



Date: June 5, 2018

To: Members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence

From: Don Forrester, Executive Director

Subject: May 2018 CORE Monthly Report

- **Administration on Children, Youth and Families**

Early in May, I had an opportunity to visit with Dr. Jerry Milner, Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). Both he and David Kelly, special assistant to Dr. Milner, shared time with me to discuss the Families First Prevention Services Act and to hear about the work and membership of the Coalition of Residential Excellence. Dr. Milner is also the Associate Commissioner for the Children's Bureau.

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families will have responsibility for outlining the structure and providing operational support regarding implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act. I found both Dr. Milner and Mr. Kelly very open to dialogue about some of the challenges and concerns related to implementation of the FFPSA.

I expressed concern that a child welfare environment already stretched beyond capacity would be able to quickly accommodate the needs by limiting

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residential placements to only organizations accredited by one of three accrediting bodies. The numbers don't add up. In addition, many of those serving children and families are not using evidence-based practices. That, too, is a requirement of FFPSA,

Dr. Milner indicated it is the intent for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families to be as flexible as they can in working with States to maintain the integrity and intent of the legislation while demonstrating as much flexibility as possible regarding implementation.

It is too early in the process for ACYF to have answers or criterion in place to address all of the provisions of the new legislation. Dr. Milner expressed openness for our reaching out to ACYF for information and answers going forward.

I was grateful for the opportunity to meet with Dr. Milner and Mr. Kelly. For starters, it provided an opportunity for them to become acquainted with the Coalition of Residential Excellence and the commitment our member agencies hold in continuing to serve children and families from hard places.

- **Opposition to FFSPA**

I guess it is never too late to cry "fowl ball" or suggest that provisions of the new law aren't a good fit. As you might suspect, there is not universal support to the provisions of FFPSA that were added. In addition, Los Angeles County came up with a strategy that caught me by surprise. I suspect you may have the same response.

<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/finance-reform/family-first-act-l-a-hires-lobbyist-helped-write/30751>

- **Legislative Update**

- Status of H.R. 4983 – Meadows [The Caring Homes and Improved Lives for Dependents (CHILD) Act]

I met with Chad Yelinski in Congressman Meadow's office earlier this month for an update on H.R. 4983. Reportedly, no additional progress has been made in attracting co-sponsors. So far, Rep. Mark Walker [R-N.C.] and Rep. Lamar Smith [R-TX] are the only co-sponsors. Consequently, it is not anticipated that the bill will be passed out of committee until more Congressmen sign on in support.

- Modernization of House Parent Exemption Bill

I met with Will Strother in Rep. Fleischmann's office concerning regarding Modernization of the House Parent Exemption Bill. Reportedly, staff in the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division have not yet had time to review the bill.

- **2018 CORE National Conference**

"Reframing the Future" is the theme of the 2018 CORE National Conference. The conference is scheduled for October 9 -11, 2018. Methodist Home in Waco, TX is hosting the conference.

Registration for the conference is now available through the Coalition of Residential Excellence website: [<https://www.core-dc.org/>].

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In addition, the Hotel Indigo, located in downtown Waco, has reserved a block of rooms for CORE. It is within walking distance of the Magnolia Market Silos and conveniently located to our conference site.

NOTICE: There is currently an issue with online registrations.

When registering, the discounted rates are not being applied. The hotel is aware of the issue and, until they can work it out, are recommending that you either:

1. Call the hotel directly at **254-754-7000** to request the CORE rate. **Please call between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm CST Monday-Friday, and ask to speak to a sales representative.**
2. Register online at online rate, and then call the hotel afterwards to get the rates updated.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

To book, call 254-754-7000 and ask for a sales representative. (M-F | 9-5)

It is anticipated that folks will need to arrive on the evening of Monday, October 8th since the conference is set to begin the following morning. A link to make reservations at the Hotel Indigo for the nights of October 8, 9, 10 and 11 can be accessed through the following link. In the event the link doesn't work properly, cut and past the link in your browser.

For folks desiring to stay the weekend, reservations for the weekend can be made by calling 1-800-439-4745 or go online to make separate reservations.

The conference rate for the hotel for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights is \$139.00. The rate for Thursday night is \$179.00.

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In addition, The Courtyard, a second conference hotel in downtown Waco, has been secured as a secondary site. The Courtyard will honor the same conference rates as the Indigo Hotel. I don't yet have hotel registration information for the Courtyard. It will be posted on the Coalition of Residential Excellence website as soon as it becomes available.

- **Networking and Capacity Building**

I have been invited to speak to a statewide group of children's homes in Arkansas in August 2018. In addition to being provided an opportunity to discuss issues impacting residential care and talk about the advantages of CORE membership, I have also been extended the invitation to lead of couple of different workshops.

Long story short, I'm inviting you to invite me. I'll do almost anything for the privilege of visiting with statewide organizations of children's homes and boarding schools to talk about CORE and legislative issues. My repertoire of topics for training is a pretty short list, but please know of my willingness to help in anyway that I can.

Capacity building and increasing CORE membership is imperative if we are to represent a unified voice of the residential care industry. Your assistance in recommending CORE to colleagues from other agencies is greatly appreciated.