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Date: 7/7/2013 4:53:16 PM

Subject: Silent Tears

Attachments: Silent Tears – Report on child abuse in South Carolina 7-7-13.docx

Leigh,

Below find the speaking order for tomorrow and background materials. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Speaking order:

Greenville Health System President and CEO Mike Riordan

Governor Nikki Haley

House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister

Greenville Health System Children's Hospital Forensic Pediatrician Dr. Nancy Henderson

Also behind the podium but not speaking –

Bob Castellani

Dr. William Schmidt, MD, PdD, medical director of the Greenville Health System Children's Hospital

Keith Frazier (Greenville DSS Director)

Senator Mike Fair – District 6, Greenville

Points –

Silent Tears – Report on child abuse in South Carolina

Topline points:

- We're here today to talk about improving child safety in South Carolina and I want to thank the Silent Tears organization, specifically Lisa and Bob Castellani, for all the work they are doing in this field.
- I also want to thank Greenville Health System. Their Children's Hospital is the Upstate's leading pediatric hospital and a haven for parents and children because its world-class doctors and staff not only know leading-edge medicine – they know the unique needs of children.
- GHS Children's Hospital is one of only three hospitals in the state to have physicians on staff specializing in the detection and treatment of child abuse.
- Improving child welfare and safety is a priority in South Carolina and I commend Director Koller and the South Carolina Department of Social Services for the great progress they are making for children and families across our state.
- Family Strengthening Services, which began in the Upstate, now serves thousands of parents and their children through community-based partners in every county.
- And over the past two years, more than 1,100 children, who had been waiting in long-term foster care for an average of 3.5 years, have been placed in loving homes.
- **But too often, child abuse goes undetected – and through the “Silent Tears” project, South Carolina's front-line child protection professionals have spent the last two years identifying**

these weaknesses so that we can address them.

- Now that the “Silent Tears” team has released its report – it’s time to talk about steps we’re taking to make children safer in South Carolina.
- Many of the recommendations relate to improved training and outreach – and are areas where DSS’ state and local officials play a key role, along with Guardian ad Litem and its 2,600 statewide volunteers.
- For example, guaranteeing that every county has at least 5 evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and adopting a statewide “2-plus-10” plan will help ensure that our social workers are up-to-date with new information and trained at the highest possible level.
- In addition, getting parents and local faith and community leaders involved and trained is another key factor in both detection and prevention (implementing a "Chaplains for Child Protection Professionals" training program).
- In coordination with DSS, Guardian ad Litem, and health professionals across South Carolina, we are dedicated to improving child welfare and safety in our state.

Actions to take based on “Silent Tears” findings:

1. Ensure that every county has at least 5 evidence-based child abuse prevention programs

- The report set a goal of 5 programs per county within 5 years.
- DSS will work with CACs and MDTs to achieve this goal.

2. Adopt a “2-plus-10” plan

- Institute that a minimum of two hours of in-person training is required each year for mandated reporters - supplemented with an additional ten hours of online training that mandated reporters can access 24/7.

3. Implement a “Chaplains for Child Protection Professionals” training program

- Specially-trained chaplains are already available for law enforcement officers.
- DSS will work with the faith community to develop a “Chaplains for Child Protection Professionals” program for those who suffer “vicarious trauma.”

4. Help faith leaders receive training on child abuse and reporting obligations

- Guardian ad Litem and DSS will support that outreach and will augment that training, if necessary.

5. Help parents raise their voices so that child care facilities will have adequate policies and training

- DSS will provide training to day care, schools and churches regarding adequate child protection policies and the mandated reporting system.

6. Direct local DSS officials to work with community faith leaders to expand the HALOS program

- Charleston’s HALOS (Helping and Lending Outreach Support) program operates in 3 counties.
- HALOS link local DSS offices to churches so that children and families can receive the financial or other resources that address their otherwise-unmet needs.

South Carolina is already doing some of what was recommended:

The report recommends that an agency in each multi-disciplinary team (MDT) host a “prevention planning

day” to look at recent cases and discuss how abuse could have been prevented.

- In 2011, DSS started holding P2 (Palmetto Power) open meetings, every other month, to share actual case data as well as meta and trend data with child welfare professionals.

Definitions:

- (MDT) Multi-Disciplinary Team: A group of agencies working together to prevent and detect child abuse...law enforcement, DSS, mental health, prosecutors, child and victim advocates
- (CAC) Child Advocacy Center: A child-focused, facility-based programs with representatives from many disciplines working together to effectively investigate, prosecute, and treat child abuse.

Silent Tears – background:

- “Silent Tears” is the name of a report commissioned by private funders and written by Victor I. Veith, who is the Executive Director of the National Child Protection Training Center at Winona State University (Minnesota).
- The report takes a broad view of South Carolina’s current institutions and practices associated with preventing and responding to child abuse (especially sexual abuse).
- The author interviewed more than 160 people associated with child welfare while preparing the report.

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