



Date: May 3, 2019
To: Members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence
From: Don Forrester, Executive Director
Subject: April 2019 CORE Monthly Report

Implementation of FFPSA

- Definition of Qualified Individual To Ascertain Need for Placement in a Q RTP

Obviously there are requirements associated to implementation of FFPSA that I find bothersome. One question that has concerned me from my first viewing of the legislation relates to the requirement that any child placed in a Q RTP must have the need for placement ascertained by a qualified individual within the first 30 days of placement. Legislatively, the qualified individual "means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of the title agency and who is not connected to, or affiliated with, any placement setting in which children are placed by the Title IV-E agency".

Early on, I asked a number of high-ranking officials how that requirement was going to play itself out? At the time I asked the question, the process had not yet been identified. Consequently, until recently, I was puzzled. I've also asked a number of providers who have been in communication with State agency leadership in their states, and they, too didn't know the answer to the question.

Yesterday, I found the answer included in a publication from the Administration of Children and Families dated July 9, 2018. The following link will take you to the publication: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pi1807.pdf>

The solution to what I'd describe as an insurmountable problem associated to meeting the specific requirements of the law is identified this way: "*The title IV-E agency may request that HHS waive the 'qualified individual' requirements as part of the title IV-E plan submission thereby allowing the individual to be an employee of the agency and/or connected to or affiliated with a placement setting in which children are placed by the agency. In doing so, the title IV-E agency must certify that the trained professionals or*

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licensed clinicians will maintain objectivity in determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child (section 475A(c)(1)(C) of the Act). CB has not promulgated guidance imposing additional requirements for the title IV-E agency to seek a waiver”.

I was not aware that a Federal agency had the authority to waive a legislative requirement. Apparently, the wavier process through HHS is the planned approach to resolve the problem.

- The Prevention Services Clearinghouse Handbook of Standards and Procedures.

On April 26, 2019, the Administration for Child and Family Services [Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation] released the newly published Clearinghouse Handbook of standards and Procedures. It describes a detailed description of the process to determine if a prevention program is eligible for IV-E reimbursement. The document does include the recommendations made to the agency by leadership in Congress. It states specifically:

"In addition, the Prevention Services Clearinghouse may use an environmental scan or an inventory of the literature or both to identify programs or services.

Particular consideration will be given to programs and services recommended by State or local government administrators and tribes; rated by other clearinghouses (such as CEBC or HomVEE); recommended by federal partners; and/or evaluated as part of any grants supported by the Children's Bureau (such as the Title IV-E Child Welfare Demonstrations or Regional Partnership Grants)".

- Legislation

There are no new updates associated to other legislation the Coalition of Residential Excellence has been tracking. Hopefully, there will be more to report at the end of May.

Child Welfare Monitor

I am attaching a link to an article entitled: "Reducing Congregate Care Placements: not so easy, not always good for kids". It appeared in the Child Welfare Monitor on April 15, 2019. The article is written by Marie Cohen.

<https://childwelfaremonitor.org/2019/04/15/reducing-congregate-care-placements-not-so-easy-not-always-good-for-kids/>

2019 CORE National Conference [October 15-17, 2019]

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- Conference Hotel

The Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock has been selected as the conference hotel for the 2019 CORE National Conference. The room rate for the conference is set for \$139 a night. There are two ways to reserve hotel rooms for the conference:

1) The following link may be used for reservations:

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/dt/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&city=hocn=LITMBDT&spec_plan=CDTCRX&arrival=20191014&departure=20191017&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

[Note: The entire URL must be copied and pasted for it to work properly]

2.) Guests can also go to the hotel web site which is www.littlerock.doubletree.com and when they put in their arrival and departure dates there is an area where you are asked for a group/conference code. The conference code for CORE is CRX. The guest types the code in and hit next and it pulls rooms in the CORE block.

The group name is: Coalition of Residential Excellence. Attendees to the conference will need to arrive on 14-Oct-2019. The conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. the following morning.

- Conference Registration

We plan to begin the conference registration process at the beginning of June 2019. Responses to the RFP for presentations are currently being evaluated for inclusion in the lineup. The conference theme is: "Moving Forward – Forever A Resource For Children and Families". Please save the October 15-17, 2019 date on your calendars. Please plan now to be in attendance.

- Catherine Hershey Awards

Earlier this week, an email containing nomination forms for 2019 Catherine Hershey Awards was sent to CORE member agencies. The awards recognize outstanding people in the following categories: Student of the Year, Houseparent(s) of the year, Administrator of the Year, Educator of the Year and Alumnus of the Year. Additionally, nomination forms for two CORE Awards for Trustee Member of the Year and Policy Maker of the Year were included as well. The completed nomination forms need to be returned to Jacqueline Sacco [SaccoJ@MHS-PA.org] by June 15, 2019.