

## **January 20, 2014**

### **Spectacular Failure at the Helm**

These agencies, as I said in the last posting, are infested with people so politically driven, they've lost sight of Human Decency. Their goals are to gain power, connect to those in power, and to keep as much of that power for themselves as is possible for as long as possible.

That is achieved through the practice of covering the backs of the powerful. Silencing reports that would disrupt the 'power grid' of the political elite, is key to being recognized as a 'team player' by those who are above.

These agencies control budgets in the tens of billions of dollars per year. That is a lot of money. That is a lot of power.

The greatest threat to those in power would be anyone that would dare to do their job. In the kingdom of the corrupt, those who possess integrity are to be feared, dismissed, ridiculed and silenced.

And so they have tried. Oh how they have tried to silence those who raise their voices and produce reports that would, if there were sanity or decency in the Kingdom, result in laws being followed, children being rescued.

But those who run their little corners of the Kingdom of the Corrupt know that if one part falls down, they will all fall down. They must stay united against those bringers of reports who demand the laws be followed.

They have tried everything to rid themselves of Thomas Sullivan, or to silence him. They have lied about him, ridiculed him and those who have been sources for him. They have smeared and they have ignored. They have even, under the direction of the Ice Queen herself, Marianne McMullen, via her underling, George Sheldon (Now running for Florida Attorney General), forbidden him from using official stationery to issue his reports, denied him travel to conferences imperative to the reports he has already made, not allowed him to speak to any congressman or senator that would seek to investigate any of those reports...

But they have not been able to make him go away. Throughout these past two years, and with dead children piling up like firewood, rape victims being dismissed, neither Mr. Sullivan nor those who have been sources for him or inquiring of him for help to make the carnage stop, can quit.

He knows that we have laws and that those laws have been steadfastly ignored, trampled on, and dismissed, by those whose charge it is by the offices they hold, to enforce those very laws or demand they be enforced, but he also knows that going silent, letting those who protect evil win, would require the utter and absolute destruction of everything he stands for and what he believes in.

Mr. Sullivan is not prepared to surrender. He is not prepared to sell his soul for political peace or power.

Those who have, long ago sold that precious part of themselves, are now confronted with a growing stack of facts, and increasing public interest in exactly what is going on and what has been going on.

It's not looking good for those who rule the Kingdom of Corruption. As a collective, they were once all powerful. The General Public neither knew their names, what they did, nor did they care about it. Behind that wall of anonymity, they thought they were safe forever. They could do what they wanted. They moved in circles above the rest of us, and they forgot that all it would take would be one scandal to shine a light on all of them.

Now, there are repeated scandals, and still they remain, unwilling to either do their jobs, or to route out the more corrupt within their own ranks.

They stick together, the ACF, BIA, FBI, DOJ, HHS, in what used to be an invincible wall, polished by mythology of infallibility, but which has been revealed lately, to be more a pile of manure that has been stacked and arranged to appear to be departments, agencies and credibility.

Children are dead, horrifically murdered, abused, neglected, raped, mutilated because those people, at the heads of those agencies chose to provide political cover for one another rather than to do their jobs. It's starting to show.

Media barely covers it. There are stories of abuse, neglect, murder and suicide that never get to the News in TV or Print. But when the stories start to seep out through those walls of apathy, lies and ridicule... when the stories begin to emerge, they begin to merge with the stories that preceded them, and the warnings of more to come as related in those 13 Mandated Reports (still being ignored by McMullen, Purdon, and the rest of them)... and it is becoming that ignored leak in the basement that is now flooding into the day room, and causing embarrassment to The Ice Queen, whose blithe dismissals of urgent reports, show her to be a most despicable Human Being, at best.

But remember: She became that because she was surrounded by that as she climbed the political ladders of success. She saw what it took to gain favor with the most powerful people in our government, and she was willing to sell her soul to gain that. If she were the only one, the only incompetent or the only corrupt, it would be easy to rid ourselves of her and install someone with integrity and character, competence and compassion. She feels safe in what she has become because all around her, soulless, vapid, power driven individuals have seized and are clinging to power.

