

# 2010 Annual Report



Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

Working for Kentucky's Future ... Our Children



*John D. Minton Jr.  
Chief Justice of Kentucky*

## CFCRB volunteers advocate on behalf of Kentucky's foster children

Kentucky law requires Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to regularly review the case of every child in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services due to dependency, neglect and abuse. During the past year, 755 CFCRB volunteers fulfilled that important responsibility by conducting 21,533 reviews of 9,797 children in out-of-home care. The Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts provides support and resources to the CFCRB program.

The 2010 CFCRB Annual Report offers a comprehensive analysis of the Kentucky foster care system. You will find that the system continues to build on its solid foundation by seeking out new partnerships, adopting new technology and expanding successful initiatives. These improvements are designed to place at-risk children in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible.

Thousands of Kentucky children depend on CFCRB volunteers to advocate on their behalf. I appreciate the dedicated men and women who care enough to invest time in our children's future.



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# Progress Report on Kentucky Children in Foster Care

Patrick Yewell, Executive Officer  
Department of Family and Juvenile Services, Administrative Office of the Courts

## CFCRB Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2010: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

The Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards continue to provide an invaluable service to Kentucky's children in out-of-home care. I invite you to read the 2010 CFCRB Annual Report for a detailed analysis of the children served by the CFCRB. The report also describes the activities of the review boards and the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Highlights from FY 2010 are as follows:

- 755 CFCRB volunteers conducted 19,777 paper reviews and 1,756 interested party reviews for a total of 21,533 reviews of 9,797 children.
- The average length of stay for children in care was 20.24 months, a small increase over 20.15 months in FY 2009.
- Children experienced an average of 3.15 placements per commitment, a slight decrease from the 3.26 placements reported in FY 2009.
- There was a slight increase in the percentage of children achieving adoption, with 19.8 percent exiting from care due to a finalized adoption compared to 19.5 percent in FY 2009. However, children who exited from care due to a finalized adoption spent 36.2 months in care in FY 2010, compared to 35.5 months in FY 2009.
- Thirty-nine percent of the children were released through reunification with parents or primary caregivers and another 26 percent were released through placement with relatives.
- As of June 30, 2010, 100 of the 145 children placed out of state were still active in their out-of-state placements.
- Children age 5 and younger were the largest age group (33 percent) reviewed by the CFCRB. Children aged 16 to 20 were the next largest age group (26 percent) reviewed.
- Reviewers conducted 1,756 interested party reviews (a 31 percent increase over FY 2009) on 1,489 children (a 21 percent increase over FY 2009).
- Growth also occurred in the number of boards statewide that use IPR as the standard for reviewing all cases. In FY 2010, 18 percent of the boards used the IPR process as the standard, compared to 16 percent in FY 2009 and 1.4 percent in FY 2008.
- The number of CFCRB board meetings reached an all-time high of 1,390 meetings in FY 2010.

I am pleased to report that more than 200 volunteers attended the CFCRB regional trainings held throughout the state. The training topics included attachment disorder, children parenting children and children born addicted. An exceptional CFCRB volunteer was given

an Outstanding Volunteer Award at each of the regional trainings.

Family Services coordinators for the AOC Department of Family and Juvenile Services are now coordinating the Guardian ad Litem trainings in their areas and all CFCRB volunteers are invited to attend.

The Best Practices Initiative has two new pilot sites – Daviess and Hardin counties – that are addressing specific issues to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children. These jurisdictions join Fayette and Jefferson counties in following best practices as outlined in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Resource Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases.

Those involved in the Civil Rules Initiative developed the Family Court Rules of Procedure and Practice (FCRPP) and presented them to the Supreme Court of Kentucky for review. The Supreme Court approved the FCRPP on Oct. 14, 2010, and set an effective date of Jan. 1, 2011. The Division of Family Services of the AOC Department of Family and Juvenile Services has provided administrative support to the Civil Rules Initiative and continues to encourage the adoption of best practices – specifically in child protection cases – as the standard.

State CFCRB Chair Tom Stevenson has exhibited outstanding leadership during the state's budget crisis. His insights and innovation have helped ensure that the CFCRB continues to provide high-quality services in spite of the financial downturn.

For example, Mr. Stevenson saved time and money by conducting Executive Committee meetings through conference calls and the GoToMeeting web conferencing program. He also polled the volunteer base about whether to host regional trainings in 2010 instead of a statewide conference. More than 80 percent of the volunteers who responded to the survey stated that they supported regional trainings in light of the budget constraints.

In closing, I commend the CFCRB volunteers for their devotion to Kentucky's children in out-of-home care. Our volunteers provide a voice for these children so that their needs will not be forgotten or unfulfilled.



# CFCRB Executive Committee

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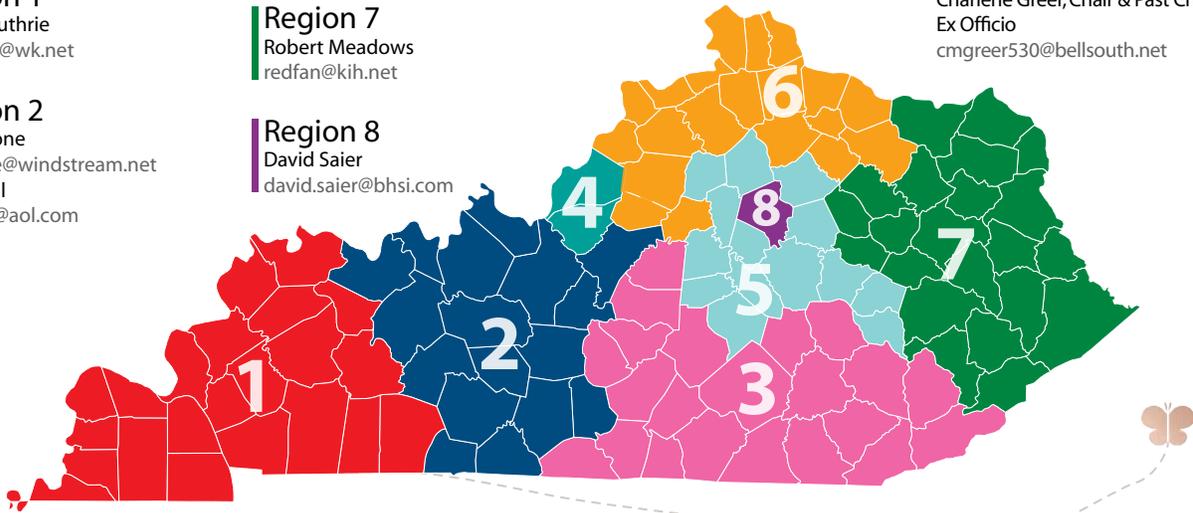
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## CFCRB Mission

