



**Overview of Foster/Adoptive Home Approval Process
Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee
Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)
October 16, 2019**

KENTUCKY LEADS THE NATION IN CHILD ABUSEAND WE HAVE TO DO BETTER

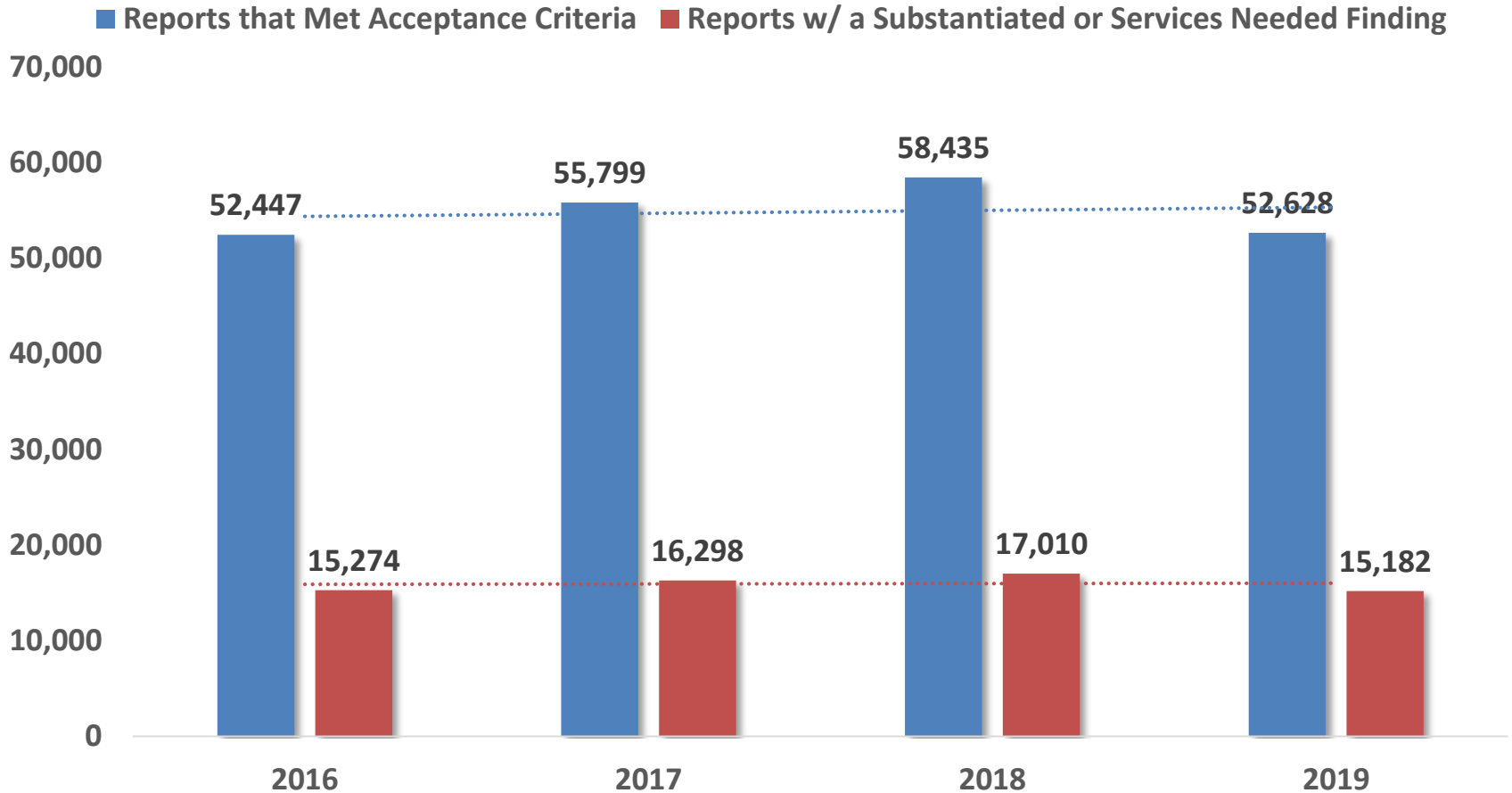
***“WE’VE GOT REAL CHALLENGES.
IF YOU’RE NOT CONCERNED AND
BOTHERED BY WHAT YOU’RE
SEEING, I’M CONCERNED THAT
YOU’RE NOT CONCERNED. WE’VE
GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO...”***

~ ERIC T. CLARK, DCBS COMMISSIONER



Child Abuse Data

SFY2016 – SFY2019



Ensuring Safety

The mission of the Department for Community Based Services is to build an effective and efficient system of care with Kentucky citizens and communities to:

- **Reduce** poverty, adult and **child maltreatment** and their effects; ...
- **Assure all children have safe and nurturing homes and communities;** ...



Background Checks Process

Proposed with National Background Check Program

Current/922 KAR 1:490

- Hardcopy DPP-157/159 completed
- Prospective foster/adoptive parent (FAP) fingerprinted in DCBS local office
- DCBS Records Management Section (RMS) runs child abuse and neglect check (CA/N) and matches criminal check results with DPP-157/159
- Fitness determination made by DCBS
- Private child-placing agencies can have person qualified to receive rap sheet under Adam Walsh certification
- RMS stores check results for federal audit purposes
- Annual in-state criminal and CA/N checks through worker/private agency and RMS

- Online application made
- CA/N check
- Upon clear CA/N check, FAP given form for fingerprinting, including closest sites
- Automated approval if no findings
- RMS will make fitness determination in system with electronic notice of determination sent to private child-placing agencies
- Provision of rap sheet to rep of private agency with Adam Walsh certification
- Results stored for 5 years for audit purposes
- 5 year rap back for in-state criminal and CA/N

