



COALITION OF RESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE

## Executive Director's Report February 2021

**Aysha Schomburg, J.D.**, has been named by the Biden administration as the new Associate Commissioner in the Children's Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, located within the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In that role, she will serve as head of the Children's Bureau.



Reportedly, she comes into the position after serving as the senior administrator for program oversight for New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS). She began her career at ACS in 2017 as the director of parent recruitment where she focused on supporting foster and prospective adoptive parents. In 2019, she was awarded the ACS Distinguished Service Award for "Assisting Children Separated from their Families at the Border."

Prior to 2017, Schomburg reportedly held a number of key leadership positions with the New York City Council, including assistant deputy director. Under this title, she managed legislative activities of 13 committees in the human services division and provided legal counsel to the speaker and council members. Prior to that she served as senior counsel, and counsel to the Committee on Education.

Associate Commissioner Schomburg, who has bar admissions in both the states of New York and New Jersey, received her B.A. from the University of Virginia, her M.A. from New York University and her J.D. from New York Law School.

Schomburg replaces Jerry Milner, associate commissioner for the Children's Bureau who was appointed to the position by the Trump administration in 2017. He held the position until the week before President Biden's inauguration.

In her new role, Schomburg will provide oversight for Title IV-E entitlement for child welfare services and Title IV-B funding for family preservation and reunification.

Both of these programs were overhauled by the Family First Prevention Services Act that was attached at the last minute to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The legislation limited the use of IV-E funding for the care of children not needing treatment services to foster care only. The majority of states continue to operate on a waiver from FFPSA, but the waiver is set to expire on September 30, 2021.

Today's reality underscores the lack of appropriate foster family homes or kinship care resources for children currently needing non-treatment related services in out of home care. States currently relying on group care (ie: children's homes) include: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Missouri, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia.

Currently, there appears to be a lack of recognition on the part of those in Congress that children in need of protective services continue to be left in harms way. Due to a lack of appropriate available resources, children needing removal from families where they are at risk continue to sleep in workers offices or in hotel rooms because foster homes are unavailable or group care is not a consideration under FFPSA requirements. The pandemic is exacerbating the capacity crisis and according to the 2020 CHAMPS report, the Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment Plans developed by the majority of states does not include a comprehensive approach to creation of a sustainable agency wide recruitment and retention structure. Often, sibling groups are being separated and placed in separate foster family homes because of capacity issues.

Obviously, the most egregious outcome is that children continue to die after being left in homes where multiple child abuse investigations have been made by both law enforcement and child welfare workers.

There was a day when our nation operated on the notion: "It Shouldn't Hurt To Be A Child".

**Legislative Update** - The next COVID stimulus package seems to be the focus of most things taking place on Capitol Hill. Of course, Federal Office Buildings continue to be closed to the public, just as they have been since March 12, 2020.

To date, the legislation CORE has been advocating for that would add our membership back into the continuum of care for which IV-E dollars could be used, has yet to be filed during this session. Congressman Dunn's office has expressed a willingness to do so.

As soon as the legislation is filed, you will be notified and encouraged to solicit co-sponsorship of legislators representing your districts.



**COMING SOON -**  
Mark your calendar for April 21, 2021

**CORE is planning to host a special electronic communication through Teams with our membership on the afternoon of April 21, 2021**

**Complete details will be made available in the March 2021 Executive Director's Report. The topic to be discussed will be of great interest for our membership.**

**2021 CORE National Conference  
has been rescheduled to October 12-14, 2021**

**Mooseheart Child City & School will host the conference**  
(Mooseheart is a residential child care facility, located on a 1,000 acre campus 38 miles west of Chicago.)

**A new request for proposals for the 2021 CORE Conference will released in April 2021.**

*If you have not yet remitted your CORE membership dues for 2021, please do so this month. If you need an official invoice for the dues, contact [don@CORE- DC.org](mailto:don@CORE- DC.org) (202) 770-9490*

