

**March 10, 2014**  
**For the Past Seven Years...**

Thomas Sullivan has been battling the apathy and incompetence at the ACF for well over 7 years now, with regards to the crisis of child abuse, child suicides in Indian Country.

I am including a thread of emails in this posting that will point out that the stall and delay tactics have been going on in the same way, same manner, the entire time.

For those who thought that this was a recent revelation about the child rapes, and the suicides in Indian Country and were specific to Spirit Lake Nation, the evidence is clear that the ACF has been key to thwarting any investigations, for at least 7 years.

You can tell by the tone of the responses he receives that the supervisors and administrators he has had to deal with, this entire time, subscribe to the same playbook: "Do Nothing, Act Indignant When Lack of Response is Questioned."

Meanwhile, how many more children have been raped, suicided, become addicted, or grown into violent adults themselves, while the agency plays the same slow dance tune, over and over again?

It is worthwhile to note here that the Tribal Social Services has given up all pretense of even trying to assist any of the children in danger or rectifying the wrongs committed by previous Directors.

When O'Keefe quit his position, there was no one qualified to take his place. Instead of the BIA sending in their 'Strike Farce' again, which did nothing to improve anything last time, and in fact made it worse, the Tribal Council just picked a name out of the hat of yet another unqualified person to head that department.

Melissa Brady, nee Merrick, who incompetently runs Victims' Assistance, and helps herself to the funds intended for clients, was also appointed to run Tribal Social Services. I guess both are considered 'not full time concerns' by the tribe.

Melissa, bless her greedy lying heart, issued a Twitter want ad in her Twitter Timeline saying:



**Melissa Brady** @anpowakanwin

[spirittlakenation.com](http://spirittlakenation.com) In need of 2 licensed social workers. Please share.

[#lovelycommunity](#) [#childrenaresacred](#)

[View details](#)

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So, there you have it. She 'loves' her community and 'children are sacred'.

So, if there are two social workers out there that can't get a job anywhere else, and who understand that if they file a Mandated Report about Child Rape, they will be fired, please, by all means, put in your application!

Until there is Justice, and those who have committed crimes are held accountable, all the money being poured into the programs on the reservation, are going into the toilet.

Nothing is fixed, nothing can be fixed, until there is Justice. Justice is the foundation for ALL communities. Imagine what your community would be like if the criminals ran it, and if those who reported the crimes were harassed, threatened and intimidated by the authorities and the agencies.

Indian Country deserves better. The children deserve better. WE deserve better.

Melissa Brady has no qualifications and her track record of self promotion and extreme exaggerations of 'being attacked by Congressman Cramer' makes me doubt how truthful her accounts of being a victim of abuse as a child, really are. When someone lies to the point she does, to claim victimhood where none existed, it makes me wonder if any of her stories are true or if she exaggerated them as well, or if she merely took the tragic stories of others to claim as her own, in the same way she uses funds intended for victims, to serve herself.

Sure, go ahead all you qualified Social Workers. Step into that snake pit. "Children are sacred"... they just aren't worth rescuing? The crimes against them not worth charging?

Now, read through the correspondence between Thomas Sullivan and his superiors from 2007:

## **2007**

November 9, 2007

From: Thomas Sullivan  
To: Daniel Schneider

From: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)  
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2007 2:23 PM  
To: Schneider, Daniel (ACF)  
Cc: Wilkins, Channell (ACF)  
Subject: Recommended Strategy for ACF's Native Youth Task Force

Dan:

Attached is the paper I promised some time ago. As I met and spoke with Child Welfare and Domestic Violence leaders from the Tribes in this Region, the task of

preparing this became much more complex. I asked many of those I met with to review this to make sure I did not misstate their concerns. Most have responded that this is an accurate depiction of what they said and what is occurring in Indian Country today.

In the last week two young men, each 18 years old, committed suicide on the Rosebud Reservation in SD and a middle-aged woman was murdered at a Meth party on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in ND. Yesterday a young man from the Spirit Lake Reservation in ND jumped off a bridge in Mandan, ND into the path of a passing automobile. Today the newspapers in Montana are filled with stories about the high level of alcohol consumption by the young people in that state. This follows reports about the heavy use of Meth on the seven reservations in that state.

