

March '00

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 28, 2000

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**PRESS SCHEDULE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON FOR  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On Wednesday, March 29, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will travel to San Francisco, where she will participate in a women entrepreneurs' roundtable at the Women's Technology Cluster, the first high-tech incubator for women entrepreneurs. The WTC was launched a year ago to accelerate the growth of women-owned businesses and facilitate access to capital by women entrepreneurs.

Mrs. Clinton and the entrepreneurs will discuss the role of women in the new economy, access to capital, and Internet start-ups. The roundtable will be web cast live on the Internet, where people from across the world will be able to view the discussion. (Those interested in viewing the webcast should pre-register at [www.womenstechcluster.org](http://www.womenstechcluster.org).)

Mrs. Clinton will also help to launch a new woman-owned Internet start-up, and will join Mayor Willie Brown in announcing a strategic partnership between the WTC and Panasonic to give women entrepreneurs access to capital for Internet start-ups and equity investments.

**EVENT:** Women's Technology Cluster Visit  
**DATE:** Wednesday, March 29, 2000  
**TIME:** 3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** 1207 Indiana Street  
San Francisco, California

**Press Notes:**

This event is pooled press. Press wishing to view the discussion can pre-register at [www.womenstechcluster.org](http://www.womenstechcluster.org). The visit is also accessible via satellite. See coordinates below.

**Satellite Information:**

**DATE:** March 29, 2000  
**TIME:** 1800-2030X30 ET  
**COORDINATES:** (KU-band) GE5/Trans.13 DF: 12093

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 27, 2000

CONTACT: LISSA MUSCATINE  
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**PRESS SCHEDULE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON FOR  
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2000**

WASHINGTON, DC -- On Tuesday, March 28, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be honored with the fourth annual "Women of Courage" Award at *An Unforgettable Evening*, the annual celebration coordinated by Saks Fifth Avenue and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to raise funds for much-needed research into women's cancers. Mrs. Clinton is being honored for her commitment and dedication to women's health issues, and for shining a national spotlight on the need for more research.

**EVENT:** "Women of Courage" Award Presentation at *An Unforgettable Evening*  
**DATE:** Tuesday, March 28, 2000  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel  
Grand Ballroom  
9500 Wilshire Boulevard  
Beverly Hills, California

**Press Notes:**

This event is open press. No pre-credentialing is required. Press must show standard press identification at check-in to gain access. Lighting and mult provided. Throw is approximately 70'.

Pre-Set: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Final Access: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The on-site contact is Wendy Arends.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 17, 2000

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**PRESS SCHEDULE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON FOR  
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2000**

WASHINGTON, DC -- On Monday, March 20, 2000, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host a meeting on the safe use of medication to treat young children with emotional and behavioral conditions. Mrs. Clinton will bring together senior government officials and representatives of health care, public health, education, and parent organizations to discuss strategies to ensure the appropriate diagnosis and treatment for these children.

**EVENT:** Meeting on the Safe Use of Medication To Treat Young Children  
**DATE:** Monday, March 20, 2000  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** Roosevelt Room  
The White House  
Washington, DC

**Press Notes:**

Due to space limitations, this event is pool press for still photographers and television cameras. (Pool is comprised of wire photogs., network cameras and one independent pool camera) Open press for correspondents.

First Escort from White House Briefing Room: 9:10 a.m.  
Final Escort from White House Briefing Room: 9:50 a.m.

**Credentialing Information:**

Press who are not credentialed by the White House should fax on company letterhead their full name, date of birth, and social security number to the First Lady's Press Office at 202-456-7805.

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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON LAUNCHES NEW PUBLIC-PRIVATE  
EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CHILDREN WITH  
EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL CONDITIONS**

**March 20, 2000**

Today, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, together with Secretary Shalala and representatives of parents and a broad range of health professionals, launched an unprecedented public-private effort to ensure that children with emotional and behavioral conditions are appropriately diagnosed, treated, monitored, and managed by qualified health care professionals, parents, and educators. Federal actions she will outline include: (1) the release of a new, easy to understand fact sheet about treatment of children with emotional and behavioral conditions for parents; (2) a new \$5 million funding commitment by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to conduct additional research on the impact of psychotropic medication on children under the age of six; (3) the initiation of a process at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to improve pediatric labeling information for young children; and (4) a national conference on Treatment of Children with Behavioral and Mental Disorders to take place this fall. The First Lady will also highlight actions taken by the private sector to ensure appropriate diagnosis and effective treatment of these children. All of these actions build on the landmark work resulting from the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health and the release of the unprecedented Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health last year, both of which were spearheaded by Tipper Gore, the President's Mental Health Advisor.