They all cling to one another, now, nails digging into arms, angry and afraid because they are by clinging together, protecting one another, covering up for each other, exposing the chain of corruption and abuses of power that not only endanger the children, but all of us, now and in the future, in ways that are slowly, surely, being revealed to all of us as this scandal continues to ferment.

Take notice on who all Marianne McMullen cc's in her emails. They will become more important later on as we continue paring down the lies and obstruction.

I will show you the original email that she was responding to a little further down the post. I want you to be able to grasp the entirety of her disdain for these children & the urgency of their situation.

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-----Original Message-----

From: McMullen, Marianne (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 1:25 PM

To: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF); Greenberg, Mark (ACF)

Cc: Murray, James (ACF); McCauley, Mike (ACF); Chang, Joo Yeun (ACF)

Subject: RE: Spirit Lake

*Hi Tom:*

*Apologies for not getting back to your previous email; it was an oversight on my part.*

*As I've communicated before, though, the Children's Bureau is leading this effort for ACF and is actively managing work with both the Tribal leadership and Tribal social services. CB is also working with the state of North Dakota and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to address child protective issues at Spirit Lake. I'm sure the CB staff in your own office can give you updates about these ongoing efforts.*

*As I think you know, an assessment is underway that will help provide a roadmap for policies, practices, procedures and staffing levels that the Tribe needs to establish successful child protection services.*

*As always, specific knowledge of incidents of abuse should be reported using the appropriate hotline.*

*Marianne*

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Notice how blithely she dismisses the entirety of all Thomas Sullivan's reports, as head of the very agency that is charged with ensuring the safety of children in care, she tells him to "report... using the appropriate hotline". Notice also how she frames how unimportant these detailed emails that Sullivan sends, with urgency and danger carefully detailed in each bulleted or numbered point he makes.... She frames all this as so forgettable it was reduced to an 'oversight'. You know, like forgetting to move your coffee stirrer to the trash, or forgetting to water your potted plant before you go on vacation...

Yes, by all means... dial 911? He reports to her, and other responsible agencies, repeatedly that these children are at high risk, in urgent need of rescue and that the BIA, and other associated agencies and organizations have done nothing to protect these children, and have instead, smeared, libeled, ridiculed and even interfered with the mandated reporters, while protecting outright, the most dangerous pedophiles and abusers in whose hands these children are repeatedly placed, while reports against them are dismissed, sometimes within hours, with no investigation whatsoever.

Remember: Baby Laurynn was one of those children placed in a hostile, dangerous home, with a known severely abusive woman, and the reports which included Laurynn and her twin sister, were summarily dismissed by Marrienne McMullen, George Sheldon, Timothy Purdon, the Director of the BIA, the (then) Director of Tribal Social Services, and that child was horrifically murdered, her tiny body thrown down a ravine, into the mud, stomped & kicked repeatedly until she was dead. Not yet three-years old, her then lifeless body was washed and dressed for bed and her death was originally attempted to be passed off as SIDS.

When all the agencies that Ms. McMullen supposedly is in contact with fail on such a grand scale resulting the murder of a helpless child, one would think that Ms. McMullen would begin to actually take notice and perhaps, do something other than all within her power to obstruct and silence the only person in her entire department that has even attempted to do the job of protecting children.

Ms. McMullen's concerns lie elsewhere. Clearly, more for the political connections and less, nay, not at all, for the safety of children. To her, Mandated Reports are a nuisance. Dead children? Oh well. And, as you will see, it's an attitude that runs throughout ACF and the agencies that are supposed to protect children, but which are so infested with political cronyism, they no longer function, and have lost sight of their mission, or even Human Dignity and Decency.

Abused children who are murdered, or suicide are easily replaced with more abused children, thanks to the spectacularly failing system, run by the most incompetent, the most uncaring, the most corrupt collection of political allies ever assembled.

Notice also that she shovels the totality of her responsibility over to Marilyn Kennerson of the Children's Bureau, who has supposedly been working on this for the past year or so--- without contacting Mr. Sullivan even once?

