



2018 Citizen Foster Care Review Board Regional Community Forums

Summary of Findings

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 1 which included the following mandates for the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards (CFCRB) effective July 16, 2018.

KRS 620.270 (5) At least twice annually, the local citizen foster care review boards shall participate in regional community forums for members of the public to discuss areas of concern regarding the foster care system and to identify barriers to timely permanency, well-being and safety for children in out-of-home care. The boards shall report their findings to the State Citizen Foster Care Review Board in accordance with KRS 620.340.

KRS 620.320 (5) Evaluate and make annual recommendations to the Supreme Court, Governor, and the Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee established in Section 1 of 17 this Act regarding: (a) Laws of the Commonwealth; (b) Practices, policies, and procedures within the Commonwealth affecting permanence for children in out-of-home placement and the investigation of allegations of abuse and neglect; (c) The findings of the local citizen foster care review board community forums conducted pursuant to Section 23 of this Act; and (d) The effectiveness or lack thereof and reasons therefor of local citizen foster care review of children in the custody of the cabinet in bringing about permanence for the Commonwealth's children.

In accordance with the Kentucky Revised Statutes above, the CFCRB held Regional Community Forums across the state. The forum dates and locations are as follows:

- August 24, 2018 – Elizabethtown (Hardin County)
- September 21, 2018 – Salyersville (Magoffin County)
- September 25, 2018 – Lexington (Fayette County)
- September 28, 2018 – Madisonville (Hopkins County)
- October 19, 2018 – Florence (Boone County)
- October 26, 2018 – Somerset (Pulaski County)
- October 29, 2018 – Louisville (Jefferson County)

The following is a summary of findings compiled from the seven CFCRB Regional Forums held in 2018. Findings are based on recommendations and concerns raised by members of the public and have been categorized by parties or stakeholder groups affected. Pursuant to KRS 620.320 (5); the CFCRB has made recommendations which include these findings to the Supreme Court, Governor, and the Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee.

Children's Issues & Concerns

- Preventative measures and services are needed
- Trauma Informed Care focus for children
- Advocacy for biological parents
- Keeping siblings together and in their home towns
- Independent living skills to older population
- Adoptive children should be placed in pre-adoptive homes
- Medically complex children need more services
- Too many reunifications

Foster Parent Issues & Concerns

- Need more information on court process
- More authority in child's education and care
- Access to counseling services for foster parents
- More information on accessible services
- Education on adoption and resources
- Better communication with biological family and Department for Community Based Services

Biological Parent Issues & Concerns

- Lack of transportation
- Funding for reunification services for incarcerated parents
- More information on accessible service
- Biological mothers should have access to birth control under Medicaid

Department for Community Based Services Issues & Concerns

- Lack of Department of Community Based Services staff, lack of funding, lack of visitation locations, and lack of services
- Transitional services for adoptive children
- Lessen county to county transfers
- Out of state placement process needs improvement
- Inconsistency among Department for Community Based Services service regions

Relative/Kinship Care Issues & Concerns

- Compensation and information on accessible services
- Kinship Care Hotline needs more workers
- Continued Quality Improvement process for payment of vouchers is needed
- Definitive information needed regarding who qualifies for financial support as fictive and kinship caregivers

Court Issues & Concerns

- *Guardians ad Litem* need to be more accountable
- Stricter review of timelines
- More Family Court judgeships
- Termination of Parental Rights process should be more streamlined
- House Bill 1 information, training, outcomes
- Barriers involving county and state lines

Overall Comments & Suggestions

- Adopted children should still receive services
- Mental health of foster parents and Department for Community Based Services workers is important
- Family mentorship programs should be utilized
- Foster parent recruitment should focus on diversity and cultural sensitivity