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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
Office of Resident Initiatives



Empowerment Opportunities for Youth and Families

**Final Report:
National Youth Summit**

**February 24–26, 1992
Washington, D.C.**

143780



"This Summit is focusing attention on how government can empower people. Every great revolution is the result of the contradiction or paradox between great moments of opportunity and terrible grinding serious problems. The only way to save our cities is to save our children and our families and to help build up, not tear down."

*Secretary Jack Kemp
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

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U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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For their vital planning support and participation as Summit cosponsors, appreciation is also extended to the Office of National Drug Control Policy; U.S. Departments of Agriculture (4–H Program), Education, Labor, and Justice; and ACTION.

Table of Contents

Introduction and Overview -----	1
Welcome Address -----	3
Observations From the Youth Panel -----	5
Opening Sessions, February 25	
Keynote Speech -----	9
Robert L. Woodson, Sr. President National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise Founder Neighborhood Policy Institute Jack Kemp Secretary U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	
Invasion of the Body Snatchers -----	11
Buster Soaries Pastor First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens Somerset, New Jersey	
Resident Needs -----	13
Bertha Gilkey President National Tenant Union	
Federal and Local Presentations:	
Initiatives and Perspectives -----	14
Ingrid Kolb Acting Director for Demand Reduction Office of National Drug Control Policy Robert Wilson Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and External Affairs U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Michael Williams Assistant Secretary of Education U.S. Department of Education Jimmy Gurulé Assistant Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice Jane Kenny Director ACTION Joel Soobitsky, Ph.D. National 4-H Program Leader U.S. Department of Agriculture Debra Bowland Assistant Secretary for Policy U.S. Department of Labor	

Findings and Recommendations

Working Groups

Security -----	17
Health -----	20
Families -----	22
Education -----	24
Youth Sports and Recreation -----	26
Job Skills and Opportunities -----	28

City Groups

Philadelphia, District of Columbia -----	31
Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Detroit -----	33
New York, Boston -----	33
Los Angeles, Ft. Myers, Corpus Christi, Mobile, New Orleans, Omaha -----	34

Closing Plenary Session ----- 35

Jo Anne Barnhart
Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Carl Hampton
Special Assistant to the Director
Office of Substance Abuse Prevention
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Ronica Houston
Executive Director
National Association of Resident Management Corporations

Joseph Schiff
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Indian Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Resources

Letters of Support -----	39
Agenda -----	47
Participants List -----	51
News Release -----	61
<i>Washington Times</i> Article -----	63

Introduction and Overview

The National Youth Initiatives Summit, held February 24 to 26 at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, D.C., marked the beginning of a new wave in "from the ground up" action. The conference brought together more than 200 public housing advocates, national resident leaders, youth, and government officials. It was made possible through the united efforts of eight Federal agencies—the Office of National Drug Control Policy; the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor; and ACTION.

Summit participants included resident, youth, and civic leaders from Washington, D.C., and 13 cities across the country, including Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Corpus Christi, Texas; Detroit, Michigan; Ft. Myers, Florida; Los Angeles, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mobile, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana; New York, New York; Omaha, Nebraska; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and St. Louis, Missouri. During their 3 days in Washington, D.C., summit participants were asked to share examples of innovative locally based programs and prescribe solutions to the crises in America's public housing.

"This summit is intended to serve as a springboard for action throughout 1992," explained David Caprara, Deputy Assistant Secretary of HUD's Office of Resident Initiatives, during the opening session. "And I would like

to go ahead and declare that we are claiming victory in the most important battle for the minds and hearts and futures of children throughout our inner cities."

The Summit was a working conference; similarly the *National Youth Initiatives Summit Executive Summary* is a working paper. You are asked to build on the recommendations contained in this document, initiate discussions among local youth, or sponsor a youth initiatives summit in your community.

The *Summary* can serve as a platform for continued Federal, State, and local activism. It is divided into three sections:

Findings and Recommendations

Working Groups. Asks what realistic support Federal agencies can provide in efforts to address the concerns of public housing youth. Covers six topics: security, health, families, education, youth sports and recreation, and job skills and opportunities.

City Groups. Presents recommendations that address regional youth concerns.

Highlights from Plenary Sessions

Contains excerpts of the speeches presented by plenary speakers and panelists.

Additional Resources

Identifies volunteer regional contacts, lists conference and youth participants, and documents media coverage of the National Youth Initiatives Summit.

Welcome Address

Moderator

Vincent Lane
Chairman
Chicago Housing
Authority

Panelists

David Caprara
Deputy Assistant
Secretary
Office of Resident
Initiatives
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

Tom Vischi
Office of National Drug
Control Policy

Jose Marquez
Drug-Free
Neighborhoods
Division
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and participating agencies gathered together more than 200 representatives from 14 cities across the country for two reasons:

- To highlight the principles of success employed by resident groups, youth, and successful local grassroots activists across the country.
- To share several action-oriented announcements from the various Federal agencies involved.

David Caprara

"We are not here for a study of the issue of youth violence and youth opportunity, but to forge an activist alliance at the local, State, and Federal levels," shared Mr. Caprara. "In terms of what we hope to accomplish over the next 3 days," he explained, "the conference organizers came up with a five-point action agenda that we hope to see put into effect at this gathering."

The Five-Point Action Agenda

1. Working Groups and City Groups will document program models and recommendations arrived at during the breakout sessions. On the last day of the conference, representatives from each group will present their findings to the participants and representatives from the White House and various Federal agencies.

2. The Summit is to be action-oriented. Input from each of the attendees is vital. Every Federal agency involved in the conference will be asked to review the Summit recommendations for appropriate action.
3. Every major city represented at the conference will be encouraged to take the message back to the community and solicit local input.
4. Technical assistance support systems will be established to aid groups in fulfilling the recommendations arrived at during the Summit.
5. The Summit is intended to be a springboard for community action throughout 1992. There are plans for a youth sports and cultural initiatives national convention in June.

Tom Vischi

"What we want to produce at this conference is not very easy. We want to produce recommendations for action, for technical assistance, for doing things differently at the Federal level, at the State level, at the local level; public and private," said Mr. Vischi.

"The important thing tonight is to hear from youth; to hear from kids living in public housing."

"We want to produce recommendations for action, for technical assistance, for doing things differently."

Tom Vischi

David Caprara

An exciting panel comprised of young people from public housing kicked off the Summit. Mr. Caprara introduced the panel's moderator:

I can't think of anyone in America who has taken a more frontal approach to the issue of violence in the inner city than Mr. Vincent Lane, Executive Director of the Chicago Housing Authority and author of Operation Clean Sweep, a "nonviolent direct action" strategy that we are going to replicate all over this country.

Vince is a real visionary, a hero in our own times in the war against drugs, and what I call a "renaissance leader of ideas and innovation" for this second chapter in the war on poverty and drugs.

On the panel, youth representing each of the 14 invited cities shared their sentiments on six areas of interest: security, health, families, education, youth sports and recreation, and jobs and opportunities. They explained their fears of

insecurity, shed light on America's education crisis, called for health care reform, downplayed the importance of recreation, played up the importance of employment opportunities, and cried out against the breakdown of the family. Their uninhibited observations are contained in the following pages.

Jose Marqu ez

In closing, Jose Marquez of the Drug-Free Neighborhoods Division said:

These kids here today are only representative of a lot more young people in public housing in this country. Remember this is only a small core representation of a much bigger problem. But we intend to make a difference. We would like to make an offer to every city here tonight: to hold these types of summits in your community—for your kids and your programs.

Observations from the Youth Panel

Moderator

Vincent Lane
Chairman
Chicago Housing
Authority

Mr. Lane presented a number of issues and concerns that provided the focus for the National Youth Initiatives Summit. These are excerpted below.

"We're going to talk about six areas tonight: security, health, families, education, sports and recreation, and jobs and opportunities. Young people this is your chance. People out in the audience are here to hear from you. You're the teachers tonight," explained Mr. Lane.

Security

How safe is it in public housing? How safe do you feel?

There's no security in our buildings.

White deaths are treated differently from black deaths—the former matter, and the latter don't.

We have a "Street Patrol."

We are our own source of solution. Occupy the streets where the dealing goes on. Go in uniform and in numbers of 40 to 50 to the toughest corners.

It's unsafe to travel between home and school because of gangs, guns, and turf battles.

Health

Adequate health care is a problem all over this country. We know it's a particular problem in the public housing community. So, where do you go when you get sick?

I go to the public clinic, but there is a standard 6- to 8-hour wait. You face bad attitudes from the health workers there. You get inadequate

treatment; insufficient medicine, time, and consideration. So when I can, I rely on relatives to provide nursing and other care.

There are problems in our community, not only with youth health but with health care for the elderly.

The projects often have seriously unsanitary conditions.

We need more minority health professionals because they will better understand minority patients.

We need AIDS education.

Cigarettes, pot, and alcohol are serious threats to health in black and low-income communities.

There is hunger. There are serious deficiencies in people's understanding of nutrition: three meals a day; one meal a day; \$60 million is spent on potato chips annually.

Personal hygiene is not well or widely understood.

Families

They talk about the breakdown of the black family. I'd like to know how you all feel about that. What does family mean to you?

We need positive male figures.

The stepmother and stepfather are a step down. We need the real parent to be there for us.