**INAPPROPRIATE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND**

**EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES.** While progress has been made in diagnosing and treating these conditions, justifiable concerns have been raised about the inappropriate (both over and under) utilization of medications such as Ritalin, clonidine, and Prozac in very young children. Just as important, there is a lack of understanding amongst parents, teachers, and health professionals about the best diagnostic, pharmacological, and behavioral interventions now available. Recent studies published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reviewing selected provider data over a five year period found that:

- **Failure to treat emotional and behavioral disorders can have severe life-long consequences.** Studies suggest that many children with untreated emotional and behavioral conditions fail to reach their full potential. Untreated mental illness has a negative impact on the developing brain, causing lifelong emotional and social damage. Children with these types of problems are at significantly higher risk for anti-social activities later on than those without behavioral problems. It is evident that an accurate early diagnosis, education, support, and medication, if necessary, can overcome many early problems and help prevent long-term negative behavior.
- **The number of preschoolers on anti-depressants increased by over 200 percent.** The number of children on tri-cyclic anti-depressants, often used to control bedwetting, increased 220 percent over five years. Given the difficulty of diagnosing depression in children this young and the relative normalcy of bedwetting in children this young, the increase in the use of this drug in preschoolers is troubling.
- **The number of children under the age of five on clonidine increased exponentially.** The 28-fold increase in children using clonidine, used in children with attention deficit disorders or

children exhibiting disruptive behaviors, is notable, as the increase in its use occurred without research ensuring that it is safe and effective. Adverse effects, including rapid or irregular heartbeat and fainting, have been reported in children using the drug with other medications for attention-deficit disorder.

- **The number of children aged two through four taking stimulants such as Ritalin more than doubled.** The vast majority of preschoolers taking stimulants were on Ritalin to treat attention deficit disorders – as many as ninety percent in one study – and the number of these children increased by 150 percent over a five year period. Although there are a disproportionate number of boys taking medication for attention deficit disorders as opposed to girls (a ratio of 4:1), the number of girls being diagnosed and treated with attention deficit disorders increased over this time period; in one study, the proportion of girls taking stimulants increased by 60 percent.
- **Many children are inappropriately diagnosed and treated.** Studies indicate wide geographic and ethnic variation in the numbers of children receiving psychotropic drugs such as Ritalin. In one study, the percentage of children receiving Ritalin was as high as 10 percent – 2 to 3 times as high as the expected rate of attention deficit disorder. The percentage of boys receiving medication for attention deficit disorder in the fifth grade was as high as 20 percent. Other research indicates racial variations as well; a study of one Maryland HMO indicated that African-Americans children were 2.5 times less likely to receive Ritalin as white children. This wide variation in treatment patterns supports the need for more research to determine appropriate treatment protocols for children with emotional and behavioral disorders. Although little is known about the effects of over medication on children, unnecessary use of these medications can have adverse effects on the developing brain and the emotional and social development of young children.
- **More research is necessary to ensure informed treatment decisions.** Many of the drugs being prescribed for very young children have not been tested in children under the age of 16; few have been tested for children under the age of six. More research is necessary to ensure that providers and parents have necessary information, especially about the impact of medication on brain development, to make appropriate treatment decisions.