To ensure safe, permanent, timely placement of Kentucky's children in out-of-home care.

## CFCRB Vision

- » With respect to children in care: To ensure adequate and necessary services are provided to families and children with the utmost importance given to safety, well-being and permanency.
- » With respect to the judges we serve: To provide timely, accurate and sufficiently detailed information about children in care so as to promote knowledgeable permanency decisions.
- » With respect to CFCRB volunteers: To promote awareness and understanding regarding children's issues through educational opportunities at local, regional and state levels.
- » With respect to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services: To provide meaningful, respectful feedback regarding paths to permanency.

# Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

## 2010 Recommendation for Legislative and Policy Reform

*Kentucky Revised Statute 620.320(5) requires the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to evaluate and make annual recommendations to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and the Legislative Research Commission regarding the laws of the commonwealth and the practices, policies and procedures within the commonwealth that affect permanence for children in out-of-home placement.*

Ensure that children, who are of appropriate age, are receiving independent living skills training and options.

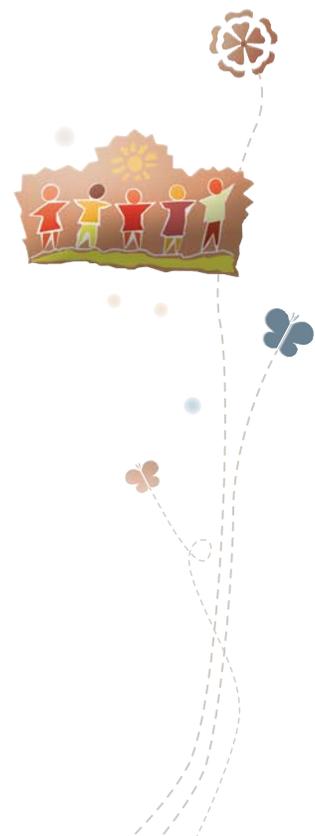
- ☞ Redefine “independent living” in KRS 600.020(30) to mean the development of a plan for independent living, including skills necessary to enable a committed child to establish independent living arrangements. This shall include the development of an independent living plan to be presented to, and approved by, the court prior to when a child ages out of commitment.
- ☞ Revise KRS 620.140 relating to the dispositional alternatives for a dependent, neglected or abused child in order to extend the time within which a child could elect to participate in state or federal educational programs or obtain Cabinet of Health and Family Services assistance in establishing independent living arrangements, including reinstatement of commitment, to 12 months after the child has attained the age of 18.

Meet the educational needs of children.

- ☞ Amend KRS 620.250(1) to require that the most recent educational record of the child be supplied by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and obtained by the Cabinet via any electronic portal or system maintained by the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. This information could include, but not be limited to, the child’s grades, absences, homework, suspension, expulsion, detention or other disciplinary measures taken by the school, as well as any individual education plan relating to the child.

Support the statewide expansion of Family Court.

- ☞ While the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards recognize that the current economic downturn directly impacts the state budget, the CFCRB would like to encourage the chief justice of Kentucky, the governor of the commonwealth of Kentucky and the Kentucky General Assembly to make the expansion of Family Court into all 120 Kentucky counties a high priority as funds become available.





# Questions & Answers

## Out-of-Home Care Demographics

**?** What are the ages of children in foster care?

A: The youngest child reviewed by the Citizen Foster Care Review Board in FY 2010 was almost 4 months old and the oldest child was 22.5 years old (due to extended commitment). The average age was 10.35 years. Of those reviewed, children 5 and younger were the largest age group (33 percent), with children 16 to 20 the next largest age group (26 percent).

The age analysis is based on children who were in out-of-home care on June 30, 2010, and includes children who were released from the Cabinet’s custody any time during the fiscal year.

Children by Age

By Age	# of Children
0-5 Years	3,220
6-10 Years	1,996
11-15 Years	1,946
16-20 Years	2,529
21 Years & Older	106
Total	9,797

Children Reviewed	9,797
Lowest Age	0.32
Highest Age	22.58
Average Age	10.35

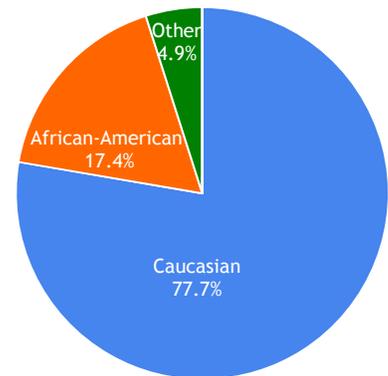
**?** What is the gender ratio of children in out-of-home care?

A: The gender of children in out-of-home care is almost evenly split, with 50.2 percent male and 49.8 percent female.

**?** What race are the children in foster care?

A: Of the children in foster care, 77.7 percent are Caucasian, 17.4 percent are African-American and 4.9 percent are other races.