I call your special attention to the following website:  
<http://www.walkingsky.com/restless/thistles.html>. This website has been posted for many years by an anonymous blogger who despises the leadership of the Spirit Lake Reservation for what he/she believes is their role in the murder of Eddie Peltier in 1983. The link listed should take you to two pages of pictures of young people from that Reservation (the Child Welfare Director for that Tribe confirmed to me that those pictures are of kids from his Reservation) drinking beer and hard liquor and doing drugs. With a few exceptions all seem under the legal age of 21. This is a well-known site in Indian Country and, I understand, in local law enforcement. Thus far, there has been no attempt to shut down this clearly illegal behavior.  
*(NOTE: I have always put my name on this site. Why people assumed I was 'anonymous' is beyond me.)*

I am copying Channell on this email as well.  
If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thomas F. Sullivan

Regional Administrator, Denver

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December 10, 2007

Thomas Sullivan to Dan Schneider:

From: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)  
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2007 1:24 PM  
To: Schneider, Daniel (ACF)  
Cc: Wilkins, Channell (ACF)  
Subject: FW: Recommended Strategy for ACF's Native Youth Task Force

Dan:

A month ago I sent the attached email and paper to you and Channell as a recommended strategy for ACF to follow in addressing the twin epidemics of child sexual abuse and suicide in Indian Country.

The silence from you both has been deafening. Neither of you have had any questions. There have been no requests for clarification. There has been no attempt to contact me.

It is not clear to me what your silence means. But it certainly does not suggest a commitment to move quickly to stop the damage being done to so many Native children and youth. However, the damage being done is not restricted to Native children and youth. Let me spell out for you a few examples (in addition to those specified in my attached paper to you both) of the potential for harm due to governmental inaction.

1. When child sexual abusers are not prosecuted they cannot be required to register as sexual predators. Therefore when they apply to adopt a child, to become a foster parent or for employment in an off-reservation school, Head Start Center or day care program, for all of which they are required to submit to and pass background checks, they will receive a clean bill of health. They will be allowed access to more innocent children to abuse. From this it should be clear that our government's silence and inaction exposes not just children in Indian Country to increased risk of sexual abuse but also it exposes children from every community in this nation to an increased risk of child sexual abuse.

2. Those first line Child Welfare, Domestic Violence and Mental Health staff who spoke with me and whose stories I reported in the paper I submitted to you continue to be subjected to enormous pressure to maintain the silence which protects the predators. Here are a few examples of this pressure: a.) The Mental Health staffer who had the tires on their car slashed several times, whose dogs were killed by unknown parties on several different occasions and who finally moved off that reservation out of concern about how their children would be treated when they went to school; b.) The Child Welfare Director who had the tires on their car slashed several times, who keeps a large dog and lives with loaded firearms placed in key locations around their home for easy access from any location in the home; c.) The Child Welfare Director who spoke of the annual contract under which the director works and which can be revoked at any time without cause; d.) The former Child Welfare Director who visited the Emergency Room at least once a month for anxiety attacks while they held that position.

How long these front-line staff with responsibility for implementing federal Child Welfare statutes, regulations and policies will be able to tolerate this abusive environment without any additional federal support is open to question. Clearly, if they decide they can no longer tolerate the threats to their well-being, leaving their positions because they can no longer tolerate the risks to which they are exposed, the welfare of children in Indian Country as well as throughout this nation will suffer.

I find it hard to believe that either of you endorse such outcomes but you both need to understand that your silence and inaction will inevitably result in these outcomes.

Do you recall, what I considered to be a somewhat cynical reference to the movie, Hotel Rwanda, made by one CW Director who spoke frankly of her belief that nothing would be done? In applying the dialogue from that movie to the Native Youth Task Force the CW Director said, "They consider us dirt. They will not come". Inaction and silence reinforces that perception.

Thomas F. Sullivan

Regional Administrator, Denver

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December 10, 2007  
Channel Wilkins to Thomas Sullivan

From: Wilkins, Channell (ACF)  
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2007 1:45 PM  
To: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF); Schneider, Daniel (ACF)  
Subject: RE: Recommended Strategy for ACF's Native Youth Task Force

Tom,

The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution. <<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/32858.html>>

<<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/32858.html>> <<http://www.quotationspage.com/myquotations.php?add=32858>> <<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/32858.html#email>> Bertrand Russell

I offer the quote so that you might consider ways to approach your participation as an opportunity for solutions rather than as an antagonist whose form of expressing passion for the issues may be more of a deterrent for your participation than a voice of advocacy for those you wish to help.