I got my education about adults from my parents who always fought.

We need mentors and role models—father figures—including alternates when the real father won't or can't teach us.

We need fathers who will teach, not just tell.

It's not about how you dress; it's about going to school to learn.

Vince Lane, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Housing Authority, moderates the Youth Panel, "Listening to Youth."



The welfare check is a major contributor to the breakdown of the black family.

Education

How do you feel about the educational system? I'd like you to comment on what you think we could do to improve public education? Why do young people drop out of school?

Need to have knowledge of self: Go to school to learn how to create a job.

Education versus training: Should teach black history. Should eliminate guns in school.

Educate students about health.

People drop out because they have no knowledge of self. Dropouts see no future in school.

Education is like a quick disease. You start it, and it will spread like wildfire.

Need a group of brothers from the community to head these programs.

Establish a library with black history in it.

Knowledge of self and skill development.

Provide sex education.

Open up more alternative schools like the East Harlem Alternative School located in public housing.

Identify a place in the community to operate a program that emphasizes knowledge of self.

Male socialization and female socialization/communication is needed between youth.

We need teachers who care about us.

It's not about how you dress; it's about going to school to learn.

We don't need uniforms. We need computers. I had them when I went to a white school in the suburbs. Now in the city my school doesn't have any.

The high school diploma doesn't mean anything. That's why people drop out. They don't teach us what we need to know about our own culture. They don't teach the truth about us and our culture.

We need more books, especially books with black people in them.

Sports and Recreation

Are sports and recreation important in our community? If they are important, what kinds of sports and recreation? Are there adequate resources for it? And how do sports impact?

We play basketball because it's there. Why aren't there tennis courts and baseball diamonds and every other sport as well?

You play first for yourself, then for the team, for camaraderie, and to teach.

Why do professional athletes make millions while our teachers make so little?

The physical is the result of the mental.

It's vital to educate before you recreate.

We need more teen groups and recreation centers.

Job Skills and Opportunities

Job creation in the public housing community; how important is that for recycling dollars? Do you feel that [job creation in your community] can be achieved?

Job creation in the public housing community—we must do this for ourselves and for our own sakes.

There are not enough jobs.

We need genuine skill development.

We need more and better peer support counseling.

We need information about jobs through school networks. Why are we not given what we need? Why do we have to go find out for ourselves?

The welfare check replaces the man in the family. It destroys the man.

Youth Panelists

Anthony Summers
Washington, D.C.

Robert Fleets
Los Angeles, California

Reggie Harris
Los Angeles, California

Melvin M. Currey, Jr.
Ft. Myers, Florida

Charles Currey
Ft. Myers, Florida

Tammy Mims
Ft. Myers, Florida

Yconda Collins
Chicago, Illinois

Demetrius Lewis
Chicago, Illinois

Tamekka Bigby
Jamaica Plain,
Massachusetts

Victor Ramas
Jamaica Plain,
Massachusetts

Ronald Goodman
St. Louis, Missouri

Mario Howard
St. Louis, Missouri

Tony Kimple
St. Louis, Missouri

David Moore
St. Louis, Missouri

Chris Young
St. Louis, Missouri

Sarah Wilson
Omaha, Nebraska

Raphaela Francis
New York, New York

Edward Gibbs
New York, New York

Andrew Maisonett
New York, New York

Ieshia Wilson
Brooklyn, New York

Lita Bautista
Corpus Christi, Texas

Sonia Sanchez
Corpus Christi, Texas

Michael Johnson
Alexandria, Virginia

Lawson Smith
Alexandria, Virginia

Opening Sessions

Keynote Speech

Moderator

Robert L. Woodson, Sr.
President
National Center for
Neighborhood
Enterprise
Founder
Neighborhood Policy
Institute

Speaker

Jack Kemp
Secretary
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

Robert Woodson, whose efforts to empower public housing residents have earned him the nickname "Godfather of Resident Initiatives," introduced Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Jack Kemp.

Robert Woodson

"If you keep doing what you do, you keep getting what you want," said Mr. Woodson. "If we keep supporting the failed initiatives that we've had for the past 20 years, we'll keep getting more failure.

"Too often we rely on experts who don't have the experience, rather than the people who live there. They profit from your problem, but don't ask you for the solution.

"Folks will never do more for you than you are willing to do for yourself," Mr. Woodson noted.

"Jack Kemp was appointed Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by President George Bush. A former professional football player for the Buffalo Bills, Mr. Kemp left the sports arena to enter the political arena. During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Kemp wrote amendments and bills that would put the tools in the hands of low-income people. He carries on the tradition and commitment as HUD Secretary."

Secretary Kemp

In his keynote address to the more than 200 conference participants, Mr. Kemp declared the beginning of a revolution; a revolution to change the existing harmful beliefs that claim low-income people

cannot and will not help themselves:

Every great revolution in the history of the world is a result of the contradiction or paradox of great moments of opportunity with terrible grinding serious problems.

It's the best of times in America, less danger from across the seas—Communism, racism.

Martin Luther King said, "I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future."

This unique meeting grew out of the efforts of [national resident leaders like] Bertha Gilkey, Alicia Rodriguez, and Mildred Hailey.

Buster Soaries has said, "Black people are saying to the Pharaoh, 'Let my people go,' when they should be saying, 'People, let Pharaoh go.'" I don't believe you can let go of Pharaoh until he can give us the access to the seeds of corn, housing, and jobs.

We want government to be empowering people, giving people access to the assets which would empower them. Communities and neighborhoods that are giving people assets [create] a stable community. Where people have a stake in the community and neighborhood, it changes attitudes from short term to long term.

What this Summit is focusing attention on is how we can empower people; how we can convert this socialist welfare system that penalizes people for working hard.

"Folks will never do more for you than you are willing to do for yourself."

Robert Woodson

People respond to rewards. Our whole welfare system is predicated on a stick. I'm saying we made a terrible mistake. If we expect failure, we will get it.

Human beings respond to rewards. As President Bush said during his visit to Cochran Gardens in St. Louis, "If the system is not helping to liberate the poor, than we need to change the system."

Here are some steps we must take:

- Reintroduce incentives to the educational and welfare programs. Where people own property, it changes their outlook on life. That is the universal dream.
- I want sports in every public housing development. There are not enough fields of dreams in public housing communities. HUD and the American Baseball League will bring baseball into public housing.

- Head Start and child care facilities should be in every public housing development.

The whole idea of empowerment is to give people education, job opportunities, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

We've been studying poverty for 30 years, and we've got more poverty than when we started. Like Bob [Woodson] said, we should be studying success.

How can we watch Communism and the walls of East and West come down and allow the walls of poverty, despair, and drugs to build up in our own communities?

The only way to save our cities is to save our children and our families and to help build up, not tear down.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

Speaker

Buster Soaries
Pastor
First Baptist Church of
Lincoln Gardens
Somerset, New Jersey

Buster Soaries is a national leader and spokesperson in the world of self-help. He is Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey, and author of *My Family Is Driving Me Crazy*, a book to help kids deal with family issues. He makes frequent appearances as a guest speaker.

At the Youth Summit, Mr. Soaries delivered an energetic and motivational speech, "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." The talk drew parallels to the classic horror movie in which extraterrestrials visit Earth, enter the bodies of sleeping earthlings, and take on their physical attributes and personalities.

In his speech, excerpted below, Mr. Soaries alerts us to the dangers of "body snatchers."

We see a young girl and say, "Girl, get off the corner and do something with your life."

There's a whole generation now that has defined young people as people who are like people but aren't really people.

When I was 12 years old and in the sixth grade, a teacher said, "If you ever graduate from high school you're going to be in jail." On that day that woman planted seeds of destruction in my mind. When I was 12 years old, a body snatcher came along and stole my hopes; stole my dreams and my joy.

I had two choices. One choice was to prove her right. I decided that I would prove that teacher wrong. You see, the body snatchers get some, but they don't get everybody.

There is always somebody out there willing to do the right thing to make sure these invisible forces don't take over forever.

In the movie, I noticed the only way the body snatchers could get you is if you fell asleep. Those who have the potential to succeed have not been allowed to fall asleep.

We may not be able to move the mountains in 2 days, but we can certainly share ideas and discover how people have made things work where the experts have said it's impossible.

In the movie, there was a small crowd of people who understood what was happening. With the guidance and inspiration of Bertha [Gilkey], Mildred [Hailey], and Bob Woodson and others, we've attempted to form a church from a shouting house on Sunday to a powerhouse 7 days a week. All of our children bring their report cards to church, and [we] assign tutors to those who get below a "B" in any class.

Don't get angry at what other folk do to you unless you're willing to deal forcibly with what you do to yourself. Don't get mad at the government for not doing for us when we are not responsible enough to make babies and raise those same babies.

In the movie, folk who knew ran and shook people to say, "Wake up! Stay awake, so the body snatchers won't get you."

My brothers and sisters, those of us who are privileged to sit like this in these great halls of power have the responsibility to go back to our neighborhoods and make sure none of our people are asleep. Because the only thing worse than not having what you need is not using what you've got.



Buster Soaries, a national leader on youth issues, gives a motivational speech urging youth to have vision for a better world.