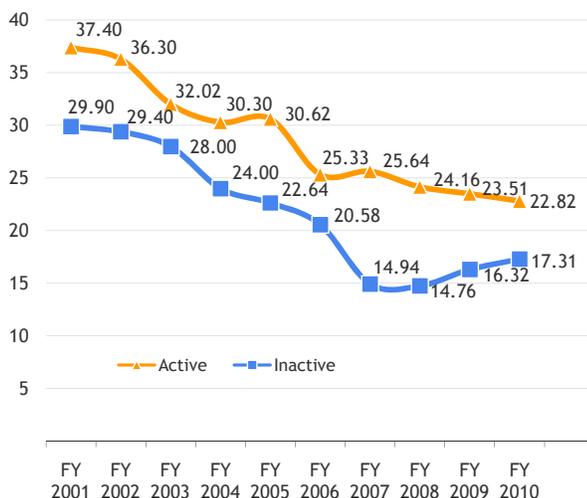
Children by Race



## Time in Out-of-Home Care

**?** What is the average length of stay by age group for children in out-of-home care?

Average Length of Stay in Months as of 06/30/2010



A: Active children – children who were still in care at the end of FY 2010 – experienced an average length of stay of 22.82 months. Inactive children – children released at any time during the fiscal year – experienced an average stay of 17.31 months. The overall average length of stay for FY 2010 was 20.24 months, which represents an increase of 0.45 percent over FY 2009.

*Note: Statistics captured in this chart represent all children whose cases were reviewed between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. The term “active children” describes children whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year and who were still in care on June 30, 2010. “Inactive children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year but were released prior to June 30, 2010.*

The chart illustrates the average length of stay for children by age. Children over age 15 continue to remain in care longer than younger children.

Average Length of Stay in Months as of 06/30/2010

Age in Years	Active	Inactive	All Children
0-5 Years	15.15	11.76	13.40
6-10 Years	18.51	14.48	16.58
11-15 Years	22.69	14.29	19.36
Over 15 Years	34.62	29.37	33.14
Overall	22.82	17.31	20.24

## Exiting Out-of-Home Care

**?** Why are children released from out-of-home care?

A: The CFCRB determined that the majority of children – 39.09 percent – were released from care through reunification with parents or primary guardians. This represents a decrease of 3.81 percent from FY 2009.

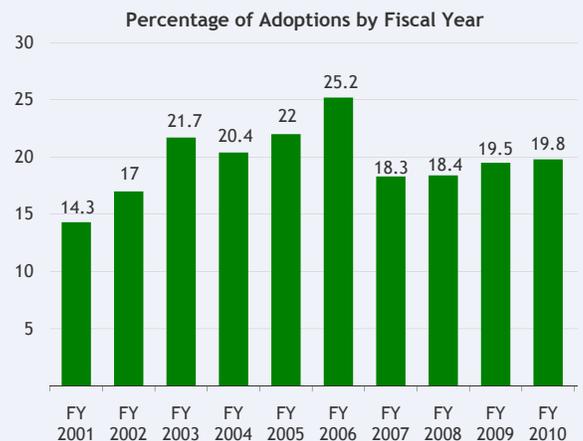
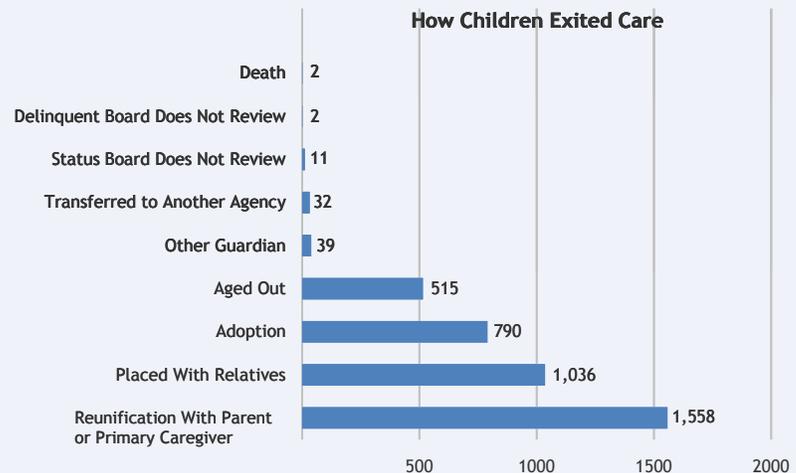
25.99 percent of children were released through placement with relatives, which is an increase of 1.39 percent from the previous fiscal year.

The percentage of children exiting care by aging out of care also increased. In FY 2010, 12.93 percent of youth aged out of care, compared with 10.63 percent in FY 2009. The chart shows how the remaining children exited care.

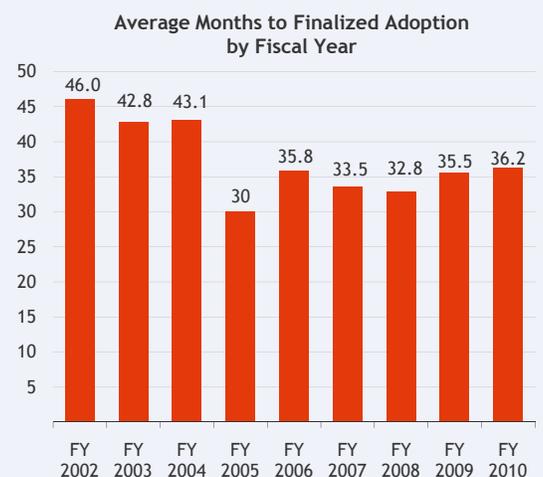
**?** What percentage of children in out-of-home care were adopted?

