of pathways to permanency which also includes reunification, guardianship, and permanent placement with relatives.
- Adoptive families often require services and supports long after legalization to meet the ongoing challenges of caring for their children.
- Communication and information sharing about effective strategies, innovative programs, and collaboration opportunities is critical to the success of this initiative.
- The diversity and strengths of all communities must be tapped to create permanency for children.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR RECEPTION OF ADOPTION 2002 REPORT
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 14, 1997

Welcome to the White House and Happy Valentine's Day. I am delighted that on this day for celebrating all kinds of love, we are gathered to announce a plan that can bring the love of a permanent family to the hundreds of thousands of children waiting in our foster care system.

Two months ago, the President directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to investigate the barriers that keep too many of our children in the limbo of foster care. He asked her to report to him with specific recommendations on how best to move children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes, and on how to meet a national goal of doubling the number of children placed annually in permanent homes by the year 2002. In a few moments, Olivia Golden, acting assistant secretary of health and human services, will present her department's findings to the President.

I've already had the privilege of reading this report and I am very impressed by the hard work that went into it. It is based on extensive interviews, surveys, and consultations with placement agencies, adoption and child welfare advocates and social workers nationwide. I am particularly pleased that the researchers listened carefully to the observations of adoptive and foster parents because they know better than anyone the strengths and shortcomings of our system.

This report makes it very clear that foster care should never be a permanent solution. No child should grow up in foster care. Children deserve prompt, timely decisionmaking from the adults serving them. They deserve timeframes for permanent placement that respect their developmental needs. And they deserve federal leadership to make that happen.

✓ Ensuring the safety and timely placement of a child with a permanent, loving family should be the mission of our foster care system. But for too many years, this mission has been obscured as ~~hundreds of thousands~~ ^{too many} of children have literally grown up or spent the majority of their childhoods in the system. They have led transient lives, moving from one foster family to the next, and experiencing few constants but growing case files and ~~hope~~ ^{a dream} for a permanent family.

✍ There are a multitude of reasons for this situation. As an attorney and child advocate, I have experienced firsthand ... [anecdote].

? We cannot afford these delays. As the President and I brace ourselves for Chelsea's departure for college, we are learning firsthand that children grow up all too fast. And every day a child grows up feeling rootless, unloved, and without a family is often a missed opportunity to raise a healthy, well-adjusted, productive citizen of our country. That is why steps to secure permanent, safe, and loving homes for children -- whether they are with their biological families or others -- should begin as soon as a child enters foster care, not after 4 days or 5 months or 6 years of shuttling from placement to placement.

We have already seen important steps to remedy this situation. Two years ago, the President and Congress made it illegal to deny or delay an adoption simply because the adoptive parents and children were not of the same race. Last year, they strengthened that legislation. The President also signed a \$5,000 tax credit for families who adopt. Families who adopt children with special needs can receive \$6,000.

Decorating the Oval Office today are valentines created by some 600 of Iowa's waiting foster children. Each valentine, sponsored by the Iowa Citizen's Foster Care Review Board, tells the story of a child waiting to be adopted -- the age the child came into the foster care system, the age they became free for adoption and the number of days they have been waiting for a family. (For instance, one reads: Teenage boy, came into foster care system at age 4. Age 6 at TPR (Termination of Parental Rights). Now age 14. Been waiting 3,638 days.)

Every year these paper hearts are placed on Valentine trees at the Iowa State Capitol. This year the children decided to send their valentines to the White House. Some of them sent letters to accompany their valentines, letters such as this one: "Dear President: My name is Raleigh. I am 12, I live in Iowa. I like to play football and basketball. I've been waiting 8 years for an adoptive family. I am hoping for a family with pets, a brother and a sister and nice parents."

Let's all work together so that for Raleigh and the countless children like him, their waits will end soon.

Now let me introduce, Olivia Golden, who will tell us more about today's report.

###

Introduction of Deanna Collins.

Over the years, I've met many families created by adoption. I have talked with men and women who have adopted infants, single moms who have adopted siblings, and couples who have opened their homes and hearts to teenagers with special needs. Each of these families shared with me their joy of finding each other. They told me what a transforming experience it was to finally know the love of a mother, a father, a sibling, or a child.

And I have had the opportunity of witnessing such a transformation firsthand. In November 1995, 13-year old Deanna came to the White House to help us recognize National Adoption Month. She touched all of our hearts as she describe what it was like to live in a group home and shared her hope of being adopted. Deanna said she wanted to be adopted because then she "would have a place to call home. I would have a room that I could call my room. I would have a family that I could love and would love me back."

Soon after her visit to the Washington, Deanna found a permanent, loving family. When

I visited her in Kansas City this summer, I almost didn't recognize her. She had grown into a radiant, confident young woman. Deanna Collins, I am very proud to welcome you back to the White House.

###

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
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FEBRUARY 14, 1997

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This report -- based on extensive interviews, surveys, and consultations with adoption and child welfare advocates, social workers, adoptive and foster parents nationwide -- makes it very clear that foster care should never be a permanent solution. It is no place to spend an entire childhood. Instead, ensuring the safety and timely placement of a child with a permanent, loving family should be the mission of our foster care system.