*NOTE: It occurs to me that Ms. Kennerson is not very bright. She would be an easy fall guy for McMullen when this all blows up. McMullen can claim that she was assured by Kennerson that all was being attended to and she had no clue that Kennerson was so incompetent... this would completely wash McMullen of any culpability. It also paints Kennerson as the key person responsible for Baby Laurynn's horrific murder. Had Kennerson been doing her job... you see? Very clever. But I would expect nothing less from a political power climber. Kennerson is "expendable" in the greater scheme of things. Or is she?*

Mr. Sullivan responded:

On 1/17/14 1:33 PM, "Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)"  
<[thomas.sullivan@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:thomas.sullivan@acf.hhs.gov)>  
wrote:

*Ms. McMullen:*

*Thank you for your email response.*

*It is clear from your response that nothing has been done by any federal or state agency or Tribal entity to protect that young suicidal boy who I referenced in my September 23, 2013 email to you. The cynicism of your statement in that email that, "Marilyn Kennerson with the Children's Bureau is working with the BIA to assure this child's safety." is unparalleled.*

*What steps did you take "...to assure this child's safety"?*

*Did you speak to anyone in the Children's Bureau about my September 23, 2013 email? Did you speak with Marilyn Kennerson about that email? Did you speak with anyone at BIA about that email? Or did you do nothing?*

*As a result of your email response I wrote Ms. Kennerson and requested a briefing on what the Children's Bureau was doing at Spirit Lake and what the Children's Bureau had accomplished at Spirit Lake. That briefing took place yesterday in my conference room. The major points communicated during that briefing session were:*

- 1. Ms. Kennerson has been to Spirit Lake in multiple meetings during the last several months with the Tribal Chair and Council, the TSS Director, Benson*

*County Human Services staff, and others.*

*2. Ms. Kennerson asked for the name of the young suicidal boy referenced in my September 23, 2013 email to you. It is difficult for me to understand how Ms. Kennerson had an assignment in September, 2013 "...to assure this child's safety" and never asked me for his name previously. I am assuming that someone notified Ms. Kennerson of that assignment before the end of September, 2013.*

*3. After Ms. Kennerson asked for the name of that young suicidal boy, I understood that it was unlikely she had the names of the individual children cited in my January 15, 2014 email to you even though according to your email she would be responsible for working with the state and BIA to "...address child protective issues at Spirit Lake." For that reason I provided those names to her as well.*

*4. It was clear Ms. Kennerson has heard all the unbalanced negative characterizations from the current TSS Director about a long term Foster Mom whose license he has refused to renew. I pointed out some of the reasons for his actions focusing on the fact that this Foster Mom has been a source for me and has been an iron-willed defender of the kids in her care. It was apparent that Ms. Kennerson had heard nothing of this side of the story. I told her that I believed what the TSS Director was doing was criminal interference with a mandated reporter fulfilling her responsibilities and that eventually effective law and order would return to that Reservation and these kind of issues would be revisited.*

*5. Ms. Kennerson spoke of the current activities being conducted under the auspices of the Children's Bureau including recruitment, training and the development of policies and procedures.*

*6. Ms. Kennerson said recruitment was difficult because of the bad reputation that Spirit Lake had. I said it was a well-deserved bad reputation, that the problems had been persisting, unaddressed, for more than 15 - 20 years, that the corruption and ineptitude of the current TSS leadership had lead to many good foster homes and parents withdrawing from the Tribal program. A few years ago there were 11 licensed foster homes on that Reservation. Today there are 3.*

*7. Ms. Kennerson spoke of the Assessment which was being conducted by the National Resource Center for Tribes and Casey. She said she thought the assessment was approximately 60% complete. Her body language, however, suggested to me that there has been much less progress than that.*

*8. Ms. Kennerson asked if the people who I have been speaking with on the*

*Reservation would be willing to speak with her. I told her I would ask.*

*I also told her that she was entering onto some treacherous ground, that for more than seven years my sources have been ignored, ridiculed, libeled and slandered by some federal, state and tribal leaders and that they were angry at the unwillingness of those same leaders to rescue Spirit Lake children from addicts, abusers and rapists. I also told her that if they got a sense that you were treating them in the same way they would immediately terminate that meeting.*

