

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

DEC 19 1991

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James W. Prescott, Ph.D.
President
BioBehavioral Systems
La Jolla Park West
5175 Luigi Terrace, S 35
San Diego, California 92122

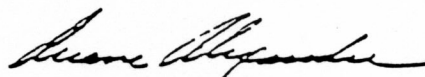
Dear Dr. Prescott:

Your letters to DHHS Secretary Louis W. Sullivan have been referred to this Institute for reply.

The components within the Federal Government with responsibility for funding basic research on the matter of abused and neglected children are, within DHHS, the National Institute of Mental Health and the Administration for Children and Families; and the Department of Justice. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) has not supported a program of research on the causes of child abuse and neglect. There is a small amount of research ongoing which is investigating the developmental consequences of abuse and neglect. The NICHD supports a wide array of biomedical and behavioral studies that relate to many aspects of human development. This research contributes to knowledge of normal function and behavior and provides a basis for understanding problems of learning, mental retardation, personality development, social adaptation, and other areas.

I hope this information clarifies the situation for you.

Sincerely yours,



Duane Alexander, M.D.
Director
National Institute of Child
Health and Human Development