

Trump's HHS Seems To Be Fulfilling The Ideals Of Abstinence Activists—Making It Easier To Redirect Funding From The Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program To Abstinence-Only Programs

As Leader Of The Abstinence Group Ascend, HHS' Valerie Huber Suggested That HHS "Immediately Eliminate" The Office Of Adolescent Health And The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

Prior To Her Appointment At HHS, Valerie Huber Sent An Email To Political Appointees In The Department With The Top Policy Recommendations From Her Abstinence-Only Organization, Ascend...

From: Valerie Huber [mailto:vjh@weascend.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Neville, Gabe
Cc: Wichterman, Bill
Subject: For Heidi

Gabe,

Thanks for passing along some information to Heidi. I'm SO glad she is there at HHS! As you know, we've recently uncovered some 11th-hour deeds by the Obama Administration that could be game-changers for sex education and terrible for SRA education.

Chief among them is the reorganization of the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), an office created by Obama at the beginning of his term - and now elevated to become THE voice and curator of all "adolescent health" issues.

And, right behind that, is the current cooperative agreement competition that is set to expand the reach of OAH to targeted infrastructure-building across the nation.

Both of these things can be stopped by HHS, as I understand it. However, it must be done before things that will be difficult to reverse, are set in motion within OAH.

I've attached 3 documents:

1. Policy recommendations for HHS, in general.

[Email from Valerie Huber, obtained via Multnomah County V. Alex Azar, Exhibit 14, accessed 8/2/18]

Huber And Ascend Specifically Advocated For The "Immediate" Elimination Of The Office Of Adolescent Health (OAH) And The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP)

2. 1-pager on why OAH and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program need to be immediately eliminated
3. infographic on SHIFT NC - a case study of a TPP grantee to illustrate the harmful messaging coming out of the OAH/TPP program.

Please let Heidi know that I'm very happy to fill in any details that would be helpful.
 Thanks, Gabe.
 Best,
 Valerie

[Email from Valerie Huber, obtained via Multnomah County V. Alex Azar, Exhibit 14, accessed 8/2/18]

Ascend Is An Abstinence Education Organization Created By Huber That Seeks To Defund The Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) And Redirect These Funds To Abstinence Programs

Valerie Huber Was The Head Of The Abstinence Group Ascend Prior To Her Appointment At HHS...

In 2007, Valerie Huber Formed The National Abstinence Educators Association (AKA Ascend) To Promote Abstinence Education. “Huber officially resigned from Ohio’s Department of Health in January of 2007, and quickly formed the National Abstinence Educators Association—a lobbying arm of the abstinence education industry, later known as Ascend, and rebranded abstinence education as “sexual risk avoidance.”” [Daily Beast, [5/28/17](#)]

... While At Ascend, Huber Urged HHS To Eliminate OAH And “Defund The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program And Restore This Funding SRA [Abstinence] Programs.”

Move focused priority from “teen pregnancy prevention” to “sexual risk avoidance”	While avoiding teen pregnancy is an important goal for teens, it is not enough. Teen sex is a risk behavior, even if pregnancy does not occur. Making teen pregnancy prevention the measure for success in sex education programs is troubling because it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normalizes teen sex, so long as contraception is used • Escalates STD rates, and other negative consequences • Ignores important life skills, like self-regulation and personal responsibility. 	2017
Eliminate the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) at HHS	This Office was funded to provide a location for the <i>Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program</i> and to promote a radical sex education agenda under the guise of “science” and “effectiveness.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAH is duplicative in many respects with the long-established Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) at ACF/HHS. 	Defund in early 2017 and <u>do not fill positions prior to that time.</u>

<p>Defund the <i>Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program</i> and restore this funding to SRA programs.</p>	<p>The TPP Program was begun at the beginning of the Obama Administration by defunding 169 SRA programs mid-grant. The \$100 million TPP program diverted funds away from the SRA program. The TPP program should be ended, restoring the funds to SRA programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPP program evaluation showed that more than 80% of all students served were either harmed or not helped from the nearly \$1 billion in total funding. • Currently 90% of all indiscrete sex education funds already go toward an approach that normalizes teen sex, as originally documented by the Bush HHS Administration, and which has remained consistent throughout the Obama Administration. Therefore, it is inaccurate to argue that eliminating the <i>TPP Program</i> would provide a monolithic strategy for sex education. 	<p>Defund with the FY 2018 budget.</p> <p>Divert TPP program funds back to the SRAE program in the FY 2018 budget.</p>
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[Email from Valerie Huber, obtained via Multnomah County V. Alex Azar, Exhibit 14, accessed 8/2/18]

... And Now HHS Is Putting These Goals Into Action By Removing Responsibilities From Career Staff And Giving More Power To Political Appointees To Potentially Overhaul TPPP

HHS Is Giving The Office Of Population Affairs The Responsibility To Manage The Office Of Adolescent Health And Administer The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

HHS' Proposed Rule Makes The Office Of Population Affairs Responsible For Managing The Office Of Adolescent Health And Administering The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. "Under Part C, Section C-G, add the current reference: The Office of Population Affairs, headed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs, will include the Office of Adolescent Health. The Office of Population Affairs will be responsible for implementing and administering the Title X family planning program and will manage the Office of Adolescent Health, which will be headed by a director, will implement and administer the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program and other adolescent health activities." [Federal Register Notice, 84 FR 14951, posted 4/12/19]