For too many years, this mission has been obscured as hundreds of thousands of children have literally grown up in the system. They have led transient lives, moving from one foster family to the next, and experiencing few constants but growing case files and hope for a permanent family.

[Valentines go here]

There are numerous reasons for this situation. As an attorney and child advocate, I have experienced firsthand ... [anecdote].

We cannot afford these delays. As the President and I brace ourselves for Chelsea's departure for college, we are learning firsthand that children grow up all too fast. And every day a child grows up feeling rootless, unloved, and without a family is often a missed opportunity to raise a healthy, well-adjusted, productive citizen of our country. That is why steps to secure permanent, safe, and loving homes for children -- whether they are with their biological families or others -- should begin as soon as a child enters foster care, not after 4 days or 5 months or 6 years of shuttling them from placement to placement.

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and to move children more quickly from foster care to perm. homes

report
delighted
Secretary of the Administration for Children & Families

I'm impressed that this report is based on...
foster adopt parents - know better than me

No child should grow up in foster care.

Children deserve...

and they deserve federal leadership to make that happen.

strengthened it

Let's not forget they're the reason

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. schedule	HRC Line Block [partial] (4 pages)	02/12/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
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**HRC LINE BLOCK
AS OF 2/12/97**

**Thursday, February 13, 1997
Scheduler: Alissa Brown**

Prev Ron Washington, DC

10 am Harriman Funeral
 National Cathedral

1 pm Lunch w/Mrs. Netanyahu

Ron Washington, DC

**Friday, February 14, 1997
Scheduler: John Funderburk**

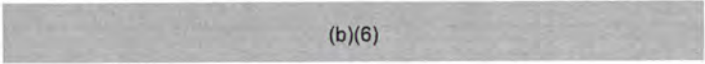
***** Valentine's Day *****

Prev Ron Washington, DC

10 am Visit to Cleveland Elementary School
 8th & T Streets, NW

 Contact: Pauline Abernathy

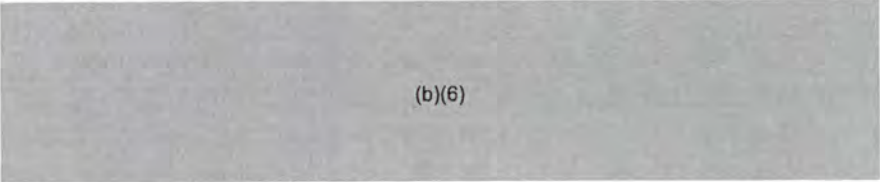
12:30 pm Adoption Event [w/ POTUS]

7:30 pm  (b)(6) [002]

Ron Washington, DC

**Saturday, February 15, 1997
Scheduler: Holly Nichols**

Prev Ron Washington, DC

xx pm  (b)(6)

Ron Washington, DC

Sunday, February 16, 1997
Scheduler: Holly Nichols

Prev Ron Washington, DC
ron Washington, DC

Monday, February 17, 1997
Scheduler: Holly Nichols

***** President's Day *****

Prev Ron Washington, DC

11 am Ryan Moore Drop-By
Map Room

 Contact: Nicole Rabner

11:30 am Meeting w/ Beth Dozoretz

12:30 pm Media Time Briefing

1:30 pm Media Time

7:30 pm As You Like It -- TENTATIVE
Shakespeare theatre

Ron Washington, DC

Tuesday, February 18, 1997
Scheduler: John Funderburk

Prev Ron Washington, DC

8:30 am **Wheels up** from DC
[Flight Time: 1 hour and 45 min -1]

9:15 am **Wheels down** in Chicago

10 am Chicago Public Schools Event

 Contact: Jean Franzik
 (312) 744-2265

noon Women's Micro-Credit Event
20 N. Clark

Contact: Connie Evans, President, Women's Self-Employment Project
(312) 606-8255

2 - 4 pm DOWN TIME

4:30 pm Tour
Children's Museum

-- Early Childhood Development Room
-- Reading Room

5- 5:15 pm Clutch

5:20 pm Lewis Manilew Lecture Series
Children's Museum

Contact: Lewis Manilew

6:30 pm Meet and Greet for Paul Simon
54 West Hubbard
CLOSED PRESS

Contact: Jay Doherty
(312) 645-9400

7:30 pm OTR Dinner [T]

Ron Chicago

Wednesday, February 19, 1997
Scheduler: Holly Nichols

Prev Ron Chicago

10 am **Wheels up** from Chicago
[Flight Time: 1 hour and 20 min]

11:20 am **Wheels down** in Kansas City

noon Heart to Heart Lunch
Women's Employment Network

Contact: Beth Smith
(816) 523-7891

1:45 pm 0-3 Reading Event
Children's Mercy Hospital

3 - 4 pm DOWN TIME

4:30 pm "Stand Up For Children" *key note*
Catholic Charities
University of Missouri at Kansas City
Auditorium

