



Date: June 10, 2019
To: Members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence
From: Don Forrester, Executive Director
Subject: May 2019 CORE Monthly Report

- **Legislative**

As the September 31, 2019 deadline looms for the elimination of IV-E waivers afforded some states for continued funding of State plans for prevention and support services of at-risk children, there are two different bills filed in both the House and Senate that seek to provide funding for traditional prevention services.

The two bills are **State Flexibility and Family First Transitions Act - S. 107/ H3116** and **Families First Transition and Support Act of 2019**.

Though FFPSA carries the label of Family First Prevention Services in the title, it falls short of living up to the name. In order to be eligible to receive prevention services under FFPSA, the child must be at imminent risk for placement in foster care. That carries with it the implication that the child has been subjected to abuse or neglect to the extent that placement outside the home would be a consideration.

State Flexibility for Family First Transitions Act

The first bill filed is S.107- State Flexibility for Family First Transitions Act [Rubio (FL)/Feinstein (CA)].

The bill was introduced on January 10, 2019. H. 3116 - A companion bill was filed in the House by Representative Don Bacon on June 9, 2019. Both the Senate and House versions provide any State with a child welfare demonstration project that is scheduled to terminate at the end of fiscal year 2019 the option to extend the project for up to 2 additional years. In addition, a state extending the project must provide a plan to the Department of Health and Human Services specifying how the project will transition by FY 2021 to comply with the provision of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 related to

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child care institutions, foster family homes, and assessment standards for qualified residential-treatment programs.

On May 1, 2019, Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) introduced the **Family First Transition and Support Act**. Two weeks later, Representative Karen Bass introduced the same legislation in the House. Reportedly, the legislation would:

- *Eliminate the outdated Federal Title IV-E foster eligibility requirements for foster family homes tied to the 1996 Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) law, commonly referred to as the "look back," which limits Federal foster care and family support to only those children removed from very low-income families;*
- *Expand funding for kinship support services, including childcare, transportation, and legal services to ensure families have access to services that meet their needs and keep children safe in their homes;*
- *Provide states and tribes with more time to develop the research base for prevention programs they want to use by delaying the FFPSA 50% well-supported requirement;*
- *Enhance funding for caseworker training and development;*
- *Provide additional funds for State-directed research to develop interventions to meet Family First evidenced-based requirements, strengthen families, improve service delivery for youth victims of trafficking, and reduce inter-generational poverty;*
- *Boost funding for Regional Partnership Grants to allow more local and regional groups to address parental substance use and child well-being;*
- *Enhance funding for the child welfare Court Improvement Program and Tribal Court Improvement Program;*
- *Provide new time-limited resources to support quality foster parent recruitment and retention;*
- *Provide short-term Federal support to help States meet Family First licensing and accreditation standards for quality residential treatment programs and therapeutic foster care settings; and*
- *Provide additional resources and improvements for tribal child welfare programs.*

Read the House version of the bill [here](#).

<https://bass.house.gov/sites/karenbass.house.gov/files/BASS%20Family%20First%20Transition%20and%20Support%20Act%202019.pdf>

[As a side note: FFPSA was passed as a budget neutral piece of legislation. Both proposed bills will carry a fiscal note.]

Modernization of House Parent Exemption – Unfortunately, there is no new news to report. This legislation has not yet been introduced this session.

- **EAGLE Recognized as an Approved Accreditor for QRTP under the Family First Prevention Services Act**

Frederick, MD – May 15, 2019 – EAGLE Accreditation has been recognized by the Federal Government as an approved accreditor for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

The FFPSA legislation, which passed in February 2018, mandates that all Residential Treatment Providers become accredited to become Qualified Residential Treatment Programs by October 1, 2019. Under the new law, after the first two weeks of child placement, only “specified settings” outside of foster family homes are eligible for reimbursement through Title IV-E foster care funds.

EAGLE Accreditation has been designated as an approved accrediting body in recognition of its standards of excellence in quality.

“After review of the standards used by EAGLE..., HHS approved EAGLE as an alternate accrediting agency for QRTP purposes,” according to a memo from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HHS confirmed last week that the approval of the EAGLE standards is applicable across jurisdictions.

EAGLE, which stands for Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE), is the only faith-based accrediting body in the country. It focuses on ministries serving older adults, children, youth and families, and developmentally disabled with emphasis on excellence, quality and how applicant organizations incorporate their Christian mission, religious heritage and values throughout the organization and its daily operations. Since 1984, EAGLE Accreditation has incrementally evolved as a unique, voluntary, self-assessment, peer review program for faith-based organizations.

The EAGLE Accreditation Program is led by the EAGLE Accreditation Commission and operated by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA).

For more information on EAGLE accreditation, please visit the EAGLE website at <http://eagle1.org/> or email eagle@ouruma.org.

- **Catherine Hershey Awards**

Nomination forms for the Catherine Hershey Awards have been sent to all CORE member agencies. As a reminder, the nomination forms are due for return by Saturday,

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June 15, 2019. They need to be emailed to Jacqueline Scacco at Milton Hershey School ScaccoJ@mhs-pa.org

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

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&ctyhocn=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 have delayed beginning conference registration until July. I'm pleased to report that presenters for the conference have been selected and this year's line-up has much to offer. The cost for registration is \$175 for members and \$225 for non-members.

Please save the October 15-17, 2019 date on your calendars. Please plan now to be in attendance.