



Weekly Update: June 5, 2017

Coalition Action

Final Schedule for Remaining 2017 Coalition Meetings

The schedule for our remaining meetings in 2017 are listed below. Please let us know if you are able to host the July 26 or September 20 meeting.

July 26 2-4:00pm ET (location TBD)

September 20 1-3:00pm ET (location TBD)

November 14 1-3:00pm ET (at NASW)

Federal Updates

New Appointments Within ACF

Last week HHS announced the following appointments for the Administration on Children and Families. As described in an email press release:

Steven Wagner, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration for Children and Families. Mr. Steven Wagner is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary at HHS's Administration for Children and Families. Before joining the Administration, Wagner was the President of QEV Analytics, a public opinion

and data analysis firm he founded in 1996. During his tenure at QEV, he collaborated for 17 years with Joseph Califano, the former President of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (and former Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare) on identifying strategies to keep kids from abusing illegal drugs, tobacco and alcohol. Wagner also worked with clients to develop and implement messaging to help at-risk populations avoid poverty. Wagner was the Founder and President of Solidarity with the Persecuted Church, the 501(c)(3) organization which supports Christians in places of persecution, such as Iraq, Syria and Nigeria. He previously served as ACF's Director of the anti-human trafficking program. In this capacity, he launched the "Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking" public awareness campaign designed to increase victim identification and rescue, a campaign which was recognized for excellence by the prestigious Silver Anvil Award of the Public Relations Society of America. He also initiated the trafficking information and referral hotline, local anti-trafficking community coalitions in 17 cities and programs to better meet the restorative needs of victims. Wagner was the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he realized the reform of HUD regulations necessary for the full and non-discriminatory participation of faith-based and community organizations.

Clarence H. Carter is the Director of the Office of Family Assistance at HHS' Administration for Children and Families, coming from the Institute for the Improvement of the Human Condition, which he founded. At that organization, he worked with state and local safety net agencies to meet the emergency needs of socially and economically vulnerable citizens. Carter served as the Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, in addition to other state, federal and local human services management positions. During his service in the Bush Administration, he managed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and served as the Director of the Office of Community Services. As Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services, his program was instrumental in growing the capacity of its citizens. In his first five years, more than 25,000 public assistance recipients obtained gainful employment, earning in excess of \$200 million. During his tenure, Virginia's public assistance rolls were reduced by more than half, from an all-time high of 74,000 families to a 30-year low of 31,000. On the local level, while serving as the Director of the Washington, D.C., Department of Human Services, Carter led the design and operation of an initiative to house more than 1,000 homeless residents. It was this effort that transformed the District's shelter-based homeless system to one based in permanent supportive housing as the primary mechanism to reduce homelessness.

Shannon Christian serves as the Director of the Office of Child Care at HHS' Administration for Children and Families. She is a former Associate Commissioner of the former Child Care Bureau at ACF, where she advanced President Bush's Good Start, Grow Smart early childhood initiative, and shaped the office's research agenda to better support state policy and spending decisions. Committed to effective prevention strategies, Shannon oversaw the launch of Illinois' home visiting program and was an active board member of Be Strong Families, a Chicago-based national nonprofit. Earlier in her career, Shannon was part of former Wisconsin Governor (and HHS secretary) Tommy Thompson's welfare reform team, serving as head of the planning section in the state Health & Social Services Department's Office of Policy and Budget, and as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Workforce Development. Shannon has an MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, a certificate in nonprofit management from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business, and an undergraduate degree in economics and international relations from California State University, Chico.

Pedro C. Moreno is the Principal Deputy Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement at HHS' Administration for Children and Families. Moreno joined the Trump Administration and ORR

from Prison Fellowship, where he served as the National Director of the Warden Exchange, a transformational leadership program designed for prison CEOs. On state levels, Moreno served in the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities. During the Bush Administration, Moreno was a Counselor in the White House Drug Policy Office and was the Senior Advisor for international and immigration affairs at HHS' Administration for Children and Families, where he currently serves again. Moreno was a federal government delegate to the executive board of UNICEF, the UN's International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the UN Crime Congress. He has traveled to 66 countries on all continents. In addition to holding a law degree from the University of San Andres in La Paz, Bolivia, Moreno received a master's degree in international law and economic development from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and completed the specialization in negotiation and dispute resolution at Harvard University.

June 7: Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth Briefing on Aging Out

On Wednesday, June 7 from 10:00 to 11:00am the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth will host "What's Next for Me? Facing My Future As I Age Out of Care." The briefing will feature a dynamic panel of foster youth ages 16-19 who are preparing for independence, who will explain what matters to them and what they want Congressional leaders to know. The briefing will be held in 2255 Rayburn House Office Building. RSVP to Laura Boyd at lboyd544@gmail.com.