In the midst of even the darkest hour, someone has got to have hope. Hope does not mean that you lose sight of reality. For what hope says is that in spite of my reality there's a bright side somewhere. And that's the difference between sight and vision.

Vision is not what you do with your own eyes, but what you do with your soul. Sight says everybody in my neighborhood is poor, but vision says they're spending millions of dollars a week on things they don't sell. Sight says there's no laundromat in my neighborhood. Vision says I'll start my own. Sight says there are no books in my school. Vision says I'll go to the library and borrow them. Sight says there are no teachers who care. Vision says I'll care more about myself.

You must be people of vision.

So as the poem says:

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will

And the road you're traveling seems all uphill

When the funds are low and debts are high

And you want to smile, but you have to sigh

When care is pressing you down a bit

Rest, if you must, but because of the labors and sacrifices of those who came before you

Don't quit.

It's time to challenge the system.

Resident Needs

Speaker

Bertha Gilkey
President
National Tenant Union

Bertha Gilkey is the President of the National Tenant Union and Chairperson of the Cochran Gardens Resident Management Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a former Black Panther who takes her message of resident empowerment all over the country.

Ms. Gilkey has lived in public housing since age 11. In 1976 she led the movement that transformed her development from a "little Viet Nam," lacking hot water and electricity and plagued by murders and drug dealing, to an oasis of peace, hope, and opportunity in the St. Louis downtown.

Her address to the Summit participants is excerpted below.

It takes the agitating group to bring the group to the table. We need to fire the feet to get the feet moving.

When people do not understand their history, they will repeat it. It's time to challenge the system. The many that came before left a legacy. It is our responsibility to pass the legacy on, and it is your responsibility to catch it.

If America can go to Russia and tear down the walls, surely America can empower and embrace the poor people in America.

We don't want your welfare or your food stamps. All we want is to control our own destiny. All we want is the opportunity to raise our own children. All we want is the opportunity to educate our own children. All we want is the opportunity to control our own businesses.

That's why I like Jack Kemp. He doesn't just talk the talk; he walks the walk. And he's been walking the walk since he was a Congressman.

You must understand if my daughter is not educated, neither is yours. If my community is invaded with drugs, so will yours [be].

People have to feel good about themselves. They have to feel that they can solve this problem. But if you remind them that they are the problem, then they will forever be the problem.



Bertha Gilkey, President of the National Tenant Union and Chairperson of the Cochran Gardens Resident Management Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri, led the efforts of residents who transformed Cochran Gardens into an oasis of peace, hope, and opportunity.

Federal and Local Presentations

Initiatives and Perspectives

Full participation at the Federal, State, and local levels is the key to viable resident and youth initiatives. The following are observations by representatives from various Federal agencies, highlighting youth programs and funding opportunities available from their departments and offices.

Speakers

Ingrid Kolb
Acting Director for
Demand Reduction
Office of National Drug
Control Policy

Robert Wilson
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Policy and External
Affairs
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services

Michael Williams
Assistant Secretary of
Education
U.S. Department of
Education

Jimmy Gurulé
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice

Jane Kenny
Director
ACTION

Joel Soobitsky, Ph.D.
National 4-H Program
Leader
U.S. Department of
Agriculture

Debra Bowland
Assistant Secretary for
Policy
U.S. Department of Labor

Ingrid Kolb

According to Ms. Kolb, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is helping America gain ground in the war on drugs. Over the past 2 years, the number of youth using drugs has dropped from 1.9 million to 1.4 million. Incidents of casual drug use have also declined.

On the whole, prevention programs seem to be working, though inner cities remain battle zones of crime, drug activity, fear, violence, killing, and gangs. In an effort to eliminate drugs in urban communities, ONDCP will award \$165 million in grants to public housing authorities (PHAs) for drug education, training programs, resident patrols, and security equipment.

ONDCP is deeply committed to ensuring public housing is drug and crime free. Cooperation on the State and local levels is vital to the success of the Office's initiatives.

Robert Wilson

Mr. Wilson recommends adopting a "culture of character." He contends that people must take responsibility

for their lives and community decisions, while the government should take steps to support change on the local level.

Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan's Minority Male Initiative sponsors local conferences, coalition-building efforts, and demonstration programs for and about African-American, Hispanic, Alaskan, and Native American males. The program rests on the philosophy that no single agency holds the answers or the solutions; these may be arrived at only by taking advantage of multiple talents.

The Youth Gang Prevention Community Consortia awards \$7 million for programs to divert children and youth from gang membership.

Parents Fair Share offers fathers with child support obligations employment and job training assistance. The demonstration program is combining child support enforcement with the Aid for Families with Dependent Children's job training program.

Michael Williams

Mr. Williams noted that the motto of the U.S. Department of Education's America 2000 Education Strategy comes from an African proverb: It takes an entire village to educate just one child.

Mr. Williams warned that education cannot operate in a vacuum. We all need to pitch in together to make America 2000's goals a reality. The strategy promises that by the year 2000, 98 percent of high school students will graduate from high school. American students will be first in the world in math and sciences. Pupils will attend schools in drug-free and crime-free areas and will have a better understanding of core subjects.

"When you go back to your communities," suggests Mr. Williams. "Ask how you can rise up and embrace America 2000 and achieve these goals locally."

Jimmy Gurulé

In Los Angeles, there are more than 850 street gangs, said Mr. Gurulé. It is no longer just an inner-city phenomena; gang violence has been springing up in rural areas. In his State of the Union address, President Bush announced a new \$500 million initiative to halt the spread of gang- and drug-related violence. The program is called Operation Weed and Seed.

The U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development are working together on the Federal level to guarantee Weed and Seed's success. The program links drug elimination activities to concentrated social services.

It is a four-step process:

1. **Weed Out.** Target high-crime neighborhoods and remove high-crime chronic offenders.

2. **Community Policing Programs.** Create a bridge between law enforcement activities and future social services programs through community policing.

3. **Seeding.** Coordinate drug and gang prevention programs.

4. **Neighborhood Revitalization.** Develop economic opportunities and focus on housing.

Jane Kenny

ACTION is the national volunteer agency. Its 9 regional and 47 program offices administer 6 volunteer programs: Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), the Student Community Service Program, Retired Senior Volunteers, the Senior Companion Program, the Drug Alliance Program, and the Foster Grandparent Program.

Local communities know their needs, says Ms. Kenny. ACTION's role is to help these neighborhoods derive and implement successful solutions.

Joel Soobitsky

The U.S. Department of Agriculture created the 4-H program in 1914, said Mr. Soobitsky. Today many people operate on the misconception that 4-H remains a rural white program. In reality, it has expanded into urban areas. Congress appropriated \$10 million to the 4-H for urban youth initiatives, including some in public housing. The Kellogg Foundation and Readers' Digest have matched this grant with \$40 million.

"... no single agency holds the answers or the solutions; these may be arrived at only by taking advantage of multiple talents."

Robert Wilson

The 4-H has limited financial resources; 96 percent of the operating budget is directed to local chapters. All Federal funds are matched by States and communities.

Though short on money, 4-H is long on values, commitment, and service. So, "if they don't come to you," explained Mr. Soobitsky, "go to them, because they should be ready and able."

Debra Bowland

The Department of Labor (DOL) is committed to building and maintaining a quality workforce, said Ms. Bowland. It wants to make sure that people who want to work have a job at a self-sustaining wage. In order to translate this commitment into a reality, DOL is expanding its education and job training initiatives.

First, the Department recently released DOL Secretary Lynn Martin's *Report on Advancing Necessary Skills*. The report does two things:

- Defines the minimum basic skills necessary to survive in the workplace.
- Develops national competency guidelines that define workplace readiness.

Second, to help individuals with the transition from high school to the workplace, DOL created the Office of Work-Based Learning.

Finally, Secretary Martin issued a challenge to corporations to develop mentors in the workforce. Every company has been asked to encourage at least 10 percent of its staff to perform one-on-one mentoring at local schools. The Department is practicing what it preaches; today, there are 100 mentors at DOL.

**Findings
and
Recommen-
dations**

Security

The Security workshop involved a lively discussion of the strategies being used in the various cities represented. Participants described what their agencies or groups were doing in the area of security and offered others the chance to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches presented. At the completion of the workshop, the group produced many recommendations for police, public housing agencies (PHAs), and residents, including an endorsement of a more community-oriented approach by police and a recommendation that housing agencies control access to their properties.

Moderator

Julie Fagan
Director
Drug-Free
Neighborhoods
Division
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

Resources

Milt Cole
Crime Prevention/
Community Affairs
Boston Housing
Authority

Aureo Cardona
Vice President
National Center for
Housing
Management

Models of Success

The **Bromley-Heath Resident Management Corporation** in Boston uses several strategies to make its community more secure. At regular meetings residents discuss security issues and maintenance needs and then follow through on suggestions and recommendations. The resident management corporation (RMC) works closely with PHA management at every stage and on every issue. Residents who are involved in illegal activity are evicted, and restraining orders are enforced—when a resident requests that someone be excluded from the site, the RMC and housing authority work to make it happen. The RMC has found that the presence of police in the community equals power.

