



### ***Save the Date & Call for Presenters***

*The **2022 CORE National Conference** is scheduled for October 11-13, 2022. This year's host for the conference is Milton Hershey School - Hershey, PA*

A link to the Call for Proposal can be found on the CORE Website under "Presentation". <https://www.core-dc.org/call-for-presenters/> The timeline for submission is on or before June 15, 2022.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Revamping program models to more effectively respond to needs
- Transitional Leadership
- Donor Acquisition and Fund Raising
- Orchestrating Legislative Change
- Ethics
- Tracking Outcomes
- Independent Living
- Attachment
- Sensory Integration
- Thrift Stores -Are They Worth The Investment
- Innovation and Thinking Outside the Box
- Working with Boards and Selection of Board Members
- Employee Recruitment and Retention
- Effectively Utilizing the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard
- Implementation of Kickboard Behavioral Management System
- Effectively Utilizing Suite 360 Social Curriculum
- Sensory Integration
- Supporting a Normalized Home Environment for Children
- Drug Use and Misuse
- Promoting Best Practice in a FFPSA Environment
- Continuous Quality Improvement Processes

- Using Alumni To Share The Agency’s Story and Impact Legislative Change
- Promoting Educational Excellence
- Keeping Children Safe
- The Use of Volunteers In Enrichment Activities for Children
- Recruitment, Training and Retention for Child-Care Staff
- Trauma Informed Care Issues
- An Executive Leadership Track



[Children’s Bureau Express - February 2022]

### **What the Evidence Tells Us About Congregate Care**

I was both pleased and surprised to see the reference made to the child welfare

research article entitled: “What the Evidence Tells Us About Congregate Care?” included in Children’s Bureau Express - February 2022. I had reviewed the research document published by the Center for State Child Welfare Data [Chapin Hall] several months ago and was encouraged by the report. Negativity was not the broad brush used to describe the findings. On the contrary, under the category of “Implications and Next Steps”, the report states:

*“The most important thing we learned from this study is that congregate care is a much more heterogeneous experience for young people than we generally acknowledge. Everything that we learned while doing this work reinforced that idea. That means federal policy should be interpreted in a way that recognizes that differential impacts are possible at the state level because no two states really operate the same congregate care system. Indeed, much more attention should be paid to those between-state differences, in the long run, if we want to manage our use of congregate care more effectively.”*

*“...There have been changes in the utilization of congregate care during the study window, particularly since 2015. Even though the daily census has declined steadily, we still see this pronounced pattern of ups and downs in the daily census. We attribute the rhythmic ebb and flow to structural forces within the system itself. Even though these system forces have important implications for how we improve the congregate care*

*system, we know far too little about how the supply of a service affects utilization.*

*Finally, given that most of the congregate care capacity in the nation resides in the private sector, how those private-sector agencies are reimbursed raises an important policy question. Most if not all congregate care policy is organized around the answer to two important questions: who should be placed in congregate care (i.e., when is it appropriate to do so) and what services should be paid for within the category we call congregate care.*

*The congregate care provisions within the Family First Prevention Services Act target who by limiting eligibility for federal funding to children who meet certain thresholds and what by reinforcing the role of qualified residential treatment programs on the care continuum. Left out of this particular policy conversation, however, are questions pertaining to whether the methods used to reimburse congregate care providers influence once how congregate care is delivered and whether that influence is at odds with social policy. Health care has been struggling with this very question for some time. We think viewing congregate care utilization through this lens would yield powerful insights, rendering the challenge of aligning fiscal policy and social policy a more solvable problem for everyone."*

[https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?articleid=5946&event=website.viewArticles&issueid=234&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?articleid=5946&event=website.viewArticles&issueid=234&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## **PENDING LEGISLATION**

***No noted progress has been noted on the following proposed bills:***

**S.2689**

**Medicaid Continuity for Children in Foster Care Act (S. 2689)** was filed by Sen. Richard Burr (North Carolina) on August 10, 2021.

