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Address

By

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U.S. Public Health Service

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Surgeon General's Northwest Regional Conference

On Interpersonal Violence

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I began by thanking the Steering Committee and especially the Chair of that committee, Karil Klingbeil, whom I had invited to the Leesburg Conference one year and eleven months before to talk to 170 of her colleagues from around the country. I wanted her to share her experiences establishing and running a workable interdisciplinary organization with a major hospital – one that deals compassionately and professionally with victims of violence. That's what she did, she did it in a very impressive way, and she wrote later to tell me she was starting working on a regional conference modeled on Leesburg. Naturally, I was delighted. I also thanked our resident representative in region 10, Assistant Surgeon General Dorothy H. Mann.

I reviewed a little bit of Leesburg and repeated that I believed then and I believe it still, that in the long run people in medicine and in public health will be the ones who will generate the most effective ways to prevent violence in our homes and our communities. I then listed the number of regional conferences that we'd had, some of the things that were happening in my office, including the joint law/health initiative and in general, mentioned a number of the things I'd referred to in my address to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Conference of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 13, 1987, an address which is shortly before this one in this archive.

Among things I hadn't mentioned before, I talked about my meetings with the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a thirty second, TV Public Service Announcement on spouse abuse and woman battering, and the Pittsburgh Woman's Center Manual on the treatment of women victims of domestic violence.

As for the previous lecture mentioned above, I went into the statistics of the 4 million people who are among our most vulnerable citizens. My message may sound simple, but it isn't. We need to be assured that each community is prepared to save the life of anyone of its members – even the most vulnerable and humble or disliked of its members – before we can say such a community is – itself—worth saving. I spoke of the need for a broader dissemination of our message to all of our colleagues in health care and in health-related social service. That led to a discussion of public education as well. I alluded to the difficulty in AIDS education as an example of how tough it could be. Just as we have to be very careful that AIDS does not poison the way Americans have always responded to illness and disease, we have the same concern

about the generous, compassionate response – one that has never been mean spirited, pinch penny, or hate ridden – to interpersonal violence.

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All ages vulnerable  
Battering of pregnant women  
Betrayal of American tradition  
Betrayal of personal compassion & fair play  
Betrayal of professional ethics  
Child victims of sexual abuse  
Civil rights trauma of the 60s & 70s  
Comparisons of AIDS education to violence education  
Cost of domestic violence  
800 number hot lines  
Frequency of interpersonal violence  
Homicide against homosexuals  
Homophobic violence  
Institutional barriers to good care  
Interpersonal violence in homes, schools, & streets  
“Law/Health Initiatives”  
Living without fear  
Local women shelters  
March of Dimes videotape  
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Need for color blindness in AIDS  
Perpetrators of violence  
Pittsburgh Women’s Center Manual on Treatment  
Prevention of violence in homes & communities  
Public education  
Public Service Announcement on Spouse Abuse & Woman Battering  
Response to AIDS victims  
Response to illness & disease  
Response to interpersonal violence  
Series of regional conferences  
Services to victims & their families  
Spousal abuse  
State coalitions  
Statistics on battering  
Teaching of violence in medical schools  
Technical Bulletin of ACOG  
Videotape: “Crime Against the Future”  
Violence & emergency medicine  
Violence & long-term physical & mental health care  
Violence & people in medicine & public health  
Violence & the police & the courts

Women battering

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American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists  
Detroit, Miami, Los Angeles

Karil Klingbeil

Dorothy H. Mann, Assistant Surgeon General  
Surgeon General's Workshop at Leesburg