The Chicago Housing Authority offers several suggestions for improved security:

- At **Cabrini Green** private security guards, paid to patrol the development, accompany the volunteers of the Cabrini Green Resident Patrol, who receive 20 hours of training. To help the patrols become familiar with residents, guests must sign in and out when they visit the development. Because of the patrols, residents are less afraid to report crime, and previously canceled services such as pizza delivery have been restored.
- The **Resident Management Program** provides technical assistance to residents interested in managing the property. With assistance from Bertha Gilkey, staff are trained in maintenance, admissions, and building supervision.

- **Operation Clean Sweep** is successful because the housing authority and the police work closely together, involve the residents, and improve property maintenance as part of the sweep. Restricting access to the developments and providing resident identification cards also improve security.

The Ft. Myers Housing Authority has a number of security-oriented programs:

- **Anonymous Tip Hotlines** remove the fear of retaliation and empower residents to battle drug dealers.
- **Rapid Police Response** instills trust in police.
- **Teens Against Crime**, a youth crime watch program, involves 18 teenagers in an alternative activity that keeps youth out of trouble and prevents them from acquiring a police record.
- **Community-Oriented Policing**, a comprehensive approach to policing that increases police presence, may operate from cars, foot patrols, and substations. This approach integrates officers with the community and emphasizes that the role of police is to safeguard residents, not combat them, by establishing strong relationships between assigned officers and the community.
- **Gang Outreach** mediates differences between gangs and helps reformed gang members locate legitimate employment.
- **Bus Stop Program/Operation Safe Path** improves school attendance by assigning parents and officers to supervise and protect children on their way to school.
- **S.A.F.E.** operates at a number of levels: It provides services for youth, assigns officers to time-out room at school, reduces

absenteeism, improves academic performance, and increases teacher involvement.

Recommendations

Police should:

- Send residents to the police academy.
- Require housing authority police to be former or current residents of the development.
- Develop partnerships with law enforcement officials and communities that care, are organized, and want to help clean up the property.
- Increase sensitivity training for police officers.
- Advance into a community enterprise. For example, groups that want to help with security should not clash with the police.
- Build partnerships with the PHA and residents in order to secure their trust.
- Break the unproductive cycles in some police departments that promote violent approaches to crime control, including removing pressure to increase the number of arrests, eliminating training for war instead of peacekeeping, improving people training and sensitivity to language and cultural differences, and training the citizenry in police-community relations.
- Encourage the community to observe police training to help citizens gain a new perspective, seeing police officers as people.
- Be in public housing on a routine basis.
- Accept the community's role in enforcement, starting with asking citizens for assistance.

- Create community-oriented policing.
- Use police officers as community role models.

Residents and the community should:

- Establish volunteer patrols to protect residents from insensitive police and to protect the community.
- Form a relationship with police to help community members stay out of trouble and keep them from having police records.
- Prevent the formation of different camps among residents to avoid division and keep folks together.
- Initiate partnerships with the police.
- Spur community involvement to influence the development and design for partnership initiatives in the following areas:
 - Legislation;
 - Judicial systems; and
 - Local, State, and Federal law enforcement.

Housing authorities should:

- Require staff to set the pace for positive change.
- Deliver solutions and help for residents; i.e., RADAR program.
- Establish a Neighborhood Crime Watch to connect residents to the community and inspire their involvement.
- Incorporate people into the life of the development.
- Revive "Family Day."
- Invite input from residents.

- Strengthen leases with respect to resident responsibility.
- Insist on tough screening procedures and follow up with inspections.
- Simulate a program like Chicago's Operation Clean Sweep.
- Reduce vacancies.
- Curtail gang access.
- Develop positive role model alumni programs for former residents who would come back and provide inspiration and guidance.

Everyone should:

- Establish youth programs that—
 - Address the needs of children exposed to violence through counseling and training by respected members of the community;
 - Transfer children from insecurity to security;
 - Offer family counseling for teenage mothers who move into housing developments;
 - Counsel youth whose friends have been victims of violent deaths;
 - Establish peer counseling for youth;
 - Have police educate kids that violence is not a routine part of life; and
 - Offer incentives for younger kids to achieve excellence in education, culture and music, civic activities, and sports.
- Develop gang outreach programs.
- Establish rehabilitation programs for offenders so they will not repeat crimes.

Health

Attendees expressed disappointment at the absence of youth participants. The group chose to discuss issues and concerns presented by the youth speakers at the opening session. The discussion resulted in a variety of recommendations, but focused primarily on offering sensitivity training for health providers.

Moderator

Kendrick Lee
Administration for
Children & Families
U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services

Resource

Ramona Younger
Commissioner
Alexandria Housing
Authority

Models of Success

In **Corpus Christi** community educators come onsite to developments to provide comprehensive health education; vans are available to transport people.

In **Chicago** vouchers are available so persons can choose where to go for medical services.

- Establish a service program in public housing, similar to that on Indian reservations, for young doctors.
- Reduce workloads for over-worked, undersupported health practitioners.

Housing authorities should:

- Have at least one onsite nurse-practitioner to offer limited treatment and referral services.
- Encourage other health providers such as nurses, nutritionists, and medical social workers to offer services at the development.
- Certify resident managers in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.
- Address both fiscal and interpersonal issues in public housing management.

Recommendations

Health providers should:

- Conduct sensitivity classes for health providers working in public housing.
- Offer incentives to establish health clinics in or near public housing.
- Give residents an opportunity to rate providers and hold those that receive Federal funds accountable.
- Establish HUD waivers in order to make units available for "non-occupancy use" such as day care, alternative schools, family literacy programs, and health care.

Residents and the community should:

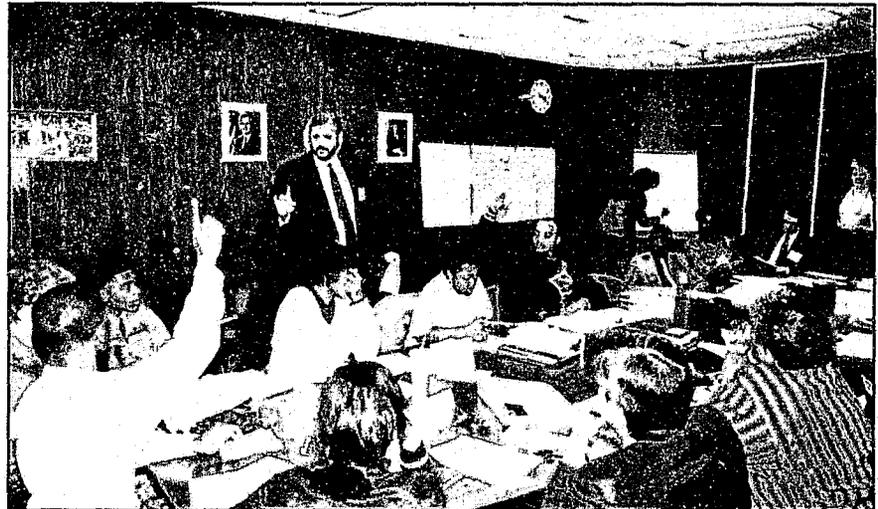
- Solicit resident involvement early on in any process.
- Get kids to volunteer to help others onsite.
- Inform the larger community that those who make money off the public housing community should listen to and involve residents and give back to the community.

Everyone should:

- Create public-private partnerships.
- Complete sensitivity training before working with public housing residents.
- Promote health education classes in:
 - Changing one's lifestyle;
 - Nontraditional healing;
 - Acute intervention;
 - Habits and hygiene; and
 - Basic nutrition.

- Coordinate several approaches; for example, involve 4-H, community action groups, etc.
- Incorporate a multicultural approach; i.e., pay attention to the nutritional quality of food in diet versus Western standard of frequency of meals.
- Address gang violence because it is robbing people of their present and future health.

Participants in discussion groups developed and presented recommendations about issues of concern for youth in public and Indian housing.



Families

Participants in this working group argued for a comprehensive approach to addressing the problems of families in public housing. They recommended that programs be integrated to include conflict resolution, health and parenting, drug education, and economics. The following are models of existing programs that have successfully met these criteria.

Moderator

Thomas Vischi
Office of National Drug
Control Policy
The White House

Resources

Leon Watkins
Executive Director
Family Help Line

Steven Gardner, M.D.
High Risk Youth Branch
Office of Substance
Abuse Prevention

Models of Success

- The **Creative Connections Program** connects families with private health professionals and other service providers who donate their time and services to the cause.
- The **Chief Executive Officers Program** at the Kenilworth-Parkside Development in Washington, D.C., trains heads of households in the areas of budgeting, parenting, nutrition, etc.
- **Parents Encouraging Parents** offers general education diploma (GED) classes, parenting courses, and a young mothers program and involves parents helping other parents to deal with issues of raising children.
- The **Black Male Employment Program** assists this population to resolve conflicts, set life goals, and develop employment skills.
- **Reading and English for Immigrants** teaches English through enactment of real-life situations such as grocery shopping, filling out employment applications, and developing job search techniques.
- The **Even Start Program** incorporates simultaneous education for the parent and child in the same program. Parents work toward a GED while their children receive instruction at the Early Childhood Center in the development.
- **Children Enjoy Yourself Without Drugs** involves a drug education program for preschoolers and their parents.

Recommendations

Social services agencies should:

- Post family support workers onsite to visit families and establish a presence at the development.
- Establish support groups for residents.
- Develop an Even Start Program for families.