Initial Foster Parent Approval

Applicants must:

- Have a complete home study
- Provide proof of age, US citizenship, and valid driver's license and insurance
- Obtain a report of positive health
- Verify income
- Provide personal and credit references
- Verify marriage, divorce, or death of spouse
- Pass a background check (KRS 199.462, 922 KAR 1:490)

Pre-Service Training

- A foster or adoptive parent applicant shall complete a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of curricula in topics outlined in 922 KAR 1:495
- In addition, applicants are required to complete (5) five web-based trainings (WBT)
- In general, WBTs and pre-service are completed concurrently
- The private agency or DCBS workers typically fingerprint the applicant at the first pre-service training to speed up the approval process

Ongoing Training

Prior to or during the month of the second anniversary date of a foster or adoptive parent's initial approval, the foster or adoptive parent shall complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of training in the following areas:

- Trauma informed care
- Psychotropic medications
- Sexual abuse
- Behavior management and skill development

Ongoing Training

Annual ongoing training:

- Families are required to complete 10 hours:
 - ❖ Fifty percent must be in class and fifty percent may be completed online
 - ❖ Not a prescribed curriculum and families may choose training that best supports their ability to care for the children they are caring for at that time

Implementation of House Bill 1

- Amended administrative regulations and policies to further align foster home standards
- Implementation of online foster parent registry
- Implementation of child-specific foster home type for relatives and fictive kin
 - ❖ Waiver for non-safety standards
 - ❖ Option for reduced training
 - ❖ Training curriculum is tailored to the needs of relative/fictive kin caregivers



Implementation of House Bill 1

- Diligent recruitment
 - ❖ Specific to needs in each service region
 - ❖ Targeted recruitment strategies
 - ❖ Increased focus on retention strategies
 - ❖ Ensuring access to informational meetings, trainings, and home studies
 - ❖ KY FACES portal - kyfaces.ky.gov

Implementation of House Bill 446

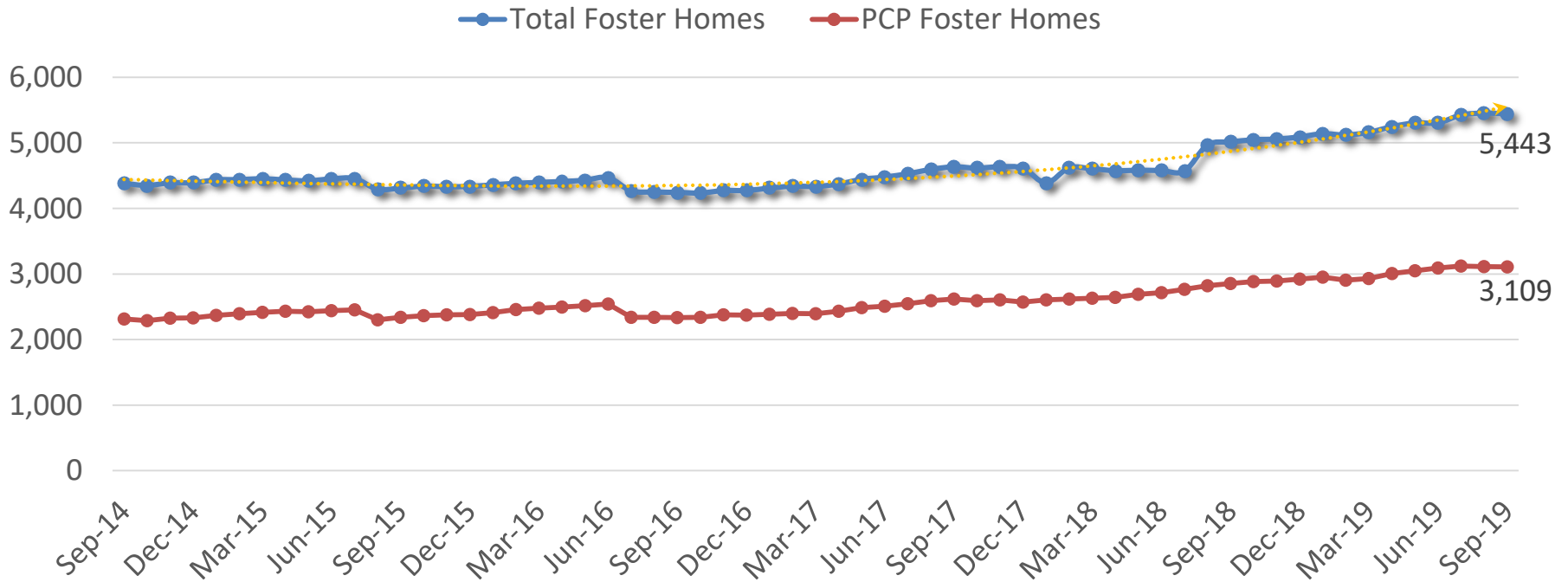
- Amended 922 KAR 1:310 and 922 KAR 1:350 to remove annual re-evaluation requirements
- Notified other public agencies and private providers of the changes in minimum requirements
- Issued policy implementing the changes

Implementation of House Bill 446

- Re-evaluation requirements include a home visit, interview with the foster parents, and paperwork
- DCBS is working towards a solution that would allow background checks to be conducted less frequently (constant rap back for 5 years)

Total DCBS and PCP Foster Homes

September 2014 – September 2019



Conclusion

- Children's safety is DCBS' priority
- Intentional focus on diligent recruitment efforts
- Increase in foster homes
- Revitalized the Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Steering Committee to ensure collaboration between partners and provide quality trainings for foster and adoptive families
- Committed to recruiting quality foster and adoptive families and supporting them in meeting the needs of the children in their home