



Kentucky's Foster Care System

Program Review and Investigations Committee

June 14, 2018



Recommendation 1.1

DCBS and AOC should work cooperatively to determine a reasonable period for the temporary custody order and propose legislation to the General Assembly.



Recommendation 1.2

DCBS and AOC should cooperate to ensure the collection of the date of any dependency, neglect, or abuse court action, the type of hearing, and the result. These data should be analyzed regularly to identify potential problems.



Recommendation 1.3

AOC should encourage any court hearing dependency, neglect, and abuse cases to use all appropriate AOC forms.



Recommendation 1.4

DCBS should use existing data to calculate a more accurate “percent of need met” figure in its Diligent Recruitment Report.



Recommendation 1.5

DCBS should indicate disruptive, neutral, and positive reasons for placement changes in its reports.



Recommendation 3.1

- DCBS should develop a method for calculating or estimating the number of cases assigned to staff not currently carrying full caseloads and the contributions of such staff to state, regional, and county workloads. The workloads of these staff should be included in the calculation of average caseloads along with past due cases.



Recommendation 3.2

~~The General Assembly may wish to consider revising KRS 199.461 to require reporting of monthly regional and county caseload averages in addition to monthly statewide caseload averages.~~

- Implemented as part of HB 1



Recommendation 3.2

DCBS should develop a strategy to lessen the administrative burden of caseworkers so that they can spend more time working with foster children and their families.



Recommendation 3.3

DCBS should develop a method for determining caseloads that is based on an analysis of its workforce and workloads. This information should be used to determine what the appropriate caseload standard for Kentucky child welfare caseworkers should be and the strategies needed in order to meet this standard. The standard that is developed should be aligned with the principles established by current national standards and should focus on ensuring that as few child welfare caseworkers as possible are assigned caseloads that exceed the standard.



Recommendation 3.4

DCBS should request funding and authorization to increase caseworker salaries to a competitive level; to increase the number of caseworkers; to offer geographic salary differentials and flexible scheduling; to expand employee recruitment, development, and recognition programs; and to develop further improvements in the hiring process such as applicant pre-screening and hiring prior to vacancies. The agency should also promote expansion of undergraduate social work programs.



House Bill 1

- Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee
- Office of the Ombudsman
- Standardized home study process
- Performance-based contracting
- Privatization of all foster care services



House Bill 1

- DNA case review at 6 month and every 3 months thereafter
- TPR no later than 15 cumulative months out of 48 months
- Submit necessary paperwork no later than 30 days after TPR



House Bill 1

- 10-day notice before child is moved
- TPR may result from birth of child with NAS
- New timeframe for appeals and final judgements



House Bill 1

- Public forum added to local Citizen Foster Care Review Boards
- Putative father registry



D.O. v. Glisson Ruling

US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that federal law does not distinguish between relative and nonrelative foster care providers.

Ruled that Kentucky must pay relative and fictive kin in the same manner it pays nonrelative certified foster parents.



D.O. v. Glisson Ruling

1. A court must have placed the child in CHFS custody during the current removal episode,
2. A court must *then* have granted temporary (not permanent) custody to the relative or fictive kin during the current removal episode,
3. CHFS must have approved the home by conducting a home study and background check.