*9. When I asked one of my sources, Ms. Betty Jo Krenz, if she would be willing to speak with Ms. Kennerson, she immediately replied, "Yes." Ms. Krenz went on to say, "I wish she had agreed to speak with me back on February 27, 2013 when I approached her in person at a meeting in the casino in Ft. Totten. She had no time for me then." She also said, I have sent her a few emails with my name, email address and telephone number but she has ignored them all. I have received no response to them." (emphasis mine)*

(NOTE: You can see how suddenly, it appears as if Kennerson is either trying to save her own hide, or has caught on to being set up to take the fall. It is clear she recognizes that McMullen never considered her part of the team, but rather, only convenient to 'take one for the team'. )

(Mr. Sullivan continues...)

*10. In essence, there seemed to be much activity about Spirit Lake, lots of meetings and talk, but very little actual accomplishment.*

*The record concerning Spirit Lake is quite consistent. My sources and I have been libeled and slandered, called liars and, I suspect, worse. We have been reassured that all of the problems are being handled, much the way you responded to my September 23, 2013 and January 15, 2014 emails.*

*In reality, little if anything has been done to assure the safety of the children at Spirit Lake. There is every indication their safety is at even higher risk today than when I filed my first Report more than 18 months ago.*

*Some, I understand, have asked for a plan to correct the situation for those 100+ children cited in my Reports. Here is a simple plan: Step One: Start by knocking on the door of a single house where a child or children are known to be placed in the care of an addict, abuser or rapist.*

*Evaluate those children, determine whether they are being cared for*

*appropriately. If they are not and the failure to care is consistent with the removal standards of the Tribe's Children's Code, remove them to a safe, loving home on or off the Reservation. Step Two: Repeat Step One and so on, and so on until the placements of all 100+ children have been visited. Once the placements of these 100+ children have been reviewed and there is some assurance they are now in safe placements, the next step should be to deal with the multitude of kids who have been placed in good home but who are unable to get any documentation of their status as well as to begin tracking down those children who have disappeared from the Reservation.*

*Thomas F. Sullivan  
Regional Administrator, ACF, Denver*

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Now, when you read the next section, which is an abbreviated version of the original email sent to Ms. McMullen. The previous (missing) paragraphs both too graphic and too revealing as to the identity of the children involved)

Part of the January 15th email to Marrienne McMullen:

From: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)  
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:18 PM  
To: McMullen, Marrienne (ACF); Greenberg, Mark (ACF)  
Cc: Murray, James (ACF); McCauley, Mike (ACF); Chang, Joo Yeun (ACF)  
Subject: Spirit Lake

Ms. McMullen:

- 1. Almost four months ago I sent you the attached email out of concern for this young boy who had run away from an abusive foster home.....*

(Note: The rest is too graphic, too identifiable. But did you catch that he had informed her more than 4 months prior? Yes, it was so unimportant as to be relegated to the bin of casual 'oversights'.) (Mr. Sullivan continues...)

*5. The four prior numbered paragraphs have provided brief descriptions of the unspeakable physical and/or sexual abuse being endured by American Indian children placed in the homes of addicts, dealers and abusers at Spirit Lake by individuals and organizations who seem totally unaware of, or unconcerned for the long-term implications of such treatment of children.*

*It has been well established for more than 10 years that children who are*

*physically or sexually abused are more likely to attempt suicide as they grow older. In her research published in 2003 Widom reported that abused and neglected children were almost 2 and 1½ times more likely to attempt suicide than children who were not abused or neglected.*

*These research results were confirmed two years later by Dube and Anda, writing in the June, 2005 issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine who found "a history of suicide attempts was more than twice as likely among both men and women who experienced child sexual abuse."*

*A few years ago when he was Acting Director of Behavioral Health at the Rosebud IHS Hospital in Rosebud SD, Dr. Daniel Foster, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe in Browning, MT, in an email to me, wrote, "It is unusual for me to work with a man or woman, boy or girl who has not had their trust sexually betrayed by a person they ought to have been able to trust. It is a big elephant in our front room and a factor in some of the hopelessness/rage many of our young express in their choice of hanging as a problem solver."*