A: Of the children released from out-of-home care, 19.8 percent achieved permanency through adoption in FY 2010. Children who exited care because of a finalized adoption spent 36.2 months in care prior to adoption. Although the percentage of children achieving adoption increased slightly over FY 2009, these children spent almost an additional month in care before achieving permanency.

These two charts present the percentage of adoptions and the average number of months to finalized adoptions.



*Note: The variance in the statistical comparison between FY 2005 and FY 2006 may be due to the implementation of the Children's Automated Tracking System (CATS). In FY 2005, the reasons for release were gathered from individual CFCRB case reviews. With CATS in place, the release information is obtained primarily through downloads from TWIST, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' data tracking system.*



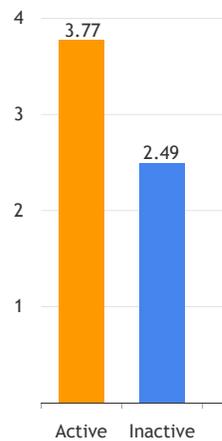
## Placement Stability

**?** What do fewer out-of-home placements mean for children in foster care?

A: It is commonly believed that fewer placements create stability and lessen the trauma for a child in care. Children experienced an average of 3.15 placements per commitment in FY 2010. This average number of placements is an improvement over the 3.26 placements per commitment reported in fiscal year 2009.

In addition, the number of placements per commitment for children still active as of June 30, 2010, actually decreased from the previous fiscal year. There were 3.77 placements per commitment for active children in FY 2010 and 4.02 placements per commitment for active children in FY 2009. However, the number of placements per commitment for children who were released from care increased slightly over the prior fiscal year. There were 2.49 placements per commitment for FY 2010 as compared with 2.41 placements per commitment for FY 2009.

Average Placements



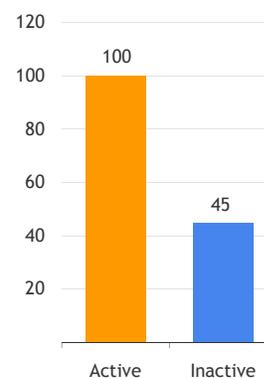
When determining placement for a child, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services considers the least restrictive and most appropriate placement. The CHFS may change the placement of a child for a variety of reasons, including safety concerns, the need for more intensive services and to protect the child.

**?** How many of these placements were out of state?

A: Of the 9,797 children reviewed in FY 2010, 145 children were placed out of state and 100 of these children were still active as of June 30, 2010. Children are often placed out of state when the CHFS locates a relative living outside of Kentucky who is willing to accept the child for placement. The placement is approved through the Interstate Compact process before the child is placed out of state.



Interstate Placements



### Disclaimer on Statistics in this Report

Information received from the CATS electronic case management system is subject to changes, reprogramming, modifications of format and availability at the direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts and may not at any particular moment reflect the true status of court cases due to ordinary limitations, delays or errors in the system's operation.

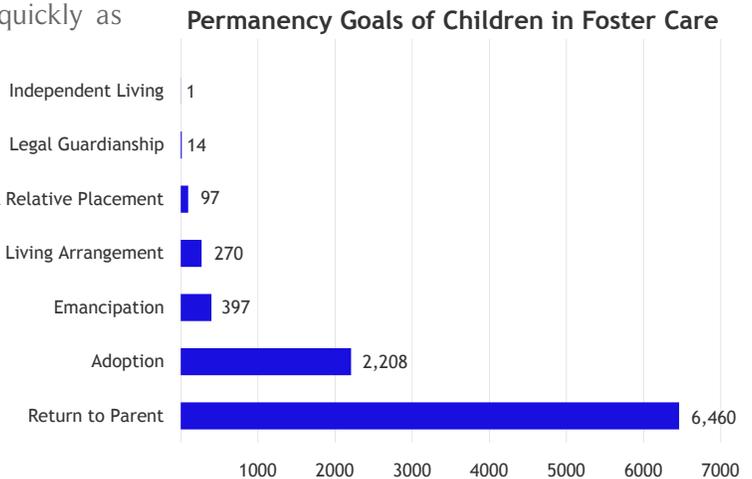
## Establishing Permanency Goals

**?** How is the permanency goal established and defined?

A: The CHFS establishes a permanency plan for each child who enters foster care and his or her biological family. The plan is filed with the court and addresses the reason the child is in custody. The plan focuses on achieving objectives and completing tasks to ensure the child obtains a permanent home as quickly as possible.

The chart defines permanency goals that have been established for children. Return to parent and adoption remain the permanency goals for the majority of children reviewed by the CFCRB.

Children who remain in the custody of the CHFS for 12 months after their initial placement are scheduled for a permanency hearing through the local court to determine their future status. At this hearing, the court addresses whether the child should be returned to the parents, placed for adoption, placed with a permanent custodian or provided with another type of permanent living arrangement.



## CFCRB Overview

**?** What is the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards?

A: CFCRB volunteers provide recommendations to judges on Kentucky's foster children so that they may be placed in safe, permanent homes. These dependent, neglected and abused children are in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the CFCRB in 1982 to decrease the amount of time children spend in foster care. The CFCRB operates within the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort, Ky. The AOC is the operational arm of the Kentucky Judicial Branch.

In FY 2010, 755 CFCRB volunteers served on 140 local boards throughout the state. These volunteers held 1,390 meetings and conducted 21,533 reviews on 9,797 children in out-of-home care. That is an increase over FY 2009, when volunteers conducted 1,344 meetings and 21,518 reviews on 9,618 children in out-of-home care.