June 7: OJJDP Webinar on Human Trafficking

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, in partnership with the National Criminal Justice Training Center, will hold a webinar on June 7 from 2:00-3:30pm ET entitled "Identifying and Responding to Victims in the Healthcare Setting." A 2017 survey report from the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) found that over half of labor and sex trafficking survivors surveyed had accessed health care at least once while being trafficked. Nearly 97% indicated they had never been provided with information or resources about human trafficking while visiting the health care provider. This webinar will present strategies for equip healthcare professionals to identify and appropriately assist trafficked persons with victim-centered, trauma-informed care and services. For more information, click [here](#).

June 8: Ways and Means Hearing on Administration's HHS Budget Proposals

On Thursday, June 8 the Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on President Trump's [fiscal year 2018 budget proposals](#) for the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS Secretary Tom Price will be the sole witness. The hearing will be held at 10:00am in 1100 Longworth House Office Building. They haven't posted a direct link for the hearing yet, but it should be webcast and you should be able to get to it through [here](#).

Member Updates

Last Call: First Focus Sign-On Letter Urging Congress to Extend CHIP Funding

In the midst of a lot of important activity to protect Medicaid, First Focus has been circulating a sign-on letter to Congressional leaders urging Congress to act quickly to enact a long-term extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Funding for CHIP is currently set to expire on September 30, 2017. Click [here](#) to see the letter with a current list of signers. Click [here](#) to add your organization's name, location and state to the letter.

Sign On Letter from ABA on Proposed Elimination of Legal Services Corporation

In response to President Trump's FY2018 budget proposal, which would eliminate all funding for the Legal Services Corporation, the ABA Center on Children and the Law is circulating an opposition letter for interested parties to sign on and is asking for support from the children's advocacy field. The letter explains that elimination of LSC support will make implementation of federal child welfare laws more difficult in two primary ways: (1) by undermining direct legal services in child welfare cases, and (2) by removing the preventive role that legal aid often plays in ensuring that children do not end up in foster care unnecessarily. Elimination of LSC will also have an impact on domestic violence services. For more information or to sign onto the letter, contact Prudence at Prudence.BeidlerCarr@americanbar.org. The letter is attached to this newsletter.

June 6: APA and CWLA Briefing on Family Homelessness

On June 6 from 12:00 to 1:30pm ET, the American Psychological Association, in partnership with the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), will host a Congressional briefing entitled "Escaping Homelessness: Helping Families Reach Their Full Potential." Homelessness is a growing problem directly impacting families. Homeless parents often struggle with depression, PTSD, and substance abuse, which limits their ability to buffer their children from the stress and lasting impact of homelessness. Speakers at the briefing will draw on new research on improving services for homeless families and provide concrete policy recommendations that may help break the cycle of homelessness. Click [here](#) to register.

June 14: Committee for Children Hosts Briefing with Tim Ryan (OH-13) on Research and Policies to Reduce Toxic Teacher Stress

CASEL and the Committee for Children, along with Rep. Tim Ryan (OH-13), are hosting a briefing on Wednesday, June 14 entitled "Teacher Health and Wellness: Fostering Student Achievement by Supporting Teachers' Mental and Physical Well-Being." The briefing will provide an overview of H.R. 2544, the Teacher Health and Wellness Act, discuss the results of recent research on teacher wellness and the impact on student welfare and achievement. It will be held at 11:00am in the Congressional Visitor Center, Room 217. Register [here](#).

August 7-11: Kempe Center Intensive Summer Session in Child Abuse and Neglect Research

With support from the Walton Family Foundation, the Kempe Center is organizing an intensive summer session in child abuse and neglect research designed to educate graduate students in public health, social work and the social sciences in child abuse and neglect as a field of research. The Kempe Center will be training clinicians in this field in research with a goal of interesting graduate students in the child abuse research field and in developing clinical and academic collaborations. Please share this information and the attached flyer with your networks, especially any graduate students and feel free to email Des Runyan at Des.Runyan@ucdenver.edu with any questions.

FFTA Conference: July 16-19, 2017 in Chicago

The Family-focused Treatment Association (FFTA) invites you to join over 700 family-based service professionals and foster parents at the only annual conference on treatment foster care and other family-focused treatment services. The conference features over 80 workshops highlighting the best practices being applied in the field. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

APSAC Summit Registration Now Open

APSAC's Advanced Training Summit on Investigation and Response will be held June 21-23, 2017 in Portland, Maine, and registration is now open. Information about this summit and all 10 Advanced Training Institutes offered by APSAC is available [here](#).