- Create family education classes to address parental responsibilities and instill self-confidence.
- Offer comprehensive services onsite.

Residents and the community should:

- Establish and volunteer for a family or teen helpline.
- Mobilize churches to provide spiritual awareness.
- Develop male role models.
- Foster cultural awareness, respect for differences, and positive integration.

Housing authorities should:

- Support drug education and prevention programs for youth.
- Offer day care, baby sitting, and bereavement services.
- Identify family resources within the public housing community.

Everyone should:

- Have professional groups "adopt" public housing families.
- Establish a "buddy system" of residents helping residents.
- Include youth initiatives for girls.
- Participate in economic development training.

Education

Moderator

Aaron Bocage
Senior Partner
EDTEC

Resources

Henry Flores
Executive Director
Housing Authority of
Corpus Christi

Addie Key
Public Health Advisor
U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services

Youth attending the Education session were largely concerned with teacher quality and commitment. Recommendations focused on fostering teachers who care and a responsive educational system.

Models of Success

- The **East Harlem Alternative Secondary School** is a collaborative effort between the New York City Housing Authority and the board of education. This innovative program involves community oversight—parents sit on the board, which helps foster a caring atmosphere, and alumnae of Spelman serve as mentors. Students participate in the administration of the school and interview and participate in the selection of volunteer teachers.

Because the school offers a college-bound program, teachers have high expectations for the students. The school, which targets children at risk of dropping out, offers small classes (22 pupils are in the school) and personal attention. The school operates onsite in the housing development. Five students will graduate this year.

- The **Missouri Youth Initiative Community Project**, sponsored by the University of Missouri, gets young people involved in their community by soliciting their input, encouraging youth to invest in schools by painting hallways and landscaping, and teaching students to be entrepreneurs. The project relies heavily on community resources and

coordinates and collaborates with grant agencies involved in youth initiatives.

- The foundation of the **Experiential Education** program is leadership development. Collaborative efforts between youth and adults and group processes are emphasized. Local government is involved in the program.

Recommendations

Schools should:

- Establish a process of accountability; for example, the community should be able to hire and fire principals, and principals should have control over the hiring and firing of teachers.
- Adopt a year-round school calendar; stop operating on a "harvest calendar" that includes summer vacations and release during the early afternoons.
- Have staff perform more home visits to investigate living conditions of students.
- Heighten staff sensitivity to community needs.

- Create coalitions among teachers, parents, students, and the community.
- Market America's investment in education fiercely and let students know about the financial aid available for college; i.e., work-study, college loan and grant programs.
- Raise performance standards for students and teachers, strengthen minimum basic skills, and attack inappropriate bilingualism such as pidgin English and slang.
- Hire teachers with community ties.
- Help youth develop presentation skills.

Students should:

- Be accountable for meeting minimum academic standards and basic skills requirements.

Parents should:

- Visit schools more often, sit in on classes, and be required to participate at a minimal level.
- Volunteer for school-related activities.
- Mentor and tutor students.

Everyone should:

- Remove blame.
- Look at communities and their values and remove some of the responsibility for failure from schools.
- Center efforts on the community.
- Focus on public and assisted housing as a location for alternative schools.
- Spread education as a "good disease"; for example, emphasize books versus cigarettes on billboards, assault the media, highlight educated heroes,

control what goes into textbooks, stop rewarding failure.

- Get "brothers" to head programs because they understand the relevance of community and culture in education.

Government should:

- Perform needs assessments of schools.
- Guarantee schools the basic necessities like books, paper, and other school supplies.
- Safeguard against the misappropriation of school funds.
- Encourage community reinvestment and efforts to help those left behind.
- Help college graduates and others who have been successful to return to the community to work and serve as role models; for example, allow college loans to be repaid through volunteerism and community service.
- Prevent attrition by paying attention to the outside influences that play a role in dropout rates and reduce the appeal of economic influences like the drug industry.
- Introduce knowledge of self by eradicating the belief that the only routes to success for minorities are sports and music; emphasize the power of education.
- Remove funding disincentives in principals' salaries that are now based on graduation rates instead of quality education.
- Restructure school systems to establish new funding priorities and attack funding inequities.

Youth Sports and Recreation

Moderator

John Johnson
Regional Drug
Coordinator
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

Resources

Jerome Parham
Chicago Boys and Girls
Clubs

Roger Stevens
National Center for
Housing Management

According to session participants, youth sports and recreation promote goal setting, build character, serve as a method for controlling anger, and can grab the attention of public housing youth. Attendees suggested expanding the program and involving more of the community.

Models of Success

- The **Inter-City Games in Los Angeles** drew 39,000 participants in its first year. The hope is to expand the games into an "Inter-City Olympics."
- **STARS** emphasizes volunteer adult participation and requires youth to maintain a "C" average or agree to attend tutoring sessions. Funding for STARS comes from the city, the Federal Government, and fundraising efforts.
- In the **Student Tutorial Recreation Program**, young people tutor younger people, and job opportunities are made available.
- The **National Youth Sports Program**, in operation since 1968, is hosted by 178 college campuses so that young people see college as a real possibility for them. The program teaches skills in a variety of sports (tennis, soccer, track and field, dance, horseback riding). An enrichment component is available for the 200 to 2,000 youth, ages 10 to 16, who participate. Federal funding is available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Youth Sports Leagues** operate out of public schools with equipment that comes from the private sector. The board of directors includes youth and former athletes.
- **Club Fed** creates diversity by offering various activities for youth. The program helps young people instill respect for one another and teaches skills that are transferrable to other settings. Club Fed helps reintegrate retired professional athletes, including National Football League players, back into communities.
- **Leadership Employment for Athlete's Development Program** trains athletes who do not progress to the professional level to be leaders in the housing industry.
- The **Coalition for a Better Acre** encourages peer leadership, incorporates a parents' council, and involves peer organizers and youth in decisionmaking.

Recommendations

Program coordinators should:

- Expand programs to serve more participants.
- Identify and draw from successful programs already in existence.
- Use VISTA volunteers as resources for programs.

Government should:

- Use a segment of HUD's newsletter to deal with information about successful sports and recreation programs.
- Offer comprehensive grants that cover needs of youth.
- Establish standards for evaluating programs.

Housing authorities should:

- Hire residents to help evaluate programs.
- Have facilities, people, and equipment in place.
- Use resident associations' input in program creation and evaluation.
- Hire residents to perform duties in programs.

Residents and the community should:

- Involve the community.
- Involve residents.
- Support local governing body.
- Make programs cost effective.
- Ask, listen, and plan.
- Get input from young people.
- Partner with other groups and organizations.
- Communicate with formal and informal leadership in public housing.
- Use political advocates.

Job Skills and Opportunities

Moderator

Steven Golightly
Vice President
National Alliance of
Business

Resource

Al Chappelle
Director
Cochran Gardens
Community Center

It was agreed that job skills training is most effective when there is the guarantee of a job at the end. Session participants suggested that trainers should empower residents by helping them develop entrepreneurial and resident management skills.

Models of Success

- The **Working Prep Program** is an onsite program that focuses on behavioral and motivational steps to get families to look at where they were and where they want to be. Discussions center on hindrances and how to overcome setbacks.
- **Professional Sports Linkage** conducts onsite training and offers jobs to match skills.
- The **Pre-apprenticeship Program** involves youth working in trades and pays participants one-third of tradesmen wages.
- The **Peer Leadership Program** trains peers within their groups on how to seek employment and how to teach others to find jobs. The companies that participate use youth to conduct seminars.
- The **Mayor's Youth Corps**, a 1-year program, teaches basic job skills, employee qualities, and dress and grooming. The program matches youth with mentors in desired professions.
- **Do For Self** teaches youth to be manufacturers, not just consumers. Mentors share a common cultural identity (e.g., Hispanic, black) with youth.
- The **Futures Program** attempts to get people off welfare and into the job market.
- **Project Independence** brings together the U.S. Department of Labor and the Private Industry Council in developing job skills. The program has an 87 percent retention rate. An attractive feature of the program is the transitional child care it offers to facilitate employment.
- **Career Days** help people find jobs by bringing interested individuals together with various job opportunities.
- **Youth Entrepreneurship** emphasizes teamwork and conflict resolution, instructs participants on how to find business opportunities (such as lawn care, car washing, shoe shining), draws on the resident management program, and adopts the perspective that training is an ongoing activity. Staff, chosen from among residents, help participants find jobs and provide training in management and conflict resolution.

Recommendations

Government should:

- Offer direct funding to residents.
- Ensure that staff are racially representative of the community.
- Establish realistic timelines for completing proposals.

Housing authorities should:

- Improve ways of dealing with residents; obtain "empowerment education."
- Base requirements for tenant rent payment on head of household income.
- Place stronger emphasis on hiring and training residents to manage developments.
- Provide facilities that offer more preventative approaches to dealing with youth; i.e., recreational opportunities.

- Provide a greater variety of youth programs that help develop good work habits.

Everybody should:

- Establish a national public housing residents' credit union.
- Compete with the drug industry to attract youth.
- Provide peer-to-peer counseling, develop skills to teach youth to be facilitators.
- Establish mentor programs.
- Develop business within the community as an answer to the drug problem.
- Base education on future needs.
- Reorient the community to what is necessary in child development.
- Talk with youth about what they want and like to do.
- Localize decisionmaking authority.
- Train people to start their own businesses (entrepreneurship).
- Empower youth councils to be part of decisionmaking.