Total Volunteers by Fiscal Year

FY 2006	767
FY 2007	745
FY 2008	806
FY 2009	815
FY 2010	755

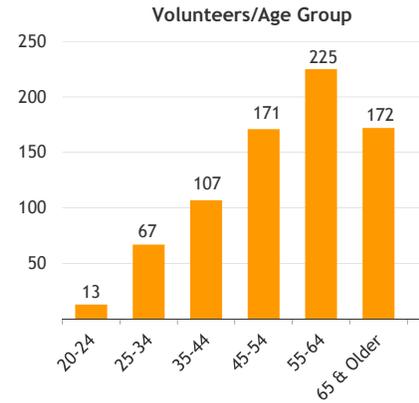




### Who are CFCRB volunteers?

A: CFCRB volunteers donate their time to advocate for the dependent, neglected and abused children in their communities. Not only do they donate their valuable time, but also they share their knowledge and passion for the benefit of Kentucky’s children in foster care.

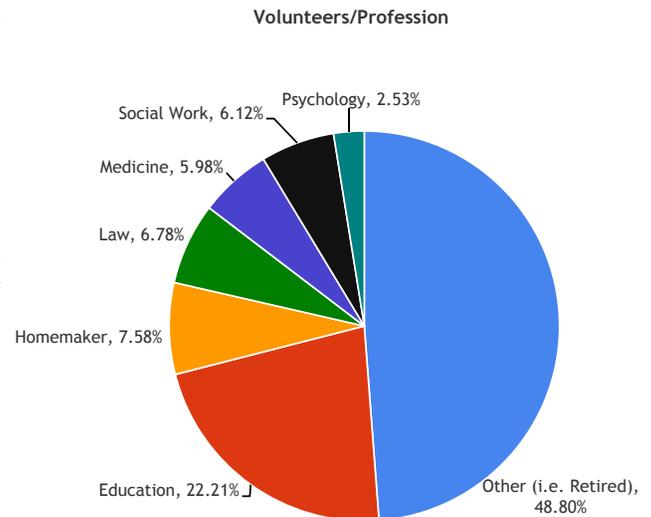
Volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but all exhibit a deep compassion for children. Of the 755 CFCRB volunteers, 43.7 percent are from the professions of education, medicine, law, social work and psychology. Eighty-six percent are female. The volunteers range in age from 21 to 90 years, with an average age of 54. The average length of service is 5.72 years. This fact alone underscores their commitment to the children they serve.



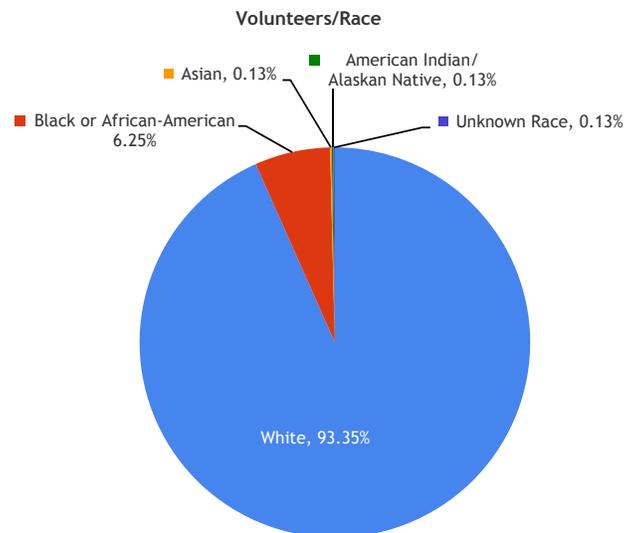
### What are the requirements for becoming a CFCRB volunteer?

A: Those interested in volunteering must complete an initial six-hour training session and consent to a criminal record and CHFS central registry check. New volunteers are trained on the following topics:

- CHFS and local Department for Community Based Services procedures
- Dependency, neglect and abuse case forms
- Court processes
- Mental health needs of children in out-of-home care
- Process for conducting a file review



Once a volunteer has completed this training, a recommendation is made to the chief judge of the local District Court or Family Court for the volunteer to be appointed to the local board. Judges appoint volunteers for three-year terms. Volunteers are given a comprehensive handbook on the program and opportunities to earn the required six hours of annual continuing education.



Volunteers who serve on Interested Party Review Boards complete an additional four hours of training on the dynamics of the Interested Party Review process.



### What cases do CFCRB volunteers review? What statute allows members to conduct reviews?

A: Pursuant to KRS 620.270, children and young adults in the temporary custody of the CHFS who are committed as dependent, neglected or abused, regardless of placement, are subject to review by a CFCRB volunteer. This includes youth whose commitments are extended, children placed for adoptions that are not finalized and children who are returned home but remain committed.

Children and young adults originally committed as dependent, neglected or abused but recommitted as status or public offenders are also subject to review, provided the commitment was not interrupted. A District Court or Family Court judge may also issue an order for the CFCRB to review status commitments.

 What resources are needed to conduct a review?

A: Whether by paper (case file) review or interactive (Interested Party) review, the CFCRB reviews the case of each child or young adult who is in temporary custody or is committed by the court in the county or counties served by the board. Each CFCRB shall have access to all information and records of the CHFS that is pertinent to the parents or person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child being reviewed.

The board also has access to all pertinent information and records of the court, the CHFS and public and private child-care facilities for the child the CFCRB is reviewing. Information and records include, but are not limited to, case permanency plans, case progress reports and case records.

 How often are reviews conducted?

A: According to statute, every child must be reviewed at least once every six months. CFCRB volunteers may review cases more often if deemed necessary by the board. The CFCRB reports its findings to the court and to the CHFS.



 Where are reviews conducted?

A: The Family Court judge or chief District Court judge designates the location of the review. However, reviews are often conducted at the local office of the Department for Community Based Services. If the review is not held during regular work hours, the Department for Community Based Services shall arrange access to its office. Many of the interested party reviews are conducted in local judicial centers.

 If a child moves to another county due to a pre-adoptive placement or if the CHFS has moved the child without filing, where are CFCRB reviews conducted?