As for clarification on your report I don't feel I need any at this time. You reiterated a vast majority of the information we had already discussed or information that had been also discussed with NICWA, NCAI, Native American Boys and Girls Clubs, Urban Indians Association, Indian Health care, et al and the ACF liaisons from each Division. We recognize that these problems are rooted in a long and unjust history, one we will not solve overnight or by playing the blame game. It would have been just as appropriate while the Task Force is making these contacts and having meetings for you to contact us to see if we had questions. If you are truly interested in results reach out rather than grandstand. There is no moral authority for those who only seek to be heard and not actively engage in the solutions.

While I am very pleased that the Task Force is received with some hope, there was an abundance of issues in your report that indicated Tribal Leadership as a major factor in the continuation of the problem. Sovereignty is at the crux of many of the possible solutions to this problem. Few solutions imposed from outside have ever been effective in Indian communities and many of your examples are related to interventionist policies that did not honor sovereignty. We must have buy-in from the very Tribal Leaders you mention. Part of our mission is to engage them in these solutions not to castigate them and further diminish our nation to nation relationships. Below is just some of the context we must consider in addressing these issues. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sovereignty and historical context we must consider:

The United States defined Indian Nations as "sovereign" in the U.S. Constitution, meaning they had the ability to govern themselves.

The abuse and neglect of American Indian/Alaska Native children must be viewed in the context of the history of abuse and neglect of all children in the United States, as well as in the context of the changing relationship of sovereign American Indian/Alaska Native nations to the United States government. The Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934 ended the practice of allotment and authorized the federal government to return surplus lands to the tribes. It also authorized tribes to adopt constitutions and governments that followed the U.S. pattern of divided executive, legislative, and judicial branches and allowed for election of leaders. Apart from taking direct action regarding tribal structure and governance, in 1878 the federal government also continued steps to acculturate Indian children by establishing off-reservation boarding schools. Indian children were often forced to attend these schools, where they were punished for practicing their traditional beliefs and customs. Later, in 1958, Indian children were also forcibly removed from their homes and placed for adoption with non-Indian families through the Indian Adoption Project. During the 1950s, the desire to fully assimilate tribes resulted in three additional policies or activities, including: 1) the Termination Act of 1953, which severed tribal ties to the federal government, converted tribal lands to private

ownership, and subjected tribal members to state laws; 2) the relocation efforts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which offered grants to Indians who would seek work in metropolitan centers; and 3) Public Law 83-280, which granted states civil and criminal jurisdiction over all American Indian/Alaska Native people residing there. From the 1960s on, Congress, while recognizing its role in safeguarding the welfare of American Indian/Alaska Native people, has primarily supported the self-determination and viability of tribes. Three major policies—the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978—are reflective of this support. These policies allowed tribes to reassert jurisdiction and take more control over tribal interests, including tribal children. Several laws that were passed from 1980 to 1997, such as the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act and the Adoption and Safe Families Act, both positively and negatively affect the field of Indian child welfare on a daily basis. The modern era, however, has seen a return of Indian sovereignty benefiting tribal child welfare programs and services.

Because of the direct federal government to tribal government relationship, historically, tribal-state interaction has been limited. The direct tribal relationship with the federal government led to the sense that there was little role for state governments in tribal affairs. Although states have no authority to pass laws that interfere with the federal-tribal relationship, the development of tribal-state relationships is critical to providing appropriate services to Indian children and families. The main federal Indian policies that have affected tribal-state relationships include the Dawes General Allotment Act, Public Law 83-280, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and tribal self-governance initiatives.

Beyond federal Indian policy, general federal child welfare policy also affects tribal-state relationships in the area of Indian child welfare. The federal government did not recognize state and local government responsibility for child welfare until 1935, when Title IV-B was included in the Social Security Act. Additionally, it was not until the passage of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of 1974 that the federal government enacted legislation that had a significant impact on child welfare services and child protection (National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, 2003). Several other federal child welfare policies followed CAPTA, including the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978, the Prevention, Adoption, and Family Services Act of 1988, the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (ICPFVPA) of 1990, and the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997.

Despite their sovereign authority tribal governments have not always had the opportunity to be involved in protecting their children. The complexity of the relationships between tribes, states, and the federal government has contributed to confusion by policymakers and bureaucracies about who is responsible for what services.