HHS' Office For Adolescent Health Is Currently Headed By Career Employee Evelyn Kappeler Who Has Administered The TPPP Program Since 2012 And Worked At HHS Since 1983. "As the director, she oversees the implementation of two grant programs, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program and the Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF). The national evidence-based TPP program is a competitive grant program that works to prevent teen pregnancy through the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based TPP programs. The Pregnancy Assistance Fund is a competitive grant program for states and Tribal entities to support expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families. The office also launched Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG), a national call to action for adolescent health." [[HHS, About OAH, accessed 4/12/19](#)]

The Move Will Give More Power Over TPPP To Diane Foley, Another Abstinence Advocate Who Compared Sex To "Super Gluing Your Fingers Together" And Has Promoted "Fear-Based" Tactics For Sex-Ed

Foley Said She Believed It Could Be Considered "Sexually Harassing" To Demonstrate Condom Use To A Class With A Banana. "Speaking in her office, above one of the Life Network pregnancy centers where pregnant women are given ultrasounds and discouraged from getting abortions, Foley argues it's difficult even to teach condom use, requiring 13 separate steps. 'By the time you get to step six, you forget why you are even using the condom,'

she jokes. (Planned Parenthood, incidentally, has a 10-step video on its Web site, which includes steps such as "Don't tear the condom while unwrapping it.") Foley says she believes it could be considered "sexually harassing" to demonstrate condom use to a class with, say, a banana. [Colorado Springs Independent, [4/8/10](#)]

Foley Compared Sex To “Super Gluing Your Fingers Together.” Foley: “So to help them understand that when God said that ‘the two shall become one flesh’ his idea was the limbic system was to protect that emotional relationship for husband and wife for life. The sexual relationship is the closest you can get physically, have you ever superglued your fingers together? It’s not a good time, I have, it’s really hard to come apart but that’s basically what happens. [Diane Foley, WVC Student Ministries, [4/29/12](#), 54:00]

Foley Advocated For “Fear-Based” Sex Education. FOLEY: “There is a lot of social pressure to not teach kids from fear. You know when you’re talking about sex the big thing is ‘well you’re just scaring them,’ well you know my answer to that is ‘explain to me when you bring a smashed car and set it in front of my high school for a week, is that not fear-based against drunk driving? Why can’t I do the same thing for sex?” [Diane Foley, 2013, WVC Student Ministries, [4/29/12](#), 13:00]

... It Would Also Give More Power To Steven Valentine, Who Led Previous Attempts To Repeal HHS’ Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

In June 2017, Steven Valentine Had Reportedly “Taken The Lead” In Reversing The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. In a June 21, 2017 note, Director of the Office of Adolescent Health, Evelyn Kappeler wrote that Steven Valentine had “taken the lead” in reversing the \$213 million Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and had “directed Kappeler to halt the review process for the grants.” [NBC News, [3/20/18](#)]

- **Valentine Has Been Promoted Twice Since He Was First Hired To HHS Just Last March.** On March 5, 2017, Valentine was formally appointed to be Associate Director for Policy in HHS’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH). In November 2017, Valentine became the Deputy Chief of Staff of OASH. On August 20, 2018 Valentine was promoted to Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary for Health. [OGE Form 278e, [filed 1/13/17](#); LinkedIn, accessed [4/2/18](#); HHS Public Affairs Twitter, [8/20/18](#)]

Although Huber Was Promoted To HHS’ Global Affairs Office, The Department Seems To Be Carrying Out Her Long-Awaited Goal Of Federal Funding For Abstinence Education Over Proven Programs

Huber Was Promoted To HHS’ Global Affairs Office To Strip Sexual And Reproductive Health References From Global Health Documents

HHS Reassigned Valerie Huber To Its Global Affairs Office. “HHS has reassigned Valerie Huber — an abstinence advocate who at one time steered the agency’s family planning funds — to its global affairs office, five individuals with knowledge of the move tell POLITICO.” [[Politico Pro, 1/15/19](#)]

- **According To HHS’ Spokesperson, Huber’s Reassignment Was A “Promotion.”** “Huber’s move is a promotion, HHS spokesperson Caitlin Oakley told POLITICO. Huber — who previously led Ascend, an organization that promoted abstinence among young

Americans — has now held four different roles at HHS in the past year. She was most recently senior policy adviser in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, after initially serving as the office’s chief of staff.” [\[Politico Pro, 1/15/19\]](#)

Huber Is Expected To Use Her Role At The Global Affairs Office To “Strip References To Sexual And Reproductive Health As Well As Sex Education From The Agency’s Global Health Documents.” “In her new role, Huber will serve as senior policy adviser focused on sexual and reproductive affairs in the office charged with coordinating HHS’ international efforts and global health diplomacy. Huber is expected to strip references to sexual and reproductive health as well as sex education from the agency’s global health documents, said a department official.” [\[Politico Pro, 1/15/19\]](#)

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