A: Pursuant to KRS 620.270(1), responsibility for reviewing cases remains with the local CFCRB that serves the county of commitment/temporary custody.

 When does the CFCRB stop conducting reviews?

A: Pursuant to KRS 620.270, reviews by a CFCRB shall cease when the child is no longer in the custody of the CHFS or an adoption has been finalized. The case record shall contain documentation of this release.



# CFCRB Activity by Review Board for Fiscal Year 2010

	Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	6	6
ALLEN	9	9
ANDERSON	187	70
BALLARD/CARLISLE	49	21
BARREN	153	86
BATH/MENIFEE	115	68
BELL	42	32
BOONE/GALLATIN	151	59
BOURBON	103	33
BOYD A	189	141
BOYD B	240	142
BOYLE	121	71
BRACKEN/ROBERTSON	43	19
BREATHITT	56	20
BRECKINRIDGE	123	61
BULLITT	316	139
BUTLER	52	34
CALLOWAY	181	102
CAMPBELL A	168	77
CAMPBELL B	273	110
CARROLL	12	8
CARTER	186	118
CASEY	4	4
CHRISTIAN	196	93
CLARK	196	62
CLAY	154	89
CLINTON	14	13
CRITTENDEN	1	1
DAVISS A	217	142
DAVISS B	194	129
EDMONSON	70	48
ESTILL	21	21
FAYETTE A	231	84
FAYETTE B	255	97
FAYETTE C	246	92
FAYETTE D	228	80
FAYETTE E	233	88
FAYETTE F	266	88
FAYETTE G	275	93
FAYETTE H	278	96
FAYETTE I	286	81
FAYETTE J	278	97
FLEMING	90	63
FLOYD	114	90
FRANKLIN	188	75
FULTON/HICKMAN	7	7
GARRARD	178	73
GRANT	147	49
GRAVES	171	92
GRAYSON	413	221
GREEN	6	6
GREENUP	178	156
HANCOCK	45	12
HARDIN A	221	119
HARDIN B	219	135
HARLAN	170	90
HARRISON/PENDLETON	52	22
HART	74	43
HENDERSON	110	70
HENRY	59	25
HOPKINS	163	97
IPR CRITTENDEN	1	1
JACKSON	49	17
JEFFERSON 1	487	183
JEFFERSON 10	364	156
JEFFERSON 2	389	143
JEFFERSON 3	416	146
JEFFERSON 4	346	149
JEFFERSON 5	313	157
JEFFERSON 6	374	152
JEFFERSON 7	25	25
JEFFERSON 8	263	115
JEFFERSON 9	233	112
JESSAMINE	114	65
JOHNSON	1	1

	Reviews	Children Reviewed
KENTON A	470	226
KENTON B	193	99
KENTON C	235	118
KENTON D	263	126
KENTON E	144	60
KENTON F	222	121
KNOTT	77	43
KNOX	108	47
LARUE	81	46
LAUREL 1	244	131
LAWRENCE	12	12
LEE/OWSLEY	30	23
LESLIE	36	28
LETCHER	64	47
LEWIS	83	34
LINCOLN	68	33
LIVINGSTON	5	5
LOGAN	78	46
MADISON A	209	110
MADISON B	361	157
MAGOFFIN	79	62
MARION/WASHINGTON	95	61
MARSHALL	207	90
MARTIN	107	76
MASON	39	22
MCCRACKEN A	333	82
MCCRACKEN B	86	66
MCCREARY	137	90
MCLEAN	25	13
MEADE	23	16
MERCER	65	42
METCALFE	32	16
MONROE/CUMBERLAND	64	39
MONTGOMERY	6	6
MORGAN	6	6
MUHLENBERG	10	10
NELSON	58	31
NICHOLAS	4	2
OHIO	88	71
OLDHAM	139	68
OWEN	6	4
PERRY	251	152
PIKE	114	84
POWELL	174	50
PULASKI	161	90
ROCKCASTLE	96	67
ROWAN	357	143
RUSSELL	7	7
SCOTT	236	80
SHELBY	250	113
SIMPSON	54	33
SPENCER	25	16
TAYLOR	17	17
TODD	44	30
TRIGG	68	29
TRIMBLE	49	19
UNION	9	9
WARREN A	201	119
WARREN B	241	142
WARREN C	188	106
WAYNE	19	19
WEBSTER	1	1
WHITLEY	132	79
WOLFE	20	18
WOODFORD	73	27
STATEWIDE	19,777	9,363



Note: A child may have been reviewed by more than one board during the fiscal year. The statewide count is a distinct count in that it counts the child only once.

## Regional Trainings offer 3 workshops at 7 locations

The Citizen Foster Care Review Boards conducted the 2009 Regional Trainings at seven sites throughout the state. The trainings took place Aug. 22 through Oct. 17 in Bowling Green, Covington, Grand Rivers, Lexington, Louisville, Prestonsburg and Somerset.

These Regional Trainings provided CFCRB volunteers with the required six hours of annual continuing education and the opportunity to enhance their knowledge about issues facing children in care and their families.

The Regional Trainings offered three workshops. The first workshop was on attachment disorder and included treatment options as well as how adoption disruption and placement disruption can be prevented for children with attachment disorder.

The other two workshops consisted of panel presentations. The first panel was on children parenting children. This panel discussed older siblings assuming the role of parent to younger siblings, committed children who are also parents and the services these children need to ensure successful placements and outcomes. The second panel presentation was titled "Children Born Addicted." This panel focused on the Department for Community Based Services' removal policy for children born with addictions and the service options available for the children and the parents.

Seven volunteers were honored at the 2009 CFCRB Regional Trainings as recipients of the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

## Children's Automated Tracking System

The Children's Automated Tracking System – CATS – serves as a source of case information for the Administrative Office of the Courts, judges, Citizen Foster Care Review Boards and the Department for Community Based Services. CATS also allows the CFCRB to fulfill its statutory mandate for reporting to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and the Legislative Research Commission regarding children in out-of-home care.