Child protection systems in Indian Country are diverse and fragmented into a complex array of service delivery models that leave some children unprotected, some families without the protections of due process, and many agencies in doubt of who is responsible for what activities. While a few tribes have made progress in the child protection arena, major issues remain, including the following:

1. A lack of effective reporting of child abuse and neglect
2. A lack of coordination between agencies pursuing investigations
3. A lack of resources to conduct proper investigations
4. Varying definitions of child abuse and neglect
5. A lack of training and technical assistance for tribal child protection personnel
6. Confusion over jurisdictional matters
7. Confusion over what entities should be involved in investigations

All of these items complicate the task of child protection and must be addressed before appropriate efforts to reduce child abuse and neglect can be fully implemented. Sovereignty recognizes that unique tribal histories and social institutions are sources of strength that can guide the process of knowledge building. Hence, sovereignty assumes that cultural institutions, value orientations, and traditional knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs are sources of strength; they are repositories from which social work professionals can organize theoretical concepts around human development and implement methodologies of intervention.

Some Promising Practices:

In order to address the above-listed complications, many federal jurisdictions are establishing Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) that define the roles of the U.S. attorneys, state child protective services, tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, and other federal, state, and tribal agencies involved in child sexual abuse in Indian Country. These MOAs have helped to eliminate the hesitation from some law enforcement agencies when there are questions of who has jurisdiction and where to take an Indian child when disclosure occurs.

The Starting Early Starting Smart (SESS) program was aimed at helping grantees design and provide integrated behavioral health services to children and their families. Using service integration principles as a guide, the Tulalip Tribes, with the help of the SESS program, transformed their program into "beda?chelh-a culturally specific, child-focused, family-centered, and strengths-based program. Through "beda?chelh," staff worked creatively to design integrated services promoting family and cultural preservation, health, and resiliency in the community's children and families. This program achieved this goal by 1) promoting recovery from substance abuse and mental health problems in parents, 2) strengthening individual child skills in the social, emotional, and cognitive domains, and 3) strengthening the bonds between children, their families, and their communities. The Tulalip SESS project was successful because it utilized traditional storytelling, play therapy, and



integrated behavioral health services for family members such as substance abuse or domestic violence treatment to meet the needs of each family.

We are also looking at promising practices among Native American Boys and Girls clubs which are currently in over 200 locations on Native land.

Channell Wilkins

Chairperson

Native American Children and Youth Task Force

Administration for Children and Families

Aerospace Building

Washington DC 20024

(202) 401 4728

People seem not to see that their opinion of the world is also a confession of their character. <<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/28935.html>>

<<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/28935.html>>

<<http://www.quotationspage.com/myquotations.php?add=28935>>

<<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/28935.html#email>> Ralph Waldo Emerson

*NOTE: Channell likes to throw around quotes that do not apply to the situation. Although using famous quotes is often a sign of pseudo-intellectualism, in this case, it seems to me it is a sign of blithering indifference.*

*Particularly his last quote, which appears to be in response to Sullivan's quote from a Child Welfare Worker who was pessimistic about the government's willingness to assist:*

*"CW Director who spoke frankly of her belief that nothing would be done? In applying the dialogue from that movie to the Native Youth Task Force the CW Director said, "They consider us dirt. They will not come". Inaction and silence reinforces that perception. "*

Channell's response: "People seem not to see that their opinion of the world is also a confession of their character", seems to lay blame for the 'perception' not on the facts at hand, not at the historical facts of non assistance, but rather on the person who dares to speak of it, as if it is their fault they 'perceive' the non-assistance,

rather than it is a fact that they are stating, based on a history of foundation of non-responsiveness.

I often wonder why people take these high positions when they have either no skill set to deal with the issues of crisis, or they have no concern for how their blasé approach harms those who are in crisis and creates multi-generational damage to the people and the culture as well as to the communities they interact with.

Then of course, I remembered: These are paychecks to them, and political points. No one is graded on how well they do their job or how much they improve the situation. No one is penalized for creating or ignoring crisis. In fact, they are politically rewarded for their lack of concern, to the extreme.

This is what has to change. This is what has been going on for generations, decades and as you can see, Mr. Sullivan has been trying to get this addressed through all the proper channels for over 7 years now.

