



Date: February 7, 2019

To: CORE Membership

From: Don Forrester, Executive Director

Subject: Core Membership Updated for January 2018

Legislative Issues

- **Introduction of State Flexibility Family Transformation Act**

Early in the session, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Cal) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fl) filed the State Flexibility for Family Transformation Act. The intent of the legislation is to extend the IV-E waivers currently set to expire in September 2019 for two more years. Since 1960 when the Federal government first became involved in financial support regarding child welfare services, IV-E funds have primarily been dedicated for foster care and in some instances adoption.

Through the use of IV-E waivers via implementation of a "demonstration project", some states have been granted permission to use IV-E monies for other purposes. Often primary prevention programs have been targeted as a dedicated expenditure under a IV-E waiver for those states for whom a waiver has been given.

Initially California, New York and Florida were reportedly opposed to passage of FFPSA. Their opposition reportedly was based primarily on the shift in the funding stream currently being used through demonstration project waivers under Title IV-E. Under implementation of FFSPA, the continued use of those waivers expires at the end of September 2019.

Reportedly, some dare to hope that the proposed legislation will be attached to a mandatory spending bill in the immediate future. Others suggest the costs associated to the legislation are prohibitive and the chances for passage are second to none. I am opting to take a wait-and-see approach. Only time will tell.

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- **Representatives from the CORE Board and Leadership Make Legislative Visits on Capitol Hill on January 30-31.**

The CORE Board met in Washington, D.C. on January 29, 2019. While in D.C. legislative visits were made by CORE Board members and leadership with:

1. Senator Bozeman – Arkansas
2. Senator Cotton – Arkansas
3. Rep. Ted Yoho – Florida
4. Rep. Gus Bilirakis Legislative Counsel Jonathan Vecchi – Florida
5. Rep. Neal Dunn Legislative Aide Courtney Veatch – Florida
6. Rep. Greg Steube – Florida
7. Rep. Bacon – Nebraska
[Note: Meetings with both Rep. Steube and Rep. Bacon occurred over dinner and were less formal]
8. Rep Daniel Webster's Legislative Aide Luke Newgaard – Florida
9. Rep. Darren Soto's Legislative Aide Bill Rockwood
10. Rep. Val Deming's Legislative Aide – Omar Guzman
11. Senator Jim Inhofe – Oklahoma
12. Senator James Lankford - Oklahoma
- 13–16 Four of the 5 Congressman from Oklahoma were also visited
17. Senator Cornyn's Office – Texas. Visit with Claire Sanderson and Patrick Michaels
18. Senator Cruz's Office – Texas. Visit with Joel Heimbach
19. Congressman Meadows – North Carolina. Visit with Meagan Compton
20. Congressman Bill Flores – Texas. Visit with Chris Taylor
21. Congressman John Carter – Texas. Visit with Grady Bourn
22. Congressman Cuellar – Texas. Visit with Travis Knight
23. Congressman Castro – Texas. Visit with Kaitlyn Montan
24. Congressman Vela – Texas. Visit with Luke Theriot

Outcome Measures – We need your assistance!

Around the first of December 2018, the following questions were asked of CORE Member Agencies:

- 1) What are your program goals
- 2) How do you measure your program's effectiveness to determine outcomes?
- 3) What is the frequency of your data collection?
- 4) What do you do well?
- 5) What kind of information do you collect post discharge for former residents?

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Responses were received from approximately 27% of CORE member agencies. There was a lot of variation in the responses provided. Some gave a very brief synopsis while others shared a comprehensive CQI process. In an effort to make the exercise work collectively for all of us, we need more information. If you've not responded to the request, would you make an effort to provide the aforementioned information along with your most recent Annual Report at your earliest convenience?

SAVE THE DATE – October 15-17, 2019

The 2019 National Core Conference will be held in Little Rock, AR on October 15-17, 2019. Details will be forthcoming soon! Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries will be hosting the conference.

Welcome New Members:

- **Sand Springs Home**

Sand Springs Home was established in 1908 by Charles Page. He purchased the land, built the children's home and then established the city of Sand Springs, OK around the children's home. The proceeds from development of the city went into the Sand Springs Trust that continues to provide 100% of the cost of operation.

The children's home is composed of two cottages serving ten children each. In addition, there are a number of independent living apartments for student's aging out of the program. Currently six students are in those apartments.

There is a separate program on the campus for mothers and children. They will not be included in CORE membership. They serve a total of 110 mothers and children.

The administrator of Sand Springs Home is Jason Charles. Under his leadership, the home has developed a reputation for best practice and is primarily a resource for children placed through the State. They have a no-pay contract to provide services.

- **Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.**

Georgia Baptist Children's Home has several locations in Georgia. The agency headquarters is near Atlanta at Palmetto, Georgia. The President of the organization is Kenneth (Kenny) Thompson. Brian Hawkins serves as Vice President of Ministries and has attended the past two CORE conferences.

The agency provides a continuum of care, serving both populations of children with basic needs as well as children with specialized needs. As a ministry, they are on a quest to provide a myriad of different services to meet the specialized needs of children from

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very difficult places. They definitely are not of the mindset that one size fits all. I have accolades for their visionary approach in leaving no need unmet.

Georgia Baptist Children's Home is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. In addition, as a philosophy of care, they follow the Sanctuary model.

- **Christians In Action – Jackson, Ms**

Christians In Action in Jackson, Ms. has historically provided short-term emergency shelter care for children in state conservatorship. Historically CORE has not served agencies exclusively providing short-term care. In an effort to provide auxiliary support, we have carved out the designation of "Continuum of Care Partner Agency" to designate their category. Janice Wilder is the Executive Director of the program and has been with the agency for four decades. They embrace best practice and have a reputation for professionalism and skill in working with the population they serve.