CATS data provides information about aspects of the dependency, neglect and abuse proceedings that need improvement, including the timely filing of termination of parental rights petitions, permanency hearings and placement stability. The system also ensures that the case of every child in state custody is reviewed in a timely manner by the CFCRB.

To ensure accuracy, CATS receives a weekly download of information from TWIST (The Worker Information System), which is the State Automated Child Welfare

Information System (SACWIS) for Kentucky. TWIST is maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. AOC staff can directly access TWIST and view information on any child in the DCBS system.

CATS allows for the following:

- Houses all reviews completed by the CFCRB.
- Sends automated reminders for case reviews.
- Tracks key court dates including adjudications, dispositions and permanency reviews.
- Tracks training hours for CFCRB volunteers.
- Tracks names and addresses of parties relevant to cases, including guardians ad litem, social workers, supervisors and judges.
- Tracks parties who receive notification of an interested party review.

CATS collects and generates names of children who, by statute, are eligible for review. AOC staff can now send this list electronically to DCBS case workers, which has streamlined the process and reduced the cost of mailing and faxing. Providing detailed reports on the outcome of children in foster care has allowed judges and local Cabinet offices to enhance services.

## CFCRB volunteers meet with state legislators on 2010 Children's Advocacy Day

The Citizen Foster Care Review Boards State Board held its annual meeting on Nov. 7, 2009, and included a training session on how the CFCRB can enhance its role as an advocate for Kentucky's children.

The training provided advocacy strategies for the CFCRB volunteers who wished to participate in the 2010 Children's Advocacy Day held Feb. 18 at the Capitol.

Children's Advocacy Day began in 2004 to encourage advocates throughout Kentucky to raise their voices on behalf of the safety, health, education and economic well-being of children and families. The event is an opportunity for hundreds of advocates to bring children's needs and proposed solutions to the attention of state legislators.

The CFCRB was a sponsor of the 2010 event. The volunteers who attended included Charlene Greer of Daviess County; David Saier and Connie Wooten of Fayette County; Larry Perkins of Franklin County; Joyce Spaulding of Jefferson County; Paula Atkins, Martha Hargrove and Laverne Tarrants of Muhlenberg County; and Donna Breeden of Shelby County.

The CFCRB contingent met with state legislators while in Frankfort. Thanks to their efforts, several of the 2009 CFCRB legislative recommendations were incorporated into House Bill 463, which had these original provisions:

- Amend KRS 600.020 to establish a new definition for “independent living” as it relates to a child committed to the custody of the commonwealth to include the development of plan for independent living to be approved by the court before a youth ages out of care.
- Amend KRS 620.140 to establish that a child committed to the custody of the commonwealth may request, no later than 12 months after attaining the age of 18 years, to extend or reinstate the commitment.
- Amend KRS 620.250 to allow local CFCRBs to have access to the educational records of children committed to the custody of the commonwealth via any electronic portal or system maintained by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Unfortunately, HB 463 was sent back to committee and was not signed into law.

## Interested Party Review Board Activity for FY 2010

	IPR Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	21	12
ALLEN	58	34
BARREN RIVER	67	65
BIG SANDY	30	26
BLUEGRASS RURAL	71	64
CALDWELL/LYON	21	14
CASEY	9	5
CLINTON	29	20
CRITTENDEN	8	4
CUMBERLAND VALLEY	45	44
ELLIOTT/MORGAN	19	14
ESTILL	14	14
FAYETTE	56	55
FAYETTE ONE	7	7
FIVCO	39	37
FULTON/HICKMAN	45	27
GATEWAY/BUFFALO TRACE	39	37
GREEN	3	3
GREEN RIVER	79	79
JEFFERSON	7	7
JEFFERSON 7	86	58
JEFFERSON IPR A	16	16
JEFFERSON IPR B	60	60
JEFFERSON IPR C	13	13
JOHNSON	45	38
KENTUCKY RIVER	21	21
KIPDA RURAL	56	56
LAKE CUMBERLAND	42	42
LAWRENCE	30	25
LEE/OWSLEY	1	1
LINCOLN TRAIL	66	60
LIVINGSTON	4	4
MAGOFFIN	28	24
MCCRACKEN B	46	46
MCCREARY	28	28
MEADE	45	30
MONTGOMERY	15	10
MUHLENBERG	53	30
NORTHERN KENTUCKY	62	61
OHIO	42	42
PENNYRILE	70	65
PULASKI	27	27
PURCHASE	70	68
ROCKCASTLE	37	35
RUSSELL	12	8
SPENCER	15	15
TAYLOR	24	16
UNION	48	36
WAYNE	19	16
WEBSTER	8	6
STATEWIDE	1,756	1,489

Note: A child may have been reviewed by more than one board during the fiscal year. The statewide count is a distinct count in that it counts the child only once.



## FY 2010 sees increase in children served by Interested Party Review process

The Interested Party Review program provides an interactive review process that involves Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers, parents, care providers, service providers, Department for Community Based Services personnel and attorneys for children and parents. The IPR focuses on the case plans for the parents and their child and the progress being made to secure permanency for the child. Upon completion of the mandatory review, the family services coordinator submits a comprehensive report of findings and recommendations to the judge responsible for case review.

For Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010), the IPR program conducted 1,756 interested party reviews, a 31 percent increase over FY 2009. The number of children who received this intensive review – 1,489 – grew by 21 percent over FY 2009. The number of boards that use the IPR process as the standard for reviewing all cases has continued to grow and now includes boards that meet monthly.

