



Meeting together as a professional organization of children's homes and residential schools has been a long time in coming to fruition. I am elated that the 2021 CORE National Conference figuratively has a green light and we are set to convene on Tuesday morning at Mooseheart Child City and School.

There is still time to register. Please use this link for conference registration: <https://www.core-dc.org/registration/> You can also find information regarding MyPlace, the conference hotel located in North Aurora, IL.

The conference Hotel is MyPlace Hotel. It is located at 1000 Kilbery Ln, North Aurora, IL 60542. Phone (630) 256-8485.

Here is the Hotel Reservation link: [MOOSE2021](#)

Mitigation Strategy for Staying Healthy at the 2021 CORE National Conference

Conference attendees will be asked to wear a face mask and practice social distancing while indoors.

TRANSPORTATION - Mooseheart will provide a bus to pick conference attendees up at the hotel and return to the hotel daily.

Transportation from either of the airports is more of a problem. Uber from either airport is approximately \$75 one way. Train service is available in close proximity to each airport, but scheduling is a minimum of one hour between departures. (Note: Taking a train to Aurora and then picking up Uber was not recommended by the hotel because of the time it would take)

The most practical venue is rent a car at the airport. Several of you may want to reach out to peers traveling to the conference to coordinate and share car rental charges.

[MITIGATION STRATEGY FOR COVID - DURING THE CONFERENCE, WE ARE REQUESTING THAT PARTICIPANTS WEAR FACE MASKS AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE INDOORS]

It was a man of wisdom who said: “Two are better than one. They have a good return for their labor.” This year’s conference theme is TOGETHER - Accomplishing More. Perhaps at no time in our history have we had farther to go to find a platform for serving children and families from hard places.

WAIVERS FROM FFPSA END SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

October 1, 2021 represents the date that waivers provided states from meeting the requirements of FFPSA expire. The majority of states have operated under the leniency of those waivers for the past year. The timing and circumstances couldn’t be more problematic than our present reality. Sadly, the reality exists that a shortage of resources for care leave children in harms way.

THE UNSEEN CRISIS

There is a publication entitled “**The Unseen Crisis** [Reflections, Observations, Challenges and Concerns]” on the CORE website. Hopefully you’ll find it a helpful resource in understanding the background and outcomes of where we are today.

Capitol Hill Is Now Open To The Public

I was on Capitol Hill a couple of weeks ago to visit with legislative staffers. Actually, one of the staffers reached out to me to share their willingness to support the legislation we were hopeful of passed during the last legislative session. I was encouraged by his contact.



To say that Federal Office Buildings are open to the public is a little misleading. In order to go through security, you must have a scheduled appointment and be accompanied by a legislative staffer. All visitors must be signed-in to enter the building.

I felt like a kid in a candy store. It was my first visit to Capitol Hill since February 2020. On March 12, 2020 Federal Office Buildings closed to the public. There are just now reopening. I did find from my efforts to secure appointments that some legislative offices are not yet open. They are still working from home.

Hopefully, as we move into the remainder of 2021, CORE members will have more opportunities for legislative contacts and opportunities to identify the changes necessary in responding to the unmet needs of children from hard places.

RULE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASE - One of immediate concerns related to FFPSA is the conflict it creates with a QRTP (Qualified Residential Treatment Program) being eligible for children to receive Medicaid funding. The Institute of Mental Disease exclusion, a law that prohibits Medicaid payments to a hospital, nursing facility or other institution with more than 16 beds that primarily provides care for people with mental health conditions.

Though this was identified as a potential problem shortly after passage of FFPSA, it was thought that surely the conflict could be mediated through a reasonable understanding. Reportedly, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) indicated that QRTPs with more than 16 beds will be subject to the IMD exclusion, leaving many states at risk of not being able to continue providing services to this vulnerable population in QRTPs.

In an effort to thwart a financial catastrophe, Sen. Richard Burr [NC] and Sen. Dianne Feinstein [CA] filed **Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for Children in Foster Care Act. [S.2689]** on August 10, 2021. This bipartisan legislation would clarify existing law to ensure that the care provided for certain foster children in need of a higher level of care are covered by Medicaid.

Protecting Siblings Relationships in Foster Care Act (H.R. 4371) filed by Rep. Bacon has not received action or additional co-sponsors since last month's report. At that time there were four co-sponsors: Rep. Bass, Rep. Langevin, Rep. Lawrence and Rep. Mullin.

In like manner, **H.R. 4299 - Foster Care Stabilization Act** has not advance farther since the last report. There are still only three co-sponsors: Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Rep. James Langevin (D-RI) and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK).

H.R. 4348 Tribal Family Fairness Act Tribal Family Fairness Act - also has not gained additional co-sponsors since the last report. The bill was filed by Rep. Karen Bass - on July 2, 2021. There are nine co-sponsors to the bill.