We now resume the antique correspondence threads:

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From: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)  
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 3:01 PM  
To: Wilkins, Channell (ACF); Schneider, Daniel (ACF)  
Cc: Nunez, Joe (HHS/OS); Denham, Paul (HHS/OS)  
Subject: Recommended Strategy for ACF's Native Youth Task Force

Channell:

I am deeply puzzled by your December 10, 2007 email. You seem more intent on silencing me than in engaging in a dialogue to determine what would be the best way to address and respond to the twin epidemics of child sexual abuse and child suicide raging in Indian Country today. Your hostility is palpable. Clearly, I must have said or written something that upset you. I don't know what it is but I do apologize.

You should understand that my paper submitted on November 9, 2007 as well as my December 10, 2007 email were based almost entirely on stories and information provided by Child Welfare, Domestic Violence and Mental Health leaders from more than two thirds of the Tribes in this Region. I asked them to review that paper before I submitted it to Dan and you. Of those who responded, all said that I had accurately stated their concerns and that they were pleased with my efforts at recording their concerns. If something in that paper is the basis for your anger with me, would you like me to set up a meeting with these Region 8 Tribal Leaders so that you can communicate your displeasure with them directly to them?

You state that I have reiterated a "vast majority of the information we had already discussed or information that had been also discussed with NICWA, NCAI, Native American Boys and Girls Clubs, Urban Indians Association, Indian Health care and the ACF liaisons from each division." Since I have had only one brief discussion with you and since I have never seen any of the material provided by these groups and individuals, I had no idea what information you already have. While I have been working attempting to draw attention to the twin epidemics of child sexual abuse and child suicide in Indian Country for more than three years, I have never seen any interest in these subjects from the groups you mention. **Surprising as it may seem, several years ago a prominent elected Board Member of NICWA was forced to resign because his well-known, 40 year history of child sexual abuse became known to an individual of integrity who demanded he step down.** (*emphasis mine*)

I would have responded more promptly to your email but for the last three days I have been on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota at the invitation of the Tribal Chairman for the purpose of meeting with him and his staff, the Tribal Council, the Tribe's CW Director, the CEO of the IHS Hospital in Rosebud and the Acting Chair of their Mental Health Department as well as several community members. The twin epidemics of child sexual abuse and child suicide are raging there as evidenced by the following:

1. For the past three years there have been, on average, two rapes (many have been statutory) per week on Rosebud.
2. In the 68 days between October 1, 2007 and December 7, 2007 there have been 7 suicide completions by young people between the ages of 15 and 24.
3. In these same 68 days there have been 52 attempts by young people from the same age group. This is a count only of those which have come to the attention of authorities, which have been reported.
4. In these same 68 days there have been 112 cases of young people from this same age group with suicide ideation with plans about how to do it.

When I spoke with the Chairman and Council about these twin epidemics, many spoke of the "terror" felt by them as well as by their constituents about the coming weekends and what their children might do. Apparently recent weekends have been the preferred time to make an attempt on your own life.

You were named head of the Native Youth Task Force by Dan with much fanfare on August 15, 2007. In the intervening period I have seen nothing about the makeup of

the Task Force, your work plans, objectives or strategies for achieving those objectives. Would it be possible to obtain that information?

You have shown a penchant for picking quotes which you think are applicable to what you write. I would like to conclude with one as well. I had the choice of several from Bertrand Russell, Emerson and several others. But the one I feel is most apropos here is from Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland where the Cheshire Cat tells Alice, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will do"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Thomas F. Sullivan

Regional Administrator, Denver

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Now, note in this next email, Channell blames Tom Sullivan for the 'perception' that the ACF doesn't care. Yes, blame the only person in the entire agency who has put himself on the line and demanded assistance be forthcoming to these tribes that desperately need it, blame HIM for the 'perception' that the ACF doesn't care?

How whacked are the people in that entire agency and for how long have the most incompetent and unskilled been running that agency and the various departments?

Notice throughout all of his indignant reply, he cannot state nor will he, that anything has been done, is being done, or will be done. He's just mad because he keeps pressing for answers to issues, and he is taking the crisis seriously, only to find that are annoying to him.