**NEW ACTION TO ENSURE BETTER DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL CONDITIONS.** At today's meeting, the First Lady will announce a series of public and private actions designed to address the challenges posed by children with emotional and behavioral conditions. Federal actions she will outline include:

- **Initiation of a process for the development of pediatric labeling information for psychotropic drugs used in young children.** Today, FDA will announce that it will work with its Pediatric Advisory Committee to design research protocols that will be used to develop new pediatric dosage information to be included on the labels of drugs such as methylphenidate, clonidine, and other drugs increasingly used in young children. These studies, which will begin after national research goals have been identified, will be designed to address ethical and scientific issues associated with the studies on this population.
- **Announcement that NIMH will dedicate more than \$5 million to research on attention deficit disorder and Ritalin use in preschoolers.** Today, the National Institute of Mental

Health announced that it plans to invest more than \$5 million in research on the use of medication to treat attention deficit disorder in preschool children. This research will assemble the latest information on the use of these drugs and identify discrepancies between clinical practice and current scientific evidence.

- **New efforts to provide parents with up-to-date information on the appropriate diagnosis and treatment of children with emotional and behavioral conditions.** This week, NIMH will release a new fact sheet to help parents of children with behavioral and emotional conditions understand the treatment options available and guide them in their decision-making process. This fact sheet includes easy to understand information on when to include medication in an overall treatment plan; how to help determine if a child's problems are serious; and when and how to get help. The Department of Education will also release an information kit on ways for teachers and parents of children with attention deficit disorders.
- **A national Conference on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Children with Behavioral and Mental Disorders.** This fall, the Office of the Surgeon General, together with NIMH and FDA, will coordinate a Conference on Treatment of Children with Behavioral and Mental Conditions. This national conference, which will build on the success of the recent White House Conference on Mental Health chaired by Tipper Gore, and the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, will include representatives of provider, consumer advocacy, and education communities. Topics of discussion include: developing research on treatments and services that can be used by providers nationwide; how best to determine the efficacy and safety of medications in young children; and ways to address the difficulty of accurate diagnosis in preschoolers. The Surgeon General will also release a report on children's mental health by the end of the year.

**NEW PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT TO ENSURING APPROPRIATE DIAGNOSIS OF EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL CONDITIONS IN YOUNG CHILDREN.** Today, the First Lady will praise and highlight the new efforts of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to ensure appropriate diagnosis and effective treatment of children with emotional and behavioral conditions. This spring and fall, the AAP will distribute new clinical practice guidelines on the diagnosis and evaluation of children with attention deficit disorders to every one of their 55,000 members. In addition, as part of their focus on mental health in the year 2000, the AAFP will sponsor education courses nationwide for their over 89,000 members on how to address the problems of young children with emotional and behavioral conditions.

**HILLARY ROHDAM CLINTON'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN.**

For over 25 years, Hillary Clinton has fought to raise awareness and support policies that protect children. She was a strong advocate for: the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Family and Medical Leave Act; new regulatory and statutory authority for pediatric labeling; administration efforts to improve child care. The new pediatric labeling regulations and the FDA Modernization Act enacted by the Clinton Administration have improved the information available to both parents and physicians about the appropriate use of medications for children. In the 18 months since these initiatives have been implemented, research has been completed on 19 drugs, resulting in new safety information being added to six drugs with changes expected for the other 13. Studies of an additional 125 drugs are already underway.

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
**Meeting on the Safe Use of Medications for Young**  
**Children with Emotional and Behavioral Conditions**  
**March 20, 2000**

**List of Attendees**

MaryLee Allen, Director, Child Welfare & Mental Health Division, Children's Defense Fund  
Lanny R. Copeland, MD, Chairman of the Board, American Academy of Family Physicians  
Gail Daniels, President, Board of Directors, Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
Kevin P. Dwyer, MA, NCSP, President, National Association of School Psychologists  
Michael M. Faenza, MSSW, President & CEO, National Mental Health Association  
Randy A. Fisher, President, School Social Work Association of America  
Mary E. Foley, MS, RN, President, American Nurses Association  
Gregory A. Humphrey, Special Assistant to the President, American Federation of Teachers  
Beth A. Kaplanek, RN, President Elect, Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Clarice Kestenbaum, MD, President, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
Ronald F. Levant, Ph.D., Board of Directors, American Psychological Association  
Harold James McGrady, Jr., MD, Council for Exceptional Children  
Allan Tasman, MD, President, American Psychiatry Association  
Jane Tustin, RN, MSN, CSN, President, National Association of School Nurses  
Phil Walson, Member, MD, AAP Committee on Drugs, American Academy of Pediatrics