



KENTUCKY COURT OF JUSTICE

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

Eboni Thompson, Manager
Family and Juvenile Services Department
Administrative Office of the Courts

Cletus Poat, State Chair
Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board

September 14, 2022



Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board (CFCRB)

- June 1980, federal Public Law 96-272 was enacted and made provisions for the periodic review of children in foster care
- The Kentucky General Assembly created the CFCRBs in 1982 in response to PL 96-272, with the CFCRB program providing the administrative reviews of children in foster care
- The KY CFCRB operates within the Department of Family and Juvenile Services at the Administrative Office of the Courts



Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board (CFCRB)

- Local volunteers appointed by their Chief Family Court Judge
- Reviews each child placed in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) due to dependency, neglect, or abuse, as well as committed status offenders
- Focus on the permanency plan established by the CHFS and child's placement
- Goal – safe, permanent placement for the child
- 174 local boards comprised of 918 CFCRB volunteers serving 8,274 children in out-of-home care



House Bill 1 – Expanded Role for the CFCRB

- Added to 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.



FY 2022 Regional Community Forums

- **September 14, 2021** - Allen, Ballard, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Grayson, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Larue, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Meade, Metcalfe, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren, and Webster counties
- **September 17, 2021** -- Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Marion, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe counties



FY 2022 Regional Community Forums

- **September 22, 2021** – Bullitt, Fayette, and Jefferson counties
- **September 24, 2021** -- Anderson, Boone, Bourbon, Boyle, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Clark, Estill, Fleming, Franklin, Gallatin, Garrard, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Jessamine, Kenton, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Mason, Mercer, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Owsley, Pendleton, Robertson, Scott, Shelby, Spencer Trimble, and Woodford counties



FY 2022 Regional Community Forums

- **June 6, 2022** - Allen, Ballard, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Grayson, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Larue, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Meade, Metcalfe, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren, and Webster counties
- **June 8, 2022** -- Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Marion, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe counties



FY 2022 Regional Community Forums

- **June 14, 2022** – Anderson, Boone, Bracken, Bullitt, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson, Kenton, Mason, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble counties
- **June 16, 2022** -- Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Jessamine, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Owsley, Scott, and Woodford counties



Themes from FY 22 Forum Findings

- Need for Cultural Awareness and Representation
- Supports/Services Needed for Families, Youth, and Caregivers
- Overall System Concerns



Cultural Awareness & Representation

- Increase awareness, understanding, and compassion regarding the impact that poverty, trauma, and bias has on families
- Disproportionality continues to be a systemic issue in school systems, law enforcement, health care, community agencies, and mental health services
- Emphasizing a focus on safety factors could help address disproportionality



Cultural Awareness & Representation

- Unconscious bias training for child welfare staff and caregivers
- Diversity among Guardians Ad Litem (GALs), foster parents, and DCBS staff is needed
- Partnering with minority communities to recruit more minority foster homes



Supports/Services Needed

- Biological parents need more detailed information about what resources there are and the exact services they provide
- More fatherhood supports needed
- Revisit Independent Living rules and regulations to ensure children are being served appropriately; foster children entering Independent Living and not being allowed to have a roommate or even overnight guests, which is typical for youth of that age
- Foster/adoptive parents need more detailed information about resources the exact services they provide



Supports/Services Needed

- Lack of peer support, transportation, education, and mental health services for families in the foster care system continues to be a barrier. This scarcity is particularly seen in rural areas.
- Increase access to therapists, trauma-focused programs, family preservation services (pre-removal and post-removal), crisis stabilization beds and short-term psychiatric beds.
- Covid-19 has limited in-person services, which has increased the need for broadband services, especially in rural areas.



Supports/Services Needed

- Kinship providers have reported not receiving service referrals or equal consideration as foster parents
- More foster homes willing to work with children who are trafficking victims or victims of sexual abuse
- More need for resources to assist youth in finding biological families when they turn 18
- More prevention services needed, especially in rural areas
- Provide kinship placements access to the managed care plan (Aetna SKY) provided for foster placements



Overall System Concerns

- Elevate the youth voice in DNA proceedings—both the Cabinet and the Courts to ensure youth have a seat at the table when discussing their future/outcomes
- Youth having limited contact with their Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)
- Expansion of family court needed



Overall System Concerns

- Delays in court process for child's permanency by continuing the DNA case when parents have a criminal case
- Staffing issues have been a barrier since the pandemic, with DCBS being greatly affected
- Private contracting agencies have also been impacted by staffing issues
- Families are on waiting lists for services due to these staffing shortages



Overall System Concerns

- Obligations in case plans and/or court orders are sometimes not flexible enough for parents to fulfill the obligations needed to get their children back. Parents are often required to maintain employment and housing while attending court, assessments, treatment, case meetings, and various classes or programs. This causes major barriers in rural areas, which usually only have one or two providers with limited availability or service offerings.



Current CFCRB Legislative Recommendations

Support the statewide expansion of Family Court

The Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards (CFCRB) has historically regarded the statewide expansion of Family Court as a high priority due to improved outcomes for families and children who have access to expanded services provided by Family Court. To further this cause, the CFCRB would support a future judicial redistricting plan that increases the presence of Family Court, with the ultimate goal of expanding Family Court to every county in the Commonwealth.



Current CFCRB Legislative Recommendations

Statewide Expansion/Improvement of Broadband Services

The Kentucky CFCRB recommends the statewide expansion and improvement of the KentuckyWired Project's broadband services delivery to allow affordable access to internet services for all of the Commonwealth's children and families to enable successful participation in online services, including child welfare, educational, and medical platforms, in order to provide for service delivery, not only during states of emergency, but also to bring equity in service delivery to all Kentucky families.



Current CFCRB Legislative Recommendations

Amend KRS 620.190(e) to allow non-DCBS employees of CHFS to serve on local boards.

Suggested language:

(e) Employees of the ~~cabinet~~ Department for Community Based Services shall be prohibited from serving on the local citizen foster care review board.



Current CFCRB Legislative Recommendations

Child-serving Agencies to Gather Data and Address Disproportionality and Disparity for Youth and Families

Support legislative and policy efforts that require child-serving agencies to gather data and address disproportionality and disparity through annual strategic plans and reduction goals. These plans should include:

- A) Reviewing and updating criteria that identifies youth risk factors that may lead to negative activities such as gang recruitment and involvement;
- B) Creating and promoting strength-based, asset building services and trainings to assist families and youth affected by these behaviors;
- C) Collecting and sharing data related to these activities.



Current CFCRB Legislative Recommendations

Services for Transition-Age Youth

The Kentucky CFCRB recommends the continuance of special services, extensions, and exceptions provided to transition-age youth until the conclusion of the Coronavirus State of Emergency.



KENTUCKY COURT OF JUSTICE

Questions?



KENTUCKY COURT OF JUSTICE

Thank you!

If you have questions and/or comments later,
please do not hesitate to contact us at:

EboniThompson@kycourts.net

CPoat1@att.net

CFCRB@kycourts.net