City Groups

Group 1
Philadelphia
District of Columbia

Group 2
Chicago
St. Louis
Minneapolis
Detroit

Group 3
New York
Boston

Group 4
Los Angeles
Ft. Myers
Corpus Christi
Mobile
New Orleans
Omaha

City Group 1: Philadelphia District of Columbia

The following are recommendations for improving services at public housing developments and examples of what some localities are doing.

Security

- Security should come from within and be available onsite.
- Residents need to create better relations with law enforcement.
- Residents should have the ability and power to evict.
- Counseling on the dangers of unauthorized guests should be available.
- Resident managers need to be accredited.
- Secure barriers, parking stickers, personal identification cards for residents and staff, cameras, and security guards should be used to prevent unauthorized access to public housing property.

Local Initiatives

- Philadelphia: Fruits of Islam secures properties without weapons and barrier building measures; instead members use their presence and youth programs to bring about change.
- Washington: Secures one development at a time using three components—external rehabilitation (surrounding community), internal rehabilitation (the people), property rehabilitation.

— Residents complete a check list that identifies every problem in the apartment. This helps the Department of Public and Assisted Housing meet a minimum quality standard.

— RADAR Program with the National Center for Housing Management and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) prepares subsidized housing management to perform administrative backup. The FBI and police perform a sweep for drugs, etc.; then follow up to keep drugs out of dealers' hands.

Health

- Offer door-to-door immunization.
- Erect onsite health facilities to provide cholesterol and blood pressure screening and teach nutrition and wellness classes.

Local Initiatives

- Washington: Many developments have "health corners" that provide wellness instruction.

Families

- Black males need to be present in the community and serve as role models.
- Men must be encouraged to become legitimate residents and have their names placed on leases, so they might participate and qualify for job training and other programs.

- Marriage packages such as those at Morton Homes should be available to reduce wedding expenses.
- More parenting programs should be incorporated into GED classes.
- Helplines should be established to assist parents in childrearing.
- Children need to have systems for recreation and education.
- A credit union like the one at Abbotsford Homes would assist families with savings plans, check writing, loans, etc.

Education

- Personalize the educational system; treat each student as an individual.
- Have principals meet regularly with parents.
- Make schools accessible after hours in order to redefine them as community centers, not as 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. "jails."
- Pay attention to external forces like the media, monitor television viewing, offer alternative entertainment through closed-circuit television.

Youth Sports and Recreation

- Include women in youth sports programs.
- Adopt a holistic approach; invite youth, community, parents, etc.

Job Skills and Opportunities

The following recommendations were offered to improve job training and employment opportunities.

- Restructure training programs to aim at existing jobs.
- Teach skills that will be necessary in the future.

Local Initiatives

- Washington: Plans to hire residents to work as onsite managers.

Recommendations to Federal Agencies

- Provide holistic funds for programs—pieces of a comprehensive strategy fall apart when groups need to continually apply to various sources in order to maintain one program.
- Get rid of uncooperative PHA directors in order to ensure staff who understand the importance of working with resident management corporations and resident councils.
- Establish punitive assessment programs to discourage PHAs from proceeding without consulting with resident groups.
- Work harder to stop drugs from entering the United States.
- Create partnerships and network with other groups in order to guarantee greater inter- and intradepartmental communication that would lead to more comprehensive solutions to society's problems.
- Move faster in implementing programs.

City Group 2: Chicago St. Louis Minneapolis Detroit

The following are recommendations for improving services at public housing developments and examples of what some localities are doing.

Security

- Work to keep street patrol volunteers.
- Entice youth to participate in the street patrol.
- Create more grants to expand street patrols into other cities and areas.
- Work with the National Crime Prevention Council.

Education

- Augment learning resources and ensure that more books are available in schools.
- Make a cooperative effort to acquire more educational materials.

Job Skills and Opportunities

- Train residents for the construction jobs that become available under regular public housing renovation and modernization.
- Make Federal money available to teach business development skills.
- Explore economic, job, and training alternatives.

Recommendations to Federal Agencies

- Establish intra- and interagency partnerships, build coalitions, minimize duplication.
- Set the goal to take on at least one collaborative effort each year.
- Expand availability of grants or technical assistance and encourage formal and informal communication among agencies.
- Send the message to PHAs that they must solicit resident input and form partnerships with grassroots organizations.
- Expand on recommendations that resulted from the National Youth Initiatives Summit.
- Identify and highlight successful national and international models.
- Reduce administrative costs in order to free up more funds.
- Reduce the amount of unnecessary paperwork.
- Eliminate local barriers to grant applications.

City Group 3: New York Boston

Members of the group offered the following recommendations as ways of fostering better cooperation among residents, government agencies, and the private sector.

General Recommendations

- Obtain greater communication and support from HUD.

- Have government draft a resource manual of successful programs.
- Establish a communication team of Youth Summit participants to make recommendations to HUD on a quarterly basis. The team would then report back to their communities.
- Involve private foundations such as the United Way.
- Create partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies.
- Support monitoring visits to the communities to meet residents.
- Ensure long-term financial support.

**City Group 4:
Los Angeles
Ft. Myers
Corpus Christi
Mobile
New Orleans
Omaha**

Members of the group offered the following recommendations for involving residents and youth in initiatives to improve community life in public housing.

General Recommendations

- Propose local conferences to address community issues.
- Adopt a program for grassroots exchange among youth.
- Provide grants for youth to attend conferences.
- Establish a 'Teens Against Crime' program, including peer counseling, drug abuse prevention programs, mentoring, and recreation.
- Put pride back into the community by promoting self-sufficiency, drug elimination, resident management, and community policing.
- Actively recruit volunteers for street patrols and resident initiatives activities.
- Move to change the negative attitudes that exist towards public housing.
- Challenge the government to provide greater technical assistance and write a how-to manual for resident empowerment.
- Ensure long-term financial support; at least 3 to 5 years.

Closing Plenary Session

Closing Plenary

Panelists

Jo Anne Barnhart
Assistant Secretary
Administration for
Children and Families
U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services

Carl Hampton
Special Assistant to the
Director
Office of Substance
Abuse Prevention
U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services

Ronica Houston
Executive Director
National Association of
Resident Management
Corporations

Joseph Schiff
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and
Indian Housing
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

Following 2 days of listening to motivational speakers and learning of proposed Federal initiatives, conference participants presented their suggestions and recommendations for continued agency support to a panel of Federal and local agency representatives.

Ms. Houston commended the Federal agencies for their efforts in organizing this conference. "This is a very exciting conference," she said. "We must continue to put faith and resources in our youth."

Similarly, Mr. Schiff said, "We need to concentrate on our youth." He continued, "In his State of the Union address, President Bush asked us to investigate the Federal regulations and to come up with creative solutions; to try and make programs responsive to resident needs; to be partners with residents for a better life for all."

Working Group and City Group recommendations are condensed on the following pages. For a more comprehensive list of suggestions and recommendations, refer to the Working Groups and City Groups sections of this *Summary*.

Working Group: Security

Presenter
Hosea Crossley
Chicago Housing Authority
Police Department
Chicago, Illinois

This group shared the success stories of seven public housing security programs: Community-Oriented Policing, Operation Clean Sweep, Gang Outreach, Bus Stop Program, Operation Safe Path, S.A.F.E., and Resident Patrols. In addition, the group called on the Federal agencies to break the violent cycle of training officers for

war not peace. It asked HUD to mandate training and accreditation of housing management staff. Also, the group called for more stringent gun control measures and for the government to provide incentive programs for youth to excel in education, the arts, music, civic services, and sports.

Working Group: Health

Presenter
Al Marin
Office of Substance Abuse
Prevention
Corpus Christi, Texas

The Health Working Group expressed its disappointment at the lack of input from whites and Hispanics. Participants sensed a real disadvantage with no youth present at the session. They recommended that future conferences solicit input from representatives in the health field. The group felt health practitioners should be placed onsite at public housing developments and that HUD should grant waivers to allow units to be used for health programs.

Working Group: Families

Presenter
Leon Watkins
Family Helpline
Los Angeles, California

According to the Families Working Group, Federal agencies need to establish permanent programs that work with the family unit, not segments. With respect to crisis

"President Bush asked us to investigate the Federal regulations and to come up with creative solutions; to try and make programs responsive to resident needs; to be partners with residents for a better life for all."

Joseph Schiff

intervention, participants suggested replication of the Family and Teen Helpline programs. The group also called for comprehensive family education programs in schools.

Working Group: Education

Presenter
Henry Flores
Corpus Christi Housing
Authority
Corpus Christi, Texas

Participants of the Education Working Group felt Federal agencies should help establish alternative schools at public housing developments. Schools operated onsite would guarantee teacher accountability and resident involvement. The group called for equity in school funding and greater access to financial aid for higher education. Recommendations for community-based schools, higher performance standards, and basic skills education were made. Finally, many of the youth argued for cultural awareness and sex education.

