

HEALTH

William Toby Named Head Of Medicare/Medicaid Programs

HHS Secretary Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., has named William Toby Jr. as the acting administrator of the federal agency that directs the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

In his new position, Toby is in charge of the Health Care Financing Administration, with about 4,000 employees nationwide. HCFA helps pay medical bills for about 60 million Americans at a projected cost of about \$204 billion in fiscal year 1992. In dollar terms, HCFA's budget is the 12th largest governmental budget of any kind in the world.

"Bill Toby combines a demonstrated appreciation of people's health care problems," Secretary Sullivan said, "and the administrative skill and judgment to deliver services efficiently and effectively. Over a 10-year, period in HCFA's New York City regional headquarters, he saved the department \$1.6 billion through contributing to improved efficiency in state systems and eliminating fraud and abuse.

"We welcome a man who has dealt with the multitude of medical, social and economic problems in our nation's largest city."

As HCFA's regional administrator in New York City for 15 years, Toby has a long-standing involvement with issues relating to the elderly, disabled and poor.

He was responsible for the Medicare and federal Medicaid programs in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The region's annual HCFA budget is \$26 billion.

Previously, Toby was regional commissioner of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Social and Rehabilitation Service in the New York region, with responsibility for Medicaid, public assistance and social service programs.

Prior to that, he served as inter-governmental relations officer for the New York City Mayor John Lindsay. He has also held top positions with HEW and the National Urban League.

Toby was born in Augusta,

Ga., and raised the New York City. He completed high school in London, while serving with the Air Force in England during the Korean War.

He received a bachelor's degree in Spanish studies from West Virginia State College in 1961, a master's degree in social work from Adelphi University in 1963 and a master's in public administration in 1986 from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In September 1988, President Reagan selected Toby for the Meritorious Executive Rank Award for sustained superior accomplishments in management. His other awards include the first HCFA Leadership Award in 1980, and HHS Award for Exceptional Achievement in controlling Medicaid costs in New York State in 1982.

Toby has been honored by Adelphi University, where he was named an Adelphi Alumni of Distinction. Toby is married to the former Diane Anderson of Aber-

deen S.D., and they have twin sons, Kenneth and Michael. Toby replaces J. Michael Hudson, who was named acting administrator in March, following the depar-

ture of Gail R. Wilensky for a White House position. Hudson has assumed new duties as counselor to the HHS deputy secretary.



WILLIAM TOBY

VIEW FROM HHS

by Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.



One of the most ominous trends threatening our nation is a perilous rise in fatherless families. Some 60 percent of American children will live part of their childhood in a single-parent home.

This loss of fathers is causing societal problems ranging from teen pregnancy to drug abuse. My hunch is that behind the baffling rise in senseless street and gang violence, drive-by shootings and "wildings," lies a group of young males raised without the love, discipline and guidance of a father. In fact, approximately 70 percent of juveniles in long-term correctional facilities did not live with their father while growing up.

A generation of young males are measuring their manhood by the caliber of their gun and the number of children they have fathered.

It is time that we put the issue of fatherless families and the indispensable role fathers play front-and-center on our national agenda.

A child with two parents is now the exception rather than the norm. Fewer people are marrying, and more are divorcing. At the same time, the number of children born to married couples is decreasing; out-of-wedlock births are surging. Today, more than one in four births is outside marriage.

Two parents are not always better than one. Many courageous and loving single-parents are able to care and provide for their children alone. But a strong two-parent family is the ideal.

Fatherless children are more vulnerable to physical, mental and emotional problems. They are five times more likely to be poor and twice as likely to drop out of school. In any given year, nine out of 10 children

from two-parent families avoid poverty, but one out of two children living in a mother-only family is poor.

A father's absence cannot be reduced to income loss alone; his attention, discipline and love are not easily replaced.

To reverse the trend toward fatherless families, we must reinvigorate a "culture of character" in our nation—a culture in which we support and reinforce one another actively in positive and healthy choices. We must re-evaluate our cultural values and the messages we send our children about marriage, family and sexual relations.

We must encourage fathers living apart from their children to remain involved in their children's lives. Only a third of absent fathers report that they see their children at least once a week, and nearly one in five has not seen his children for five years.

HHS has stepped-up child support enforcement to change the situation in which just half the women due child support receive the full amount owed, a quarter receive partial payment and a quarter receive nothing.

Also, for children whose fathers have completely abandoned them, we can strive to help through grandparents and extended family members, mentors and tutors.

Our nation is built on strong families and communities. If we protect these, no outside force can overwhelm us. But if our family and community ties grow weak, what will be left to save our children—and our future?

(Dr. Sullivan is U.S. secretary of health and human services.)

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This is a message from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.