

From: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF) **Sent:** Friday, August 24, 2012 8:09 AM
To: 'Tim.Purdon@usdoj.gov' **Cc:** Jaacks, Melissa (ACF); Dawson, Diann (ACF); Sparks, Lillian (ACF); Samuels, Bryan (ACF) **Subject:** Fourth Mandated Report on Suspected Child Abuse on the Spirit Lake Reservation

I am submitting this, my Fourth Mandated Report of Suspected Child Abuse on the Spirit Lake Reservation, consistent with the guidelines established by the Attorney General in his April 24, 2012 Decision Memo.

My First Mandated Report was submitted on June 14, 2012. My Second on July 8, 2012 and my Third on August 14, 2012.

My purpose in submitting this Fourth Mandated Report is to request that you as US Attorney for the state of North Dakota immediately initiate an investigation of the conduct of Ms. Carol Olson, former Secretary of the North Dakota Department of Human Services, and Ms. Tara Muhlhauser, Child Welfare Director for the North Dakota Department of Human Services for the purpose of determining whether they should be charged with child endangerment.

Neither Ms. Olson nor Ms. Muhlhauser provided any response to my First Report. Ms. Muhlhauser responded to my Second Report about a two month old infant who died of neglect all alone, by claiming essentially that I had all my facts wrong. When the infant's aunt told the same story I had told and it was published in media throughout North Dakota, Ms. Muhlhauser remained mute and did not challenge the aunt's account. For my Third Report Ms. Muhlhauser has once again failed to respond directly to me, but has decided that communication through the media is best. Seems silly and slow to me. A week ago today she told the media that my Third Report lacked specificity as to the names and locations of the children who were at risk and did nothing, saying she would be in contact with me early the following week. Late yesterday, Thursday, August 23, 2012, she again communicated with me through the media telling me that she had sent me a letter on Wednesday, August 22, 2012.

I knew that my Third Report lacked specificity, no names, no street addresses, etc. But how long should it take for anyone to find the home with nine minor children and four adult males, three of whom are registered sex offenders in the community of St. Michael, a community with a population of less than 30 according to the last census? If one wished to use the latest technology, one could go to the Tribe's on-line registry of sex offenders. I did and found that address in somewhat less than five minutes.

What Ms. Olson and Ms. Muhlhauser seem to have forgotten is that those three reports I filed as well as this one, are about real, honest to goodness flesh and blood kids who have been placed in homes with registered sex offenders and are at daily, if not hourly, risk of being raped and sodomized. How could they ignore those children? As Human Service and Child Welfare professionals with lengthy service in these fields, they cannot claim ignorance about the dangers the children were exposed to as a result of their persistent and continuing inaction

What is most troubling, however, is that this is not the first time they have ignored reports of this kind. I have received credible reports from sources on the Spirit Lake Reservation that they went to both Ms. Olson and Ms. Muhlhauser a year ago in one instance and a couple of years ago in another instance, told their stories of how the children at the Spirit Lake Nation were being abused and neglected, provided documentation of their charges and were encouraged by the initial response from these two ladies. This quickly turned to discouragement as nothing happened, there was no intervention to protect the children from the abuse they had reported. There was some intervention to protect the state's money being spent on the Reservation but nothing to protect the children of Spirit Lake.

The information they received in my reports and from credible sources from the Spirit Lake Reservation seems very similar to what those senior officials at Penn State heard from the eyewitness to the sodomization of a young boy in the showers there. Those senior officials remained silent and did nothing. Neither I nor my sources have seen any action from either Ms. Olson or Ms. Muhlhauser suggesting an effort on their part to protect the children of Spirit Lake

from rape and sodomy. If this is not child endangerment, what is it?

If you have any questions, please let me know. I will be pleased to provide any information available to me concerning this matter.

Thomas F. Sullivan

Regional Administrator, ACF, Denver