Working Group: Youth Sports and Recreation

Presenter
Jerome Parham
Chicago Boys and Girls Clubs
Chicago, Illinois

Few youth attended this session, yet the group arrived at some recommendations for the Federal and local agency panel. Sports are important for building character, developing self-esteem, and promoting goal setting, but the emphasis in youth sports should be on educational achievement. Residents who work with youth should be paid. HUD newsletters

should contain stories of youth successes. Programs should integrate the family and community. Both young men and young women should benefit equally. Finally, partnership with the PHA is imperative for a model youth sports and recreation program.

Working Group: Job Skills and Opportunities

Presenter
Al Chappelle
Cochran Gardens Community
Center
St. Louis, Missouri

After a student completes a job training course, a job should be available. The Job Skills and Opportunities Working Group discussed the need for training in business development, self-employment, and youth entrepreneurship. It was suggested that more residents be employed during the resident management and homeownership conversion processes. Finally, the youth requested job skills training adapted for youth.

City Group 1: Philadelphia, District of Columbia

Presenter
Stephen Fitzhugh
Community Prevention
Partnership
Washington, D.C.

Federal agencies need to offer more holistic funds. This way organizations won't need to piecemeal a program together by applying and reapplying to several unrelated agencies. Departments need to communicate more and initiate interagency efforts like the Youth Summit. Agencies should avoid over administration of

programs that results in an implementation and information slowdown.

City Group 2:
Chicago, St. Louis,
Minneapolis, Detroit

Presenters

John Irving
Pro Sports Linkage, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chris Young
Tauheed Youth Group
St. Louis, Missouri

Agencies should solicit more youth participation in all areas of summits like these, not just on the initial youth panel. The Federal Government should co-host and offer technical assistance to youth sports efforts on the regional and local levels. Equipment and office space must be available for resident initiatives activities.

City Group 3:
New York, Boston

Presenter

Milt Cole
Bromley-Heath Tenant
Management Corporation
Boston, Massachusetts

Government should offer incentives to businesses for hiring youth. There needs to be greater promotion of basic education. Finally, youth advocates need to be available onsite or in clinics.

City Group 4:
Los Angeles, Ft. Myers,
Corpus Christi, Mobile,
New Orleans, Omaha

Presenter

Cecil Collins
Volunteers of America
Metairie, Louisiana

Young people should be kept in leadership roles during a youth summit. Federal programs need to encourage self-sufficiency. Agency grants need to be long-term—at least 3 to 5 years—so residents can have adequate time to plan, develop, and implement programs and solutions.



Joseph Schiff, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, reiterates HUD's commitment to youth and to being partners with residents of public and Indian housing.

Resources



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001
February 24, 1992

Dear Summit Participant:

Welcome to the National Youth Initiatives Summit, the first in a series of actions this year intended to provide real opportunities and solutions to the problems facing America's public housing youth.

I am personally gratified by the show of support evidenced at this Summit meeting. Local youth, law enforcement officials, the public sector and public housing grassroots leadership represented here will all pull together I am sure to make this conference an overwhelming success.

Local grassroots leaders will be heartened to learn that strong federal backing from the Bush Administration is available to help them break the cycle of poverty. In the past few years at HUD, we have worked hard to help create a renaissance throughout our inner cities. No longer do we simply offer housing to low-income people. Now we give residents tools which empower them to take charge of their own lives.

In the past three years, the Department has awarded 896 anti-drug grants totalling \$246.5 million to Public and Indian housing authorities. Since 1989, the number of Resident Management groups has risen dramatically from 13 to 200 organizations. Finally, in an attempt to help recapture the American dream for the low income, the Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere (HOPE) initiative becomes a new and exciting avenue for homeownership and financial independence for public housing residents. President Bush has asked Congress to fully fund HOPE in FY93 at nearly \$3 billion.

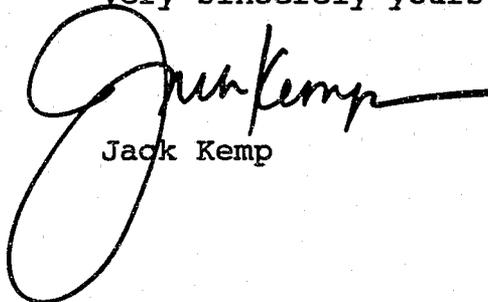
While the federal government continues to do a great deal to help public housing residents take charge of their lives, we cannot overlook the many exciting developments taking place on the homefront. You will learn about these local efforts at this Summit. They include Operation Clean Sweep, a successful management strategy that helps communities take back drug-ridden public housing developments from gangs and drug dealers. You will also hear about the innovative empowerment approaches taken by resident leaders, including Kimi Gray of Washington, D.C., Bertha Gilkey of St. Louis, and Alicia Rodriguez of East Los Angeles. Their programs are successful because they are rooted in our nation's ideals of self-governance, self-help and participatory democracy.

Be assured that in no way is this Summit an end in itself: it is a springboard for action. This meeting represents an unparalleled united front involving each of your federal agency partners: Health and Human Services, Justice, Agriculture, Education, ACTION, and the Labor Department. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, another Summit participant, recently released the President's "Strategy Four," the 1992 National Drug Strategy. This blueprint for action, developed by Director Martinez, calls for major federal targeting of effort and resources for the drug war in inner-city public housing communities.

But our efforts at the federal level to create jobs and youth opportunities, promote homeownership, and securitize public housing communities will only succeed if they are rooted in, and guided by, successful activism on the local level, which you have demonstrated. Therefore, I eagerly await the report and recommendations you will develop as a result of the working group portion of this Summit, as a basis to guide our heightened activism to buttress positive youth, family and community efforts across America.

Thank you for your leadership and participation as "comrades in arms" for this important domestic battle.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Kemp". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack Kemp



OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Washington, D.C. 20500

February 20, 1992

**TO EVERYONE GATHERED FOR
THE NATIONAL YOUTH INITIATIVES SUMMIT**

I am delighted to welcome everyone to the National Youth Initiatives Summit. It is encouraging to know that leaders from across America have gathered together for this important conference.

As you well know, young people today face many choices and challenges, and to become involved in illegal drugs is one of the most devastating choices a young person can make. Drugs fuel violence and criminal activity, and inflict destruction and despair on those who use them, their families, and their communities. We cannot afford to let any more of our youth travel this dead end road. We must send the message loud and clear: that drugs are wrong, harmful, and their use will not be tolerated. We must provide the leadership by stressing strong values, and the virtue that clean living and staying in school can bring.

This conference provides a meaningful forum to discuss these critical issues and to produce recommendations designed to help our young people move into productive jobs and healthy lives. We have at hand a valuable opportunity for Federal and local officials to work together, to exchange ideas and to gain new insights into ways to help our young people reach their full potential. The work that you accomplish here can make a difference for this generation and for generations to come.

I want to thank Secretary Kemp for his leadership in convening this historical meeting and for working to empower our Nation's young people.

Best wishes for a successful conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Martinez".

BOB MARTINEZ
Director
Office of National
Drug Control Policy



24 FEB 1992

Dear Participant:

You are to be commended for your participation in this historic event. This National Youth Initiatives Summit is an excellent example of focusing several Federal agencies on positive youth opportunities. It is in our Nation's best interest to leverage resources supporting public housing youth empowerment and initiating coordinated efforts in addressing critical community issues.

As Administrator, Extension Service, USDA, it has been rewarding to witness the expansion of 4-H programs with residents in public housing communities. In our efforts to respond to youth issues, we have shared resources, expertise, and demonstrated that these local Federal partnerships are important to the future of our country.

We are encouraging our Land Grant University and College specialists to support the local Cooperative Extension staff in strengthening and expanding programs with youth and families in public housing communities.

We look forward to the recommendations of the Summit, and thank you again for your interest and cooperation.

Sincerely,

MYRON D. JOHNSRUD
Administrator





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE SECRETARY

February 24, 1992

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, I would like to join my fellow Cabinet Secretaries in welcoming you to the public housing Youth Initiatives Summit.

Last April, President Bush launched AMERICA 2000, a bold strategy to help America move itself, community by community, toward the six National Education Goals adopted by the President and the Governors in 1990. AMERICA 2000 is not about telling communities what to do; it's not another federal program. Rather, AMERICA 2000 is a national framework for communities to adopt their own education goals, develop a community-wide strategy to achieve those goals, measure progress, and create "break the mold" schools that are the best in the world.

Each AMERICA 2000 Community must decide for itself what kinds of changes need to be made in the way it educates its children. We want to encourage and help -- not dictate what to do.

Already, more than one thousand communities across America have taken up the President's challenge to become AMERICA 2000 Communities. Among them are some of our largest cities, which face many of the problems you will be discussing at the Summit. But in these cities, AMERICA 2000 is helping people from all walks of life to come together to transform their schools and the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

These are exciting times for education. I hope you will join the AMERICA 2000 crusade and work to make your community a place where learning can happen.

Sincerely,

Lamar Alexander

AGENDA
National Youth Initiatives Summit
February 24-26, 1992
Washington, DC

Monday, February 24, 1992

6:00 p.m. **Registration** **10th Floor Conference Room Lobby**

7:00 p.m. **Welcome and Overview of the Summit** **10th Floor Conference Room**
David Caprara, Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Resident Initiatives, HUD
Thomas Vischi, Office of National Drug Control Policy,
Executive Office of the President

7:15 p.m. **Opening Session**

Listening to Youth
Vince Lane, Chair of the Board of Directors
of the Chicago Housing Authority
Ken Lee, Special Assistant, Office of Family Assistance, HHS

A panel of teenagers discuss the major challenges and positive opportunities confronting youth who live in public housing.

