



Date: June 29, 2018

To: Members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence

From: Don Forrester, Executive Director

Subject: June 2018 CORE Monthly Report

LEGISLATIVE

- **SAVE THE DATE – OVERVIEW OF FAMILIES FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT- SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 [CONFERENCE CALL AT 3:00 P.M. EST]**

I visited with Ryan T.F. Martin, Special Assistant-Senate Finance Committee, earlier this month. He reportedly has an excellent knowledge of provisions included in the Family First Prevention Services Act. I had hoped that Mr. Martin could join us for the 2018 CORE National Conference in Waco this coming October. Unfortunately, his schedule doesn't permit his being away from Washington since the Senate will be in session. As an alternative, he suggested a telephone conference call with the CORE membership to provide an overview of the requirements.

In addition to Mr. Martin, he is reaching out to three other individuals with high level responsibilities related to provisions of the Family First Act. We

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have set Friday, September 7, 2018 for the conference call. Mr. Martin will provide us a number to telephone in for the call. Reportedly, their system will handle up to 100 incoming callers.

Mr. Martin will provide us a power point of the presentation prior to the conference call. Consequently, we'll have a written document to follow along as the presentation is made. In addition, there will be a time for questions.

I respectfully ask that you let me know of your interest in participating in this opportunity. Obviously, I am of the opinion that many may find it helpful. Since provision of the information is labor intensive for folks in Washington, I want to ensure the interest is such that it merits their efforts.

- **HR 4983 – Caring Homes and Improved Lives for Dependents (CHILD) Act**

I met with Chad Yelinski on June 19, 2018 for a status report on HR 4983. The bill continues to be held in the Ways and Means Committee pending recruitment of additional co-sponsors of the bill. Mr. subsequently sent me a copy of correspondence that Congressman Meadows recently sent to his colleagues in the House of Representatives. A copy of the correspondence is attached for your review.

Congressman Meadows' correspondence makes reference to the fact that:

"Unfortunately, the Family First Act considers children placed in cottage homes as being in the category of 'Not In A Foster Family Home', which places a limitation on Federal financing for each such child in a cottage home.

"I am sure that each of your districts have cottage home ministries which will be impacted by this change in policy. I know that I have been hearing from cottage homes in my district regarding his issue".

"Faith based cottage home families offering programs and services to meet the needs of children, families and adults should not be treated unfairly by the Federal Government".

"I would appreciate your support either agreeing to co-sponsor this legislation so we can reach critical mass for a markup; or by speaking to Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady expressing support for the cottage homes in your district being considered as options for children in the foster care system".

- **Opposition to FFSPA**

I guess it is never too late to cry "foul 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-NC] and Rep.

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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.coalitionofresidentialexcellence.org>].

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:

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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.

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**

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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 a 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 any way 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.