In FY 2010, 18 percent of local CFCRB boards used IPR as the standard for reviewing all cases, compared with 16 percent in FY 2009 and only 1.4 percent in FY 2008. Currently 25 boards – representing 28 counties – now use IPR as the standard for review. They are Adair, Allen, Caldwell/Lyon, Casey, Clinton, Crittenden, Elliott/Morgan, Fulton/Hickman, Green, Jefferson 7, Johnson, Lawrence, Livingston, Magoffin, McCracken B, Meade, Montgomery, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Russell, Spencer, Taylor, Union, Wayne and Webster.

One Jefferson County board, Jefferson 7, became the first large, urban board to review all of its cases through the IPR process and McCracken B followed Jefferson 7’s lead earlier this fiscal year. Jefferson 5 and Daviess A, both boards with large caseloads, transitioned in July 2010.

Four other boards will move to the IPR process in early FY 2011, with several smaller boards planning to transition later in FY 2011.

Regional IPR boards have been established to serve counties that do not have a local IPR board. This makes the IPR process available to children statewide. The 16 regional IPR boards are Barren River in Bowling Green, Big Sandy in Prestonsburg, Bluegrass Rural in Lexington, Cumberland Valley in London, Fayette in Lexington, FIVCO in Ashland, Gateway/Bufalo Trace in Morehead, Green River in Owensboro, Jefferson in Louisville, Kentucky River in Hazard, KIPDA Rural in Shelbyville, Lake Cumberland in Somerset, Lincoln Trail in Elizabethtown, Northern Kentucky in Florence, Pennyrile in Hopkinsville, and Purchase in Mayfield. Each regional board meets monthly.



# AOC Family Services Coordinators

## Area 1

Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Trigg, Union, Webster

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## Area 2

Counties: Butler, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Logan, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Todd, Warren

### Position Vacant

## Area 3

Counties: Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Meade, Metcalfe, Simpson

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### Position Vacant

## Area 5

Counties: Adair, Boyle, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Mercer, Monroe, Nelson, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne

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## Area 8

Counties: Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine

### Position Vacant

## Area 9

Counties: Anderson, Bourbon, Carroll, Clark, Franklin, Henry, Madison, Montgomery, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Scott, Trimble, Woodford

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## Area 10

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### Melodie Robinson

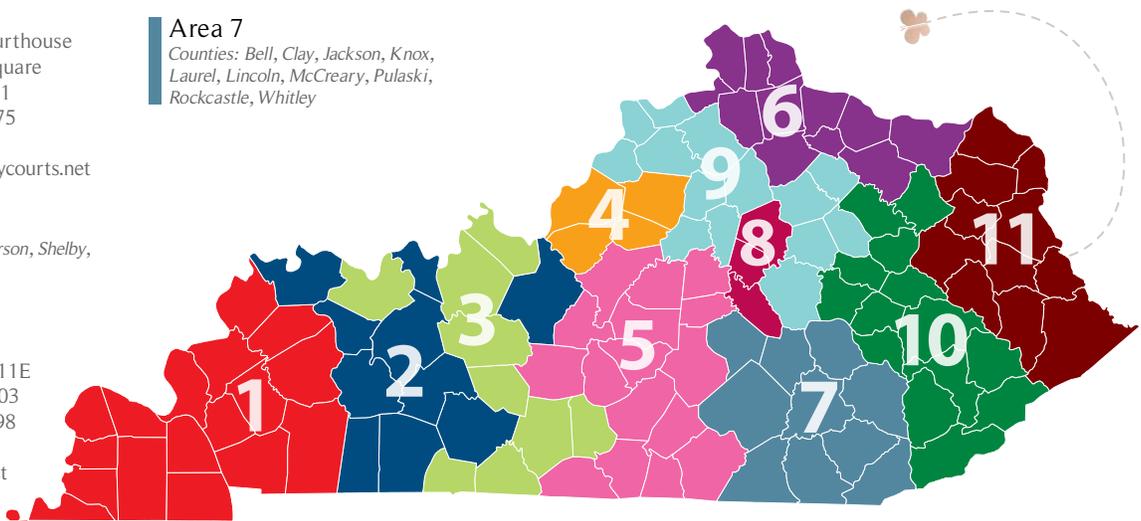
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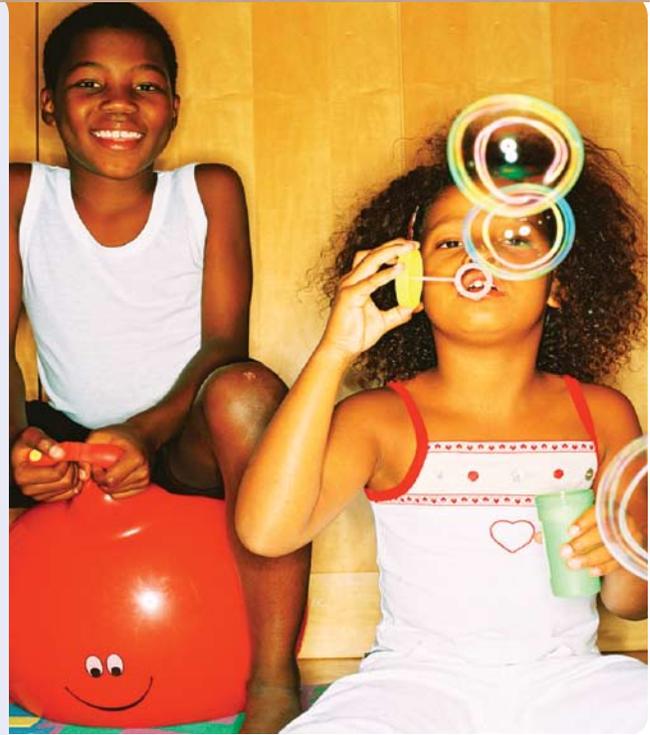
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