

The Washington Times

WASHINGTON, D.C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1995 ★

PHONE: (202) 636-3000
SUBSCRIBER SERVICE: (202) 636-3333 **25 cents**

Mandatory federal AIDS classes seen as promoting gay agenda

By Rowan Scarborough
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Clinton administration's guidelines for mandatory AIDS training of all federal employees call for the "breaking down of audience resistance" to the program's teachings if that resistance is based on "religious beliefs."

A pro-family group yesterday contended this is one of many examples that expose the curriculum as a way to indoctrinate a captive audience on the homosexual-rights agenda.

The training manuals portray people opposed to condom distri-

Training addresses religion as barrier

bution in schools as "partisans." They tell trainers to use the words "sex partners" instead of "husband and wife" and "injecting drug user" instead of "addict."

Would-be trainers have to discuss their views on "homosexuality for my child" as part of the selection process.

A federal worker who underwent training this month said she was offended when the instructor, a private contractor, began talking

about her grandmother's likely sex practices.

"I was shocked and upset when the instructor personalized anal sex for each person in the room by saying our grandmothers probably practiced birth control by participating in anal sex," said the worker, who described the three-hour session on the condition that she not be identified.

"I was highly offended," she said. "I have a very godly grandmother, and I just broke down and cried. I guess they're trying to say homosexuals do it that way and so

see AIDS, page A18

AIDS

From page A1

did your grandmother?"

Jim Woodall, a vice president of the conservative group Concerned Women for America, said President Clinton should "cease and desist" the training. He said the goals could be achieved by giving employees a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention brochure on AIDS prevention.

"We have been suspecting for a long time that AIDS education is being used as a facade to promote the homosexual lifestyle," Mr. Woodall said. "AIDS education used in public schools and college campuses has now invaded our government, where the president is mandating federal employees to sit down for four hours for this type of education. It's a fraud."

Mr. Woodall's 600,000-member organization is compiling information on the program.

"I do not have any problem with gays relating to gays when talking about sex," he said. "The issue is, the U.S. government is promoting that agenda using taxpayer dollars."

Richard Sorian, White House spokesman on AIDS policy, disagreed with the group's characterization of the program. "The effort has been a very successful effort to supply people with information that allows them to protect themselves and protect their family," he said.

He said Concerned Women for America is misinterpreting some of the training material. For example, he said, the section on "breaking down audience resistance" based on religion is an effort to have workers air those concerns so they can be discussed.

"They are not trying to change someone's religious beliefs at all," Mr. Sorian said. "What they are talking about is beginning the instruction with any concerns they have or religious belief that might make them uncomfortable with the discussion so they can be comfortable in the discussion."

Mr. Sorian said such words as "addict" are avoided for a good reason: "If you say drug addicts are susceptible to HIV, but they don't consider themselves an addict, then they don't recognize themselves as an addict."

He said he has received "positive feedback" from participants who have used the information to educate others. The program is scheduled to end this week. The White House AIDS office then will know how many workers were reached.

The guidelines are in documents from the departments of Energy, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture. Other departments are believed to use similar guidelines, which are coordinated and approved by the White House.

Aimed at the 2.1 million federal employees, the "Federal Workplace AIDS Education Initiative"

was authorized last year by Mr. Clinton, whose campaign received political and financial support from the homosexual community.

Administration rules for AIDS instruction tell trainers:

- To avoid certain terms, such as "husband and wife," "homosexual men," "promiscuous," "sexual preference" and "addict."

- To deflect "homophobic comments" during a training session by saying, "There is some division of opinion on that point."

- To watch out for troublemakers among the pupils. A federal worker who takes an "intransigent point of view" on condom distribution in schools or needle distribution is pegged as a "partisan." A "heckler" is someone who "expresses disbelief, disgust or scoffs at content and processes." A "moralist" believes that "people who are HIV-infected through sex or drug use deserve what they get."

- To suggest that a person use his own drug-injection equipment or try "disinfecting with bleach" to avoid getting the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS.

The Department of Energy's AIDS program is titled "Walkin' the Talk" and includes a discussion of "serial monogamy," which it defines as an "exclusive sexual relationship with one individual at a time."

"Practicing serial monogamy and therefore having several sexual partners, even over an extended period of time, may place one at risk for HIV infections unless he or she practices safer sex," the program says.

Some federal workers have objected to the training.

A Defense Department employee said he walked out during his department's session.

"I don't believe I should sit next to a female and be told how to do intercourse, no matter how side-tracked they go," said the employee, who requested anonymity. "I don't want to be in mixed company and talk about a lifestyle I'm not involved in, that I don't approve of. I don't care to be instructed by Big Brother in things I avoid."

A Drug Enforcement Administration worker who objected to attending AIDS training was ordered to attend or be disciplined for insubordination.

One of the training manuals included a scoring system titled "Values About HIV/AIDS-Related Issues." It was used to select AIDS instructors.

Candidates were asked to rate their opinion on several topics, including "sex without love," "sex outside of a committed relationship," "homosexuality for my child," "stiff sentences for injection-drug users who share needles and other drug-injection paraphernalia," and "laws to protect homosexuals from discrimination in housing, jobs and public accommodations."

Mr. Woodall said the system "weeds out any people who have a problem with the gay lifestyle."

FEDERAL GUIDELINES

Government guidelines for mandatory AIDS training of all federal employees prescribe how trainers are selected and how they should teach federal workers about AIDS.

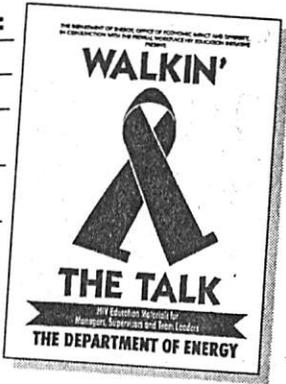
Words to avoid	Why
Innocent victim	Suggests anyone else with AIDS is guilty
Promiscuous	Implies an inappropriate moral overtone
Homosexual men	Can have a pejorative connotation
Addict	Implies a judgment
Boyfriend/girlfriend/ husband/wife/spouse	Makes a presumption of sexual activity, orientation or marital status

Trainer candidates are graded on suitability based on their reaction to:

- Sex without love
- Homosexuality for my child
- Laws to protect homosexuals from discrimination
- Prosecution for attempted murder of an HIV infected person

Trainers are told to break down audience resistance based on:

- Whether content is appropriate for workplace discussion
- Religious beliefs
- Biases and prejudices



The Washington Times

HIV/AIDS in the Federal Workplace Trainer's Handbook

HIV/AIDS. ... nge then ... employees of basic facts about HIV/AIDS and their rights and responsibilities as employ...

1. Establishing "Why Federal Workplace HIV/AIDS Training?"

- Why HIV/AIDS? Very personal issues not usually confronted in the workplace (e.g., sex, drug use, death)
- Public health issue: Separating myths from facts and arming people with information (e.g., unfounded fear of workplace risks)
- ... still incurable, prevention is possible only through education

(LCOA Stan

2. Breaking Down Audience Resistance

- Sources of resistance
- Not appropriate content for workplace discussion
 - Religious beliefs
 - Biases and prejudices

The Washington Times