7 pm Nite with the Stars -- OPTIONAL
Boys and Girls Club of Kansas City

8:15 pm **Wheels up** from Kansas City
[Flight Time: 2 hours and 15 min +1]

11:30 pm **Wheels down** in Washington, DC

Ron Washington, DC

Thursday, February 20, 1997
Scheduler: Alissa Brown

Prev Ron Washington, DC

xxx pm

(b)(6)

Ron Washington, DC

Friday, February 21, 1997
Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC

10 am DC Education Event [w/POTUS]

xxx pm Bulls Game -- TENTATIVE

Ron Washington, DC

Saturday, February 22, 1997
Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC

Ron washington, DC

Sunday, February 23, 1997

Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC

Ron Washington, DC

Monday, February 24, 1997

Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC

11 am *Prescription in Reading* Campaign Discussion

Ron Washington, DC

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC

10 am World Health Organization
Satellite Feed

11 am Press Conference on Arts & Humanities

11:45 am Herb Miller

Contact: Leslie
 338-5200

1:30 pm The Family and Community Critical Viewing
Project Event
Columbus Club - Union Station

Contact: Liz Laszlo
 775-3629

5 pm Jack Quinn Going Away Party [T]
State Dining Room

Ron Washington, DC

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC
10 am State Visit
11:30 am Coffee w/Mrs. Chile
8 pm Chilean State Dinner
Ron Wasington, DC

Thursday, February 27, 1997
Scheduler:

***** CVC's Birthday *****

Prev Ron Washington, DC
7:30 pm  (b)(6)
Ron Washington, DC

Friday, February 28, 1997
Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC
xxx pm Wheels Up from DC
xxx pm Wheels Down in New York
xxx pm Show
xxx pm Show
Ron New York

Saturday, March 1, 1997
Scheduler:

Prev Ron New York
xxx pm Show
xxx pm Wheels up from New York
 [Flight Time: 1 hour]

xxx pm Wheels down in Washington
Ron Washington, DC

Sunday, March 2, 1997

Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC
xxx pm Africa Meeting
Ron Washington, DC

Monday, March 3, 1997

Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC
xx am Ad Council PSA Launch
xx pm Videos → nutrition
3 pm Maggie, Melanne, Marsha and Patti
3:15 pm Maggie and Melanne
Ron Washington, DC

Videos

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Scheduler:

Prev Ron Washington, DC
3 pm Maggie, Melanne, Marsha and Patti
3:15 pm Maggie and Melanne
xxx pm (b)(6)
7:30 pm Pediatric Aids Dinner
Ron Washington, DC

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1997
Draft 2*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY,
LEAD ADVANCE:

KIRK HANLIN

CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY,
PRESS ADVANCE

KAREN BURCHARD

703/243-3656

Home

SCHEDULER:

JOHN FUNDERBURK

202/456-5315

Office

202/456-5340

Fax

202/244-7969

Home

WHCA

4461

PREV RON

The White House

8:30 am

HOLD

9:45 am -

DEPART South Portico

EN ROUTE Cleveland Elementary

8th and T Streets, NW

[drive time: 10 minutes]

MOTORCADE:

LIMO:

HRC

STAFF VAN:

VERVEER, RYAN, BERRY, ALSWANG

9:55 am -

ARRIVE Cleveland Elementary

Greeters:

- TBD

Note:

Kirk Hanlin will meet HRC curbside.

10:00 am -

CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISIT

11:00 am

Cleveland Elementary

Holding Room: Principal's office

Phone: 202/673-4313

Fax: 202/673-4580

OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

- Upon arrival, HRC will proceed downstairs to the All Purpose Room for a roundtable discussion.
- Ann Mair will welcome and introduce HRC.
- HRC will makes brief remarks and open discussion.
- TBD will close discussion.

-- HRC will participate in roundtable discussion.

-- HRC reads short story to children.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx 50 second graders
TBD attorneys

11:05 am **DEPART** Cleveland Elementary
EN ROUTE South Portico
[drive time: 10 minutes]

MOTORCADE:

LIMO: HRC

STAFF VAN: VERVEER, RYAN, BERRY, ALSWANG,

11:15 am **ARRIVE** The White House

12:15 pm **BRIEFING** for Adoption Event

12:25 pm Oval Office Dining Room
CLOSED PRESS\NO WH PHOTO

12:30 pm **ADOPTION EVENT [w/ POTUS]**

1:00 pm Oval Office
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

- HRC makes opening remarks and introduces Olivia Golden, Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.
- Olivia Golden delivers report to the President.

- The President makes remarks and introduces (TBD).
- TBD makes remarks.

RON The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Cloudy with snow, sleet and freezing rain, changing to rain.
Wind east to southeast at 10 to 15 knots.
Low 28 High 40.

WASHINGTON, D.C. EVENTS:

KENNEDY CENTER

- National Symphony Orchestra - Misha Dichter, Pianist
- Sheila Jordan, Jazz Vocalist

FORD'S THEATER

- Twilight in Los Angeles, 1992

ARENA STAGE

- Molly Sweeney

WARNER THEATER

- Defending the Caveman