*Just before this past Christmas I received a flurry of communications notifying me that there had been three suicide completions (all by hanging) by high school boys from the Standing Rock Reservation in the prior thirty days. Two of the boys, one 15 years of age and the other 17, attended McLaughlin High School in McLaughlin, SD on the South Dakota side of the Reservation. The enrollment of this high school is just under 130. The last completion, on December 20, 2013, was by a 17 year old who attended the Community Grant High School in Fort Yates, ND on the North Dakota side of the reservation. The enrollment of this high school is a bit above 170. All three of these boys were originally from Cannon Ball, ND.*

*It is too late for any intervention that might help those three boys from Standing Rock who chose "...hanging as a problem solver".*

*Those Spirit Lake children described in paragraphs # 1 – 4 of this email daily confront life with much abuse and little hope. These are indisputable facts.*

*How much longer can those children absorb that abuse all alone with no assistance from the adults who know exactly what they are enduring and do nothing to rescue them?*

*I believe none of us want children dead by their own hands. But that is exactly what we will get, if Tribal, state and federal leadership continues to do nothing, persisting in their claims that "everything is fine, there are no problems".*

Thomas F. Sullivan

Regional Administrator, ACF, Denver

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To which McMullen replied:

-----Original Message-----

From: McMullen, Marianne (ACF)

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2014 12:43 PM

To: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF); Greenberg, Mark (ACF)

Cc: Murray, James (ACF); McCauley, Mike (ACF); Chang, Joo Yeun (ACF);

Kennerson, Marilyn (ACF)

Subject: RE: Spirit Lake

*You are well aware that ACF is not an entity that does direct casework or direct, individual investigations on reported cases of abuse. We support organizations that do that.*

*As I've mentioned before, it is highly unfortunate that the way you have chosen to engage with key parties in this situation has damaged some of the most critical relationship needed for achieving progress for the children and families of Spirit Lake. We are in the process of rebuilding those relationships so that we can move forward in a productive way with the bodies that are charged with doing the work that you describe in your email.*

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Get that? How 'dare' Sullivan point out to McMullen the sound case studies and research that also prove that children being raped is a problem?

McMullen does not see the children as her priority, but rather the supporting of the very agencies that are clearly, through the 13 Mandated Reports, so corrupt as to make these children's lives a living hell and leads very likely to their suicide or murder. She has reports on her desk that define clearly how these agencies she feels she must at all costs, including the lives of Baby Laurynn and others like her, support those same corrupt or at best, fatally incompetent agencies and organizations.

It is "unfortunate" that Sullivan has persisted in making reports? Really? What does that sound like to you all? In what way is Mr. Sullivan doing his job as the law requires, "unfortunate" and for whom?

**Recently**

I guess she has dropped the auto responder of Ms Kennerson of the Children's Bureau being solely in charge of all this and taking all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of children whose names she never bothered to convey to her, nor did Ms. Kennerson bother to ask until recently...

And it is nice to know that Kennerson, once bent on ignoring all communication entreaties from Betty Jo Krenz is now hopeful that Mrs. Krenz will speak with her...

Well, someone somewhere decided to do their job on Sunday. One child was removed from the home of a convicted serial rapist, child abuser. A child that had been placed with him by Tribal Social Services. How many years that child had to endure the sexual abuse I do not know.

I do know that she was pulled out of that house on Sunday and the rapist is angry. He still has other children for his convenience, but that one was removed.

I can no longer say "not a single child has been rescued." One, out of more than 100 known, has been rescued. This could have been done long ago. She never should have been placed in his home. Nor should the other children who currently live with him.

After all this time, and having no confidence in the laws and the system that were supposed to protect her to begin with, do you think she's going to trust that she won't be thrown back into that hell hole? It's going to take a lot of time, therapy and support before she can grow to trust law enforcement or the system that has so spectacularly failed her up to this day... but it's a start.

Somebody took Step One.

One down and a little over 100 to go... in this one reservation...  
\*Fade to flute, drums, singing... and a wide vista of Indian Country children waiting their turn to be safe. \*

"It's unfortunate..."  
For whom, Ms. McMullen?

You know where to find me.

~Cat