



Date: November 8, 2018

To: Members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence

From: Don Forrester, Executive Director

Subject: October 2018 CORE Monthly Report

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***2018 CORE National Conference***

The 2018 CORE National Conference hosted by Methodist Children’s Home in Waco took place at the Texas Ranger Museum on October 9-11. In keeping with last year’s weather related experience in Florida, Hurricane Michael was the culprit behind cancelled flights and late arrivals for some. Fortunately, for most the experience went exactly as planned.

The conference was well attended. Registrations included representatives from 28 member agencies. In addition, registrations were also received from five non-member agencies. In total, registrations including guests in attendance numbered 90. The Catherine Hershey Banquet on Wednesday evening numbered around 110.

Reviews of the conference by those in attendance were very favorable and everyone completing the survey indicated an interest in attending next year’s conference.

Several noted that the opportunity to forge connections and visit with folks from across the country was both enjoyable and informative. One of the strengths found in CORE is a level of professionalism and best practice which surfaces in the sharing of information. You get the sense that folks take seriously their commitment to work with children and families from hard places. The sense of camaraderie and mutual respect was evident. It is one of the features that adds value to CORE membership and supports the notion that CORE represents the best of the best.

Two of the five non-member agencies indicated their readiness to seek CORE membership.

### **NEW LOOK FOR THE CORE WEBSITE**

The CORE website has been revamped and more effectively communicates the mission, values and advantages of CORE membership. Of course, the website is still a work in progress, but we are pleased with the redesign and plans for moving forward in an age of technology to more fully reflect organizational interests.

You can access the website through [www.CORE-DC.org](http://www.CORE-DC.org). If you have thoughts or suggestions, feel free to let us know.

### **Legislative Update**

I was on Capitol Hill the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October and found things pretty much at a standstill. Obviously, the mid-term elections justifiably took priority over other legislative matters. Consequently, the two primary pieces of legislation we've been tracking are virtually still the same. There has been no additional

## Executive Director Report for October 2018

forward movement on HR 4983 – Caring Homes and Improved Lives for Dependents (CHILD) Act or the Modernization of Houseparent Exemption.

While it is anticipated there will be a push to make some alteration to the Families Prevention Services Act to allow State's more flexibility in how they choose to spend Title IV-E dollars, no legislation has yet been introduced. However, reportedly the legislation has been written.

Greg McNeece, Board President of the Coalition of Residential Excellence, has appointed a legislative committee to assist CORE in charting strategy to accomplish purposes for our membership. Members of the committee include: Moe Dozier – Chairman (Methodist Children's Home – Waco, TX), Justin Thompson (Cal Farley's – Amarillo, TX), Keith Henry (Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina - Thomasville, NC), Bill Frye & Maria Knapp (Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches – Boys Ranch, FL) and Sean Milner – Baptist Children's Village of Mississippi – Ridgeview, MS). If you have thoughts, suggested strategy or recommendations that you feel must be included in a definitive plan, please let me know and I'll share the information with the committee.

### **Activities and Outreach**

Capacity building and networking continue to be areas of interest and focus. I represented CORE at the Texas Child Care Administrator's meeting in Austin on October 1-3. That provided an opportunity to visit with several CORE members. It also provided an opportunity to visit with other providers who could potentially become CORE members. Prior to the conference, I submitted a response to a call for workshops proposal and was selected to present a 1.5 hour workshop on the Ethics of Self Care. Interestingly, 400 participants signed up for the workshop.

The second week in October was filled with activities related to the 2018 National CORE Conference. The administration and staff at Methodist Children's Home went the second and third mile in ensuring attention to details. The conference was

## Executive Director Report for October 2018

exceptional and the hosting agency was largely responsible. Special thanks to Moe Dozier who served as chair of the conference committee and was the point person to ensure everything needing attention received attention.

On the last day of the month, I traveled to Oklahoma to speak to a group of childcare administrators regarding provisions of the Families First Prevention Services Act. In addition, I had an opportunity to visit with a number of administrators concerning CORE. One provider expressed a commitment to join. Two other administrators indicated an interest. I will be following up with each of them.

### **Challenges Associated to Families First Prevention Services Act**

There are still a lot of unknowns related to implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, but the immediacy of the legislation has captured attention. According to the feedback I'm receiving from member agencies, each state is making plans as they move forward. So far, I've only received information regarding two states that are opting not to request a waiver on the timeline for implementation.

Some of the unknown variables associated to implementation of the Act continuing to need clarity or modification include:

- The process of having a "qualified individual" assess the need for a child's placement in a QRTP. According to the legislation, the qualified individual making the assessment that a child needs treatment services cannot have an affiliation with the agency providing treatment. In addition, there currently aren't guidelines associated to the credentials needed to be a "qualified individual" to make that assessment.

## Executive Director Report for October 2018

- The timeline for provision of family based support services in lieu of out-of-home placement is limited to 12 months. Folks question if twelve months is enough time to provide the services and oversight needed.
- Eligibility qualification requirements for receipt of prevention services indicate that the child must be at “imminent risk” for out-of-home placement. Consequently, abuse/neglect has to have already occurred. Otherwise, foster care wouldn’t be a consideration.
- Prevention services are a reimbursable expense. Consequently, the State providing the services has to incur the expense before they can be reimbursed. This may pose a problem related to start-up costs.
- The capacity crisis regarding placement resources is already at a critical level. Reduction of the number of resources for children is going to create a larger gap in resources.
- Several states currently receiving IV-E waivers for expenditures associated provision of services fall outside the expenditures specified in FFPSA. Consequently, there continues to be pushback from States currently with waivers to do it differently.