

May 20, 2014
Fixing The Problem

Watching the news we see how agencies such as the Veterans' Administration, for one, has become a complete debacle. Veterans suffering, dying, suiciding needlessly while political payback games run rampant.

Scandals of VA wait lists, mismanagement, lack of oversight and outright public deception have started to make the news in a big way.

It was not an overnight debacle, it took decades of poor planning, lack of real oversight and accountability for it to become the disaster it is today.

Thanks in part to two wars of choice which added hundreds of thousands of new wounded vets to an already fragmented, mismanaged administration, the problem has surfaced into the light of day for all to see and be appalled.

The ACF has similarly been mismanaged and for the same reasons: Decades of incompetent appointments, people with no real credentials or know-how, being appointed to run these two critical agencies that are supposed to serve our vets and our children. The ethically challenged at the helm. How could they not fail?

It's time that both of these agencies were removed from the realm of Presidential Appointees, making them more political than practical, and moved into a more consistent system of functioning, problem solving and progressing.

Those who have worked in the VA for years and years know far better where the system is broken and what needs to be changed to fix it than would any Presidential appointee parachuted in from above, with not even a working knowledge of the system nor a working relationship with those who have worked within it for years or decades.

The same is true of the ACF. Although the head of the ACF is not appointed by the President of the United States, it is the HHS Appointee who also has no working knowledge of ACF nor a relationship with those who have worked within it for years and decades; an appointee who gets the job because of political reasons, not because of qualifications in the field, who then is allowed to appoint the head of the ACF using basically the same political criteria, making the ACF a political vehicle, designed to inflate egos, resumes along political power grids, than it is to actually create and implement policies that protect children and our future as those children become adults.

Both the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the ACF need to be fully removed from all political strings and insiders and handed over to a system that is much more relevant and functional and serves those Veterans and which serves those children and families, directly and indirectly through policy and practices designed to serve them, rather than political plums awarded to key players and their family and friends.

We need to remove both of these agencies out of the Political Cronyism pit and make them actually serve the people who served us in the military and serve those children and families who grow up to become functioning, contributing members of our society rather than Human Wreckage swept under multiple layers of political rugworks.

Each agency would function more efficiently and effectively if run by a Board of 5-7 members comprised of those who have already served in those agencies for a minimum of 10 years and who each know that system and their agency better than any political appointee ever could.

Those Five to Seven Members of those Boards would serve for a term of 6 years from the date of their appointment, and report monthly to a committee in the Senate and the House, the following: A progress report on any issues, an itemized spending account that shows how much each department is spending and on what, and a projected budget for each quarter. Failure of any Board to issue their reports in a timely manner, within a scheduled time frame, would result in that Board's chair being ousted and another member of that board taking that chairmanship, and another long-term employee of the agency filling their vacated seat.

Congress, both the House and Senate would then issue their quarterly reports to the President of the United States or his designated appointee who would then keep the President apprised of any progress or issues.

The Boards of these two agencies would then be tasked with appointing a Head of each agency who would answer to the Board, work with the Board to create policies and procedures that address flaws, makes corrections to policies, and which creates new policies and procedures that improve areas that are weak or failing, and which directly assess and report any departments, agencies or organizations that are failing to meet goals stated in their Mission Statements upon which their funding is predicated.

The Head of each agency would be answerable to the Public, Congress, and the Press to either explain the intentions of policies and procedures, or to inform the public of areas that require more attention, and to respond to any questions about issues that have become of concern to the public.

The Head of each of these agencies will only be allowed to advise the Board of who needs to be hired, fired or reprimanded, but it will be the sole responsibility of the Board to Hire and Fire department Heads by a majority vote.

This will remove any of the personal and political motives in both hiring and firing of personnel and will give these agencies and their employees a more consistent working environment not subject to whims and retaliation.

When these agencies stabilize, they will better be able to serve both our Veterans and our Children and their families.

This is just an outline for fixing what has been broken for decades but only recently surfacing in cesspools of ugliness and incompetence in the Public Eye.

There are ways to fix these agencies and to make them functional, practical and efficient as well as making those who run them accountable.

This way, we will get only the best of the best in key positions of agencies that are critical, life and death critical, to those who must use them or who find themselves in these systems.

We can weed out political organizations which, despite calling themselves 'non profits' have board members who make hundreds of thousands (sometimes Millions) of dollars a year in salary, bonuses and benefits, which in reality do nothing to improve the fate of either our veterans or our children.

We can take politics, cronyism, corruption and incompetence out of these two agencies in this way. We can save the taxpayers billions of dollars which were wasted and ineffective in the political clown car, and have a better, more secure future for our children, our vets and every single one of us that will live in that future.

It's not hopeless, it's just badly installed. We need to unplug it from the political influence wing and put it in the Public Benefit wing of our government.

We have the best of the best working in these agencies, but they are not allowed to run these agencies nor have input. In fact, they are often seen as a threat to those who are in Key positions, and they are marginalized, ignored, harassed, intimidated and forced to resign to save their sanity. What a waste!

We, as a society and as a nation, need these agencies to serve the needs of our Veterans and our Children, not to serve as political ladders and bridges for fundraisers, friends, family, and cronies to become wealthy and powerful on the backs of Vets, Children and taxpayers.

Human needs are too critical to be left as political plaything for the incompetent and the corrupt. It's weakening us as a nation.

Currently: The ongoing battle to save the children of Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota as well as the blistering exposé run by the Miami Herald "Innocents Lost", contain key players common to both places tying the ACF and Florida's DCF into a corrupt knot of common political cover ups and cronyism proving that allowing neglect and abuse anywhere, allows it everywhere, on and off the rez.

The ACF which has failed in its stated mission to the children in both Florida and on Spirit Lake Rez, continues to be run by the most incompetent, unqualified, mean-spirited woman, Marianne McMullen, and her flying monkeys who gladly do her bidding in silencing anyone that would dare to report flaws in the system or children being abused, raped or trafficked. You know there is more where that came from.

The ACF has not received the media scrutiny that the VA has, but maybe it should.

Both the ACF and the VA are a national embarrassment and shame our nation on multiple levels. There isn't enough ink or enough air time to describe either failing agency thoroughly at this point.

If we don't fundamentally change how these agencies are run and operated, we can only expect that they will become ever more broken with each administration, and both our children and our veterans who depend on us and have nowhere else to turn, will be crushed in a system that caters to the political rather than to the needs of the people.

We can do better. We **MUST** do better.

You know where to find me.

~Cat