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From: Wilkins, Channell (ACF)  
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2007 8:04 AM  
To: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF); Schneider, Daniel (ACF)  
Cc: Nunez, Joe (HHS/OS); Denham, Paul (HHS/OS)  
Subject: RE: Recommended Strategy for ACF's Native Youth Task Force

Tom,

First, You need not be puzzled, just read the opening three paragraphs of your December 10 email to Dan and I. Your approach to this crisis seems to be that unless we are in contact with you that nothing is being done and there is 'no commitment to move quickly'. Either you believe our direct contact with Native

Americans is unnecessary (because you already have all the answers) or you have set a timeline for us to adhere to which I am not aware of. To indicate that our silence and inaction (according to you) is somehow the cause of future suicides galls me. The insensitivity you have show towards us, may have the same effect you demonize us for based on your perception of our response to you. Dialog to determine the best way to address and respond happens in two directions, if you were unsure of what activities or lack thereof were happening, I know you have my phone number and could have easily inquired before deciding to berate me without making the effort to ensure you were correct in your assumptions.

You insinuate that you are the only one with true concern about these problems and we are sitting on bags of cash and professional reasons that are at our immediate disposal to alleviate the problem. I find it hard to believe that a career federal employee can honestly belief that is the situation and that a problem of this magnitude can be solved overnight or without garnering the support of many federal agencies beyond ACF.

Finally, if indeed Tribal leadership is remarking "They consider us dirt. They will not come" , I wonder if you are reinforcing that perception based on your comments to us or helping to dispel it and create the opportunity for others to acknowledge the issues and work with those Leaders as partners in confronting the problems.

Channell Wilkins

Chairperson

Native American Children and Youth Task Force

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Washington DC 20024

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People seem not to see that their opinion of the world is also a confession of their character. <<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/28935.html>>

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<<http://www.quotationspage.com/myquotations.php?add=28935>>

<<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/28935.html#email>> Ralph Waldo Emerson

We Can't Predict the Future, but We Know Who Will Lead it

<[http://www.ounceofprevention.org/includes/tiny\\_mce/plugins/filemanager/files/Ounce%2025th%20Anniversary%20PDF.pdf](http://www.ounceofprevention.org/includes/tiny_mce/plugins/filemanager/files/Ounce%2025th%20Anniversary%20PDF.pdf)>

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

From: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)

To: Wilkins, Channell (ACF); Schneider, Daniel (ACF); Nunez, Joe (HHS/OS); Denham, Paul (HHS/OS)

Sent: Tue Dec 18 16:27:46 2007

Subject: Fw: Recommended Strategy for ACF's Native Youth Task Force

Channell:

It is clear to me from all that I have seen as well as to many others who have an interest in this area that both you and Dan have taken a "go slow" approach to begin dealing with and resolving the twin epidemics of child sexual abuse and child suicide in Indian Country.

I have set no timeline for you to achieve progress on these issues. But you were named chairman of the Native Youth Task Force more than four months ago. Is it unreasonable for me to ask what you have accomplished in that time? Would it be unreasonable for an elected Tribal Chairman or Member of Congress to make such a query?

Those of you who travel in the elevated bureaucracy of Washington, DC, as you and Dan do, should not be surprised when one has the expectation in four months you will have made some progress. Inevitably, your failure to make discernable progress in resolving these twin epidemics will cause some to believe these new cases of child sexual abuse and child suicide are your fault, no matter how galling that may be to you.

Your comments on dialogue are illuminating. They do suggest you do understand the basics of communication. Under these circumstances your blatant, hostile efforts to silence me are breathtaking. Even more extraordinary is Dan's silent tolerance of your ham-handed efforts.

Given the "go slow" approach you and Dan are endorsing to the twin epidemics of child sexual abuse and child suicide in Indian Country, I expect you both would have recommended bonuses and awards for those who refused to supply water, food and medicine to those Katrina evacuees stranded on that New Orleans overpass for three days.

It is quite difficult to argue very strongly, given the "go slow" approach you and Dan have adopted, against the view that "they will not come" especially in a community

where people are killing themselves at accelerating rates and where the government's response seems to be one of delay. You may not like that but I am a man of integrity and will not argue for a political position simply because you and Dan want me to endorse it. That would be irresponsible.

Thomas F. Sullivan  
Regional Administrator, Denver

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

From: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)

To: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF)

Sent: Mon Dec 17 15:57:43 2007

Subject: FW: Recommended Strategy for ACF's Native Youth Task Force

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**CORRECTION:** 3/10/14 1:34:58 PM: Previous posting referred to Channell Wilkins as a female. My apologies. Channell is a man who cares nothing about the safety and well-being of children, not a woman who cares nothing about the safety and well-being of children

You know where to find me.

~Cat