Other Updates

New Annie E. Casey Podcast Describes Foster Care System of the Future

The Annie E. Casey Foundation recently published a new podcast episode, "[Reimagining America's Child Welfare System with Rafael Lopez](#)." Rafael Lopez served as the commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the end of the Obama administration. The discussion covers how the system works, where it falls short and what we should be fixed moving forward, including the role of prevention. In Rafael's words: "We need to do far more, far quicker around the way in which we deeply invest in prevention – and I think that's the next era for American child welfare."

RAND Withdraws Report on Child Welfare Reform for Further Analysis

The RAND Corporation, which issued a [report](#) last week describing how federal child welfare policy could be changed to improve outcomes for children and youth and save the federal government money, decided on June 2 to retract the report due to concerns from child welfare researchers about some of the research assumptions. RAND is alerting all reporters and Congressional staff who have been briefed on the report and has stopped all promotion of the paper until it is reissued.

New Study on Trauma-Informed Foster Care

KVC Health Systems, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Child Trends, and Dr. Glenn Saxe of New York University, have collaborated on a five-year longitudinal study on the impact of trauma-informed and focused care, called Bridging the Way Home. The groups partnered to evaluate the implementation of Trauma Systems Therapy (TST), an approach that identifies trauma in children and helps to create a community surrounding the child for continued treatment and support. The study found that implementation of TST created positive results for children, including measurable improvements in functioning, behavior regulation and placement stability, among other things. For more information, click [here](#).

June 6: *Health Affairs* Briefing on Health Equity

In 2016 *Health Affairs* launched a multi-year project to examine the factors that contribute to disparities in health and health care. The results of the first phase of this work are contained in the forthcoming June 2017 issue of the journal, "Pursuing Health Equity." Please join Health Affairs on Tuesday, June 6, at a forum at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, featuring a high-level conversation on the issues covered in the journal. Topics to be covered are: Pursuing Health Equity, Addressing Social Determinants of Health, Evidence of Inequities in Health Care, and Addressing Inequities in Health Care. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

June 7: AEI Event on Opioids

On Wednesday, June 7 from 10:30am to 12:00pm, AEI will host "Deaths of Despair: Opioids, Community, and the Economy." Beginning in the late 1990s, deaths from alcoholism-related liver disease, suicide, and opioid overdoses began to climb nationwide. Such "deaths of despair," as Princeton economists Anne Case and Angus Deaton call them, most frequently strike less educated whites, both men and women, between the ages of 45 and 54. Rates of opioid abuse, addiction, and fatal overdose rise along with unemployment. During the event a panel will discuss the forces contributing to the problem, what kinds of clinical, social welfare, and economic programs and policies can reverse it, and what role the federal government should play. This will be the first in a series of discussions on opioids and society. Register [here](#) to attend in person or online.

NDD United and Congressional Management Foundation Webinar on Strategies to Influence Congress

Our colleagues at NDD United are pleased to announce that the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) is hosting two free webinars on June 22 and 23 for policy, advocacy and communications professionals working for organizations involved with NDD United. CMF will share findings from its recently-released report, "Citizen-Centric Advocacy: The Untapped Power of Constituent Engagement." The webinars will be held on [June 22](#) from 3:00 to 4:00pm and [June 23](#) from 11:00 to 12:00pm.

News Items of Note

[11 years old, a mom, and pushed to marry her rapist in Florida](#) (Opinion)

New York Times, May 26, 2017

[Risk, not substantiation, should drive services to families](#) (Opinion)

Chronicle of Social Change, May 30, 2017

[Lawmakers, enforcement officials ask for \\$9 million more to help prevent child abuse](#)

Penn Live, May 30, 2017

[Heroin epidemic: A generation of abandoned kids](#)

CNN, May 30, 2017

[When schools meet trauma with understanding, not discipline](#)

NPR, May 30, 2017

[Abbott signs sweeping child welfare overhaul into law](#)

Times Record, May 31, 2017

[Accounting for racial bias when applying predictive analytics to child welfare](#) (Opinion)

Chronicle of Social Change, May 31, 2017

[Harsh U.S. immigration policies are causing mental, social harm to American children](#)

The Hill, May 31, 2017

[Special report: The opioid epidemic: The new caregivers](#)

AARP, June 1, 2017

[Head of DCFS resigns amid controversy](#)

Chicago Tribune, June 1, 2017

[Focus on child abuse prevention](#) (Editorial)

Indianapolis Star, June 3, 2017

[A horrifying journey through Arizona foster care, and why we don't know how many more children may be abused](#)

The Arizona Republic, June 4, 2017