The bill would clarify existing law to ensure that the care provide for certain foster children in need of higher levels of care are covered by Medicaid. The bill has 4 co-sponsors: Sen. Dianne Feinstein [D-CA] original co-sponsor, Sen. Todd Young [R-IN] signed on September 20, 2021, Sen Alejandro "Alex" Padilla [D-CA] signed on September 20,2021, and Sen. Marco Rubio [R-FL] signed on September 2021. The bill was assigned to the Finance Committee.

The only category of care impacted by this legislation is Qualified Residential Treatment Programs serving more than 16 residents. Programs with a capacity of more than 16 residents are subject to the IMD (Institute for Mental Disease) exclusion that prohibits payments to a hospital, nursing facility or other institution with more than 16 beds that primarily provides care for people with mental conditions.

**H.R. 4378**

**Protecting Siblings Relationships In Foster Care Act** (H.R. 4378) was filed by Rep. Don Bacon on July 9, 2021.

The bill is a competitive grant pilot program to encourage the development of specialized foster care programs designed specifically for large sibling groups, sibling groups with a wide age range, and sibling groups with complex needs.

The bill has 3 original co-sponsors and an additional co-sponsor added on July 13, 2021. Co-sponsors include: Rep. Karen Bass [D-CA], Rep. James R. Langevin [D-RI], Rep. Brenda Lawrence [D-MI], and Rep. Markwayne Millin [R-OK].

**H.R. 4299**

**Foster Care Stabilization Act** (H.R. 4299) was filed by Rep. Don Bacon on July 1, 2021.

The bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a demonstration grant program to provide emergency relief to foster youth and improve pre- placement services offered by foster care stabilization agencies, and for other purposes.

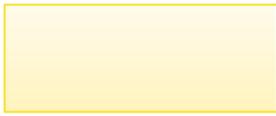
The bill has 3 original co-sponsors: Rep. Karen Bass [D-CA], Rep. James R. Langevin [D-RI], and Rep. Markwayne Mullin [R-OK]

**H.R. 4348**

The **Tribal Family Fairness Act** (H.R. 4348) was filed by Rep. Karen Bass on July 2, 2021. The purpose is to remove administrative barriers to participation of Indian tribes in Federal Child Welfare programs, and increase funding for tribal child welfare programs, and for other purposes.

Co-sponsors include: Rep. Sharice Davids [D-KS 07/02/21], Rep. G.K. Butterfield [D-NC 07-19-21], Rep. Liz Cheney [R-WY 07-19-21], Rep. Pete Aguilar [D-CA 07/12/21],

Rep. Ken Calvert [R-CA 07/19/21], Rep. Angie Craig [D-MN 07/19//21], Rep. Charlie Crist [D-Fl].



The **Accountability for Congregate Care Act** has not yet been filed. In October 2021 Rep. Ro Khanna [D-CA] announced at a press conference with Paris Hilton his intent to craft legislation entitled the Accountability for Congregate Care Act. Rep. Adam Schiff also spoke in favor of the legislation. Reportedly, Sen. Jeff Merkley [D-OR] has indicated he will sponsor the legislation in the Senate.

Reportedly, the intended legislation would identify a bill of rights for residents including protections against solitary confinement, chemical and physical restrains, alienation for their peers, and the right to call friends and family. Reportedly, the legislation will include minimum standards of care and treatment that facilities will have to meet. To my knowledge, nothing yet has been officially filed in either the House or Senate.

**Child Deaths from Abuse/Neglect in the State of Maine doubled in 2021 from the preceding year. The Governor and lawmakers are looking at ways to strengthen the child protective services system. The message seems clear - Something has to be done to keep children safe.**



Twenty-five children died last year in incidents tracked by the state that were associated with abuse or neglect or after a history of family involvement with the child welfare system, according to updated data released by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services last week. It is the highest number of deaths recorded in a single year dating back to 2007 and more than double the total from 2020. The data also are an undercount because homicides last year that are the subject of criminal proceedings — including four reported in June — are not included. (Andrews, 2/2)



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2022 Membership Dues for  
The Coalition of Residential Excellence**