8:30 p.m. **Overview**
Vince Lane

9:00 p.m. **Adjourn Day One**
Jose Marquez, Special Assistant, HUD

Tuesday, February 25, 1992

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration** **10th Floor Conference Room Lobby**
- Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 a.m. **Preview** **10th Floor Conference Room**
 David Caprara - Moderator
- "Invasion of the Body Snatchers"**
 Reverend Buster Soaries
- Resident Needs**
 Bertha Gilkey, President, Cochran Resident Management Corporation
- Federal Drug Strategy**
 Ingrid Kolb, Deputy for Demand Reduction (Acting),
 Office of National Drug Control Policy
- 10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Federal and Local Presentations:**
 Initiatives and Perspectives
 Robert Wilson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
 and External Affairs, HHS
 Michael Williams, Assistant Secretary of Education,
 Office of Civil Rights
 Jimmy Gurule, Assistant Attorney General,
 Office of Justice Programs, DOJ
 Jane Kenny, Director, ACTION
 Joel Soobitsky, Ph.D., National 4-H Program Leader
 Debra Bowland, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, DOL
- 11:30 a.m. **Question and Answer Period**
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch Break** **On Your Own**
- 1:00 p.m. **Education Announcement** **10th Floor Conference Room**
 John MacDonald, Assistant Secretary,
 Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

**Secretary Jack Kemp
Housing and Urban Development**

10th Floor Conference Room

Search for Solutions: Overview

Julie Fagan, Director, Drug Free Neighborhoods Division, ORI/HUD

Participants now move to one of the following sessions and participate in group discussions focusing on solutions in the areas highlighted:

Security

Conference Room # TBA

Julie Fagan

Milt Cole, Superintendent of Crime Prevention/Community Affairs

Public Safety Department, Boston Housing Authority

Aureo Cardona, Vice President, National Center for Housing Management

Health

Conference Room # TBA

Ken Lee

Ramona Younger, Commissioner, Alexandria Housing Authority, Virginia

Families

Conference Room # TBA

Thomas Vischi

Leon Watkins, Executive Director of the Family Help Line, Los Angeles

Dr. Steven Gardner, Chief of the High Risk Youth Branch, DDE/OSAP

Education

Conference Room # TBA

Aaron Boccage, Senior Partner, Educational Technologies

Henry Flores, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Corpus Cristi

Addie Key, Public Health Advisor

Youth Sports and Recreation

Conference Room # TBA

John Johnson, Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator

/Regional Drug Coordinator, Region II, HUD

Jerome Parham, Chicago Boys and Girls Clubs

Roger Stevens, President, National Center for Housing Management

Job Skills/Opportunities

Conference Room # TBA

Steven Golightly, Vice President, National Alliance of Business

Al Chappelle, Director of the Corcoran Community Center, St. Louis

5:00 p.m.

Reception

10th Floor Conference Room

6:00 p.m.

Dinner on your own

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February 24-26, 1992

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News Release

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HUD CONVENES SUMMIT TO HELP YOUTH, STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp today addressed a gathering of Federal officials, public housing leaders, and community activists, at a National Youth Initiatives Summit.

The Youth Initiatives Summit will highlight parts of the Bush Administration's empowerment agenda for public housing youth, which includes greater educational opportunities and job skills development.

"In his State of the Union address, President Bush said that a major cause of the problems of the cities is the dissolution of the family," Secretary Kemp said. "By targeting this generation of public housing youth, we can aggressively attack the problems of poverty and despair that so often plague public housing communities, and bring hope and opportunity to future generations."

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For the first time ever, grass-roots activists attending the Summit are directly advising Federal officials on designing youth and pro-family programs. These activists will then report to Federal agencies on critical issues and barriers to helping youth and strengthening the family. Summit participants include officials from seven Federal agencies, public housing officials, resident leaders, law enforcement officials, and youth and service providers.

Secretary Kemp also unveiled a 10-point youth initiative plan, which includes expanding Boys and Girls Clubs into public housing; grants for public housing youth sports; establishing "I Have a Dream" education chapters in public housing communities; and pro-family revisions to the current welfare system. Inter-agency joint announcements made at the Summit will also target public housing youth. These initiatives will build upon the Administration's overall efforts to empower low-income Americans with economic opportunity, self-sufficiency, and homeownership.

#

NATION

Summit tackles crime, poverty

By Carleton R. Bryant
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Maxine Willis knows a thing or two about children — and their parents.

"Young kids model their behavior after their parents," says the youth volunteer from Detroit.

Miss Willis, director of Kids Enjoy Yourselves Without Drugs, has seen many community initiatives die miserably because volunteers come by in buses and pick up the children without involving the parents.

"That's why we take our program into the community," Miss Willis says. "We tell the parents, 'There's no bus coming. We're here for you.'"

Between the partisan politics Beltway pundits revel in and the despair of the inner city lies a group of people working to better their communities without fanfare — and sometimes without federal funds.

This week, more than 200 of these community activists from around the country are in Washington for a meeting on how to solve the country's plagues of drugs, illiteracy, violent crime and poverty.

Called the National Youth Initiatives Summit, the three-day meeting was convened by Jack Kemp, secretary of housing and urban development, and ends today. Officials from the departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor have contributed to the summit.

"This is the best thing that's ever happened," said Kimi Gray, president of the Kenilworth-Parkside Resident Management Corp. Kenilworth-Parkside is a former D.C. public housing project now owned and run by its tenants.

In a series of workshops and special presentations, the community leaders have shared information and strategies, conferred with federal agencies about their problems and set up grass-roots networks with like-minded activists.

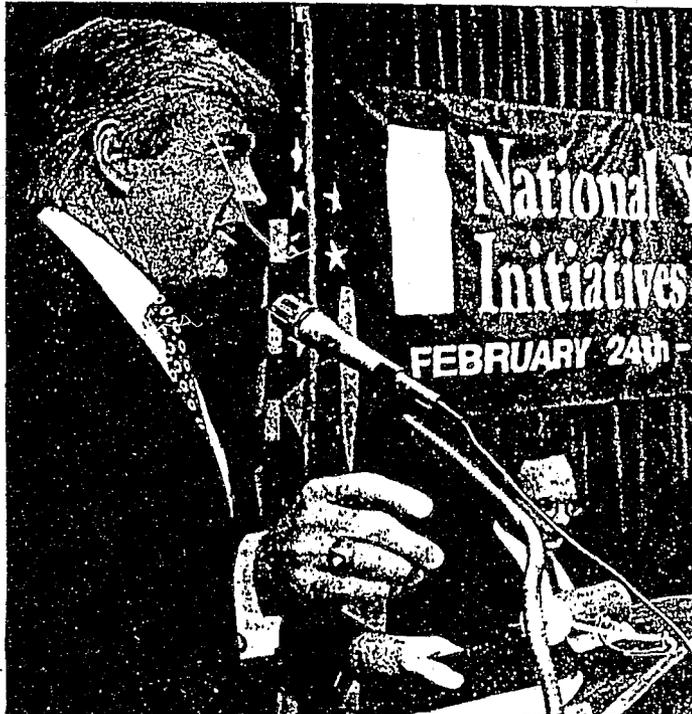


Photo by Willard Volz/The Washington Times

HUD Secretary Jack Kemp organized the three-day event in Washington.

Sandra Lignell, a 4-H adviser from southeast Chicago, said she was looking for ways to make learning "more meaningful" for inner-city children.

"I hope to take back some ideas to incorporate into my new position as a youth development educator," said Mrs. Lignell, a 55-year-old grandmother who has worked with Chicago's 4-H since 1977. She also is pursuing a doctorate in curriculum design.

A gathering of pragmatists, the summit has focused on what works and why.

"If we keep supporting the failed solutions of the past 20 years, we're going to continue to get failures," said Robert L. Woodson, president and founder of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise.

Some of the featured "model" programs include:

- The Way Out — a six-week summer program in Augusta, Ga., designed to discourage drug use among children and instill desire for learning and spirituality.

- Operation Clean Sweep — an anti-drug initiative in Chicago's public housing units.

- Action in the Arts — a program in Greenville, S.C., in which children and adult volunteers produce origi-

nal plays with anti-drug themes.

- The Mentor Program — "It's a collaboration between the Boston Housing Authority and the Wentworth Institute of Technology to introduce the kids [in public housing] to computers," said Willie Mae Bradley, a housing authority volunteer.

"We take the kids over on a Saturday for an eight-week or a 12-week session... and they learn about computers and develop an interest in drafting," Mrs. Bradley said.

In a speech at the summit, Mr. Kemp said he wants sports to be a part of every public housing development. The housing secretary probably would find himself a little behind the curve in Fort Myers, Fla.

The STARS (Success Through Academic and Recreational Support) program has been placing inner-city children in youth groups such as Pop Warner football and Little League baseball since 1989, said J. Fred Burson, director of the program.

"We had all these youth activities, and we noticed that the children that needed them the most weren't getting them," Mr. Burson said. "We use sports to improve the children's self-esteem, but we pay close attention to their education, too."