

From: Soura, Christian
To: LeMoine, Leigh (LeighLeMoine@gov.sc.gov) <LeighLeMoine@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Mayer, Doug (DougMayer@gov.sc.gov) <DougMayer@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Silent Tears

Here are a few background bullet-points on Silent Tears. I'm copying Doug because he'll likely own this at some point (surprise, Doug!).

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 author interviewed more than 160 people associated with child welfare while preparing the report.
- The report was publicly unveiled last month at a well-attended upstate press event (Tim Scott, Trey Gowdy, Alan Wilson, etc.).
- The report takes a broad view of South Carolina's current institutions and practices associated with preventing and responding to child abuse. This includes:
 - ACTORS – The courts, DSS, healthcare professionals, social workers, law enforcement, parents, etc.
 - PRACTICES – Undergraduate and graduate training, evidence collection, mandated reporting, etc.
- The report makes a number of recommendations that touch upon essentially all aspects of the child protection system. This includes medical residents and DSS caseworkers, for instance.

Next Steps

- We have scheduled an event for 11AM on Monday, July 8th in Greenville for NRH, Mike Riordan (President/CEO of Greenville Health System), and potentially others (subject to our approval). At the event, we would announce a series of actions that are drawn from the Silent Tears report.
 - Lillian is going through the report now to identify steps that DSS will take. I'll work with her to get talking points together for July 8th.
 - GHS will improve the training of its medical residents (pediatrics, generally) to help prevent child abuse and to strengthen our ability to detect cases that have not been identified (for instance, a child shows up in the ER with injuries that an attuned professional would recognize as being consistent with child abuse).

CLS

Christian L. Soura
Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792
ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov