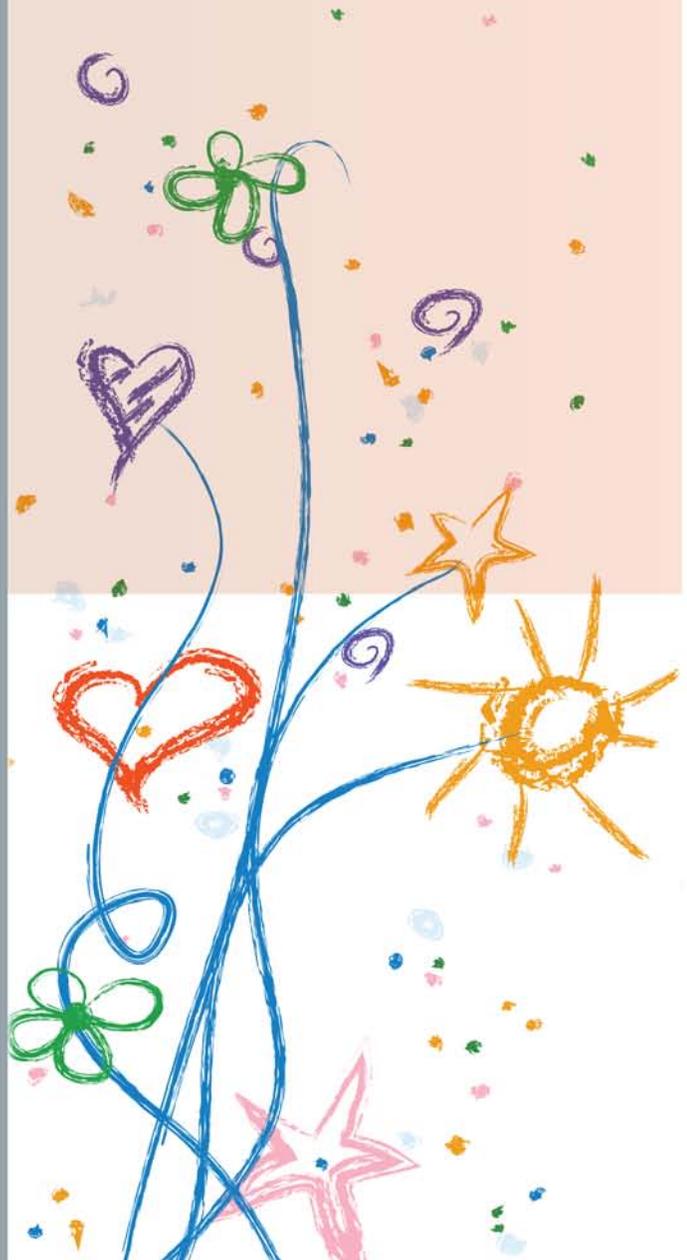




2013 Annual Report

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards



Working for Kentucky's Future ...
Our Children



CFCRB volunteers help Kentucky children in care find permanent homes

John D. Minton Jr.
Chief Justice of Kentucky

During the past year, 791 Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers conducted 21,080 reviews of 10,491 children in out-of-home care.

Kentucky law requires 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. The findings and recommendations of the CFCRB volunteers help Kentucky judges make informed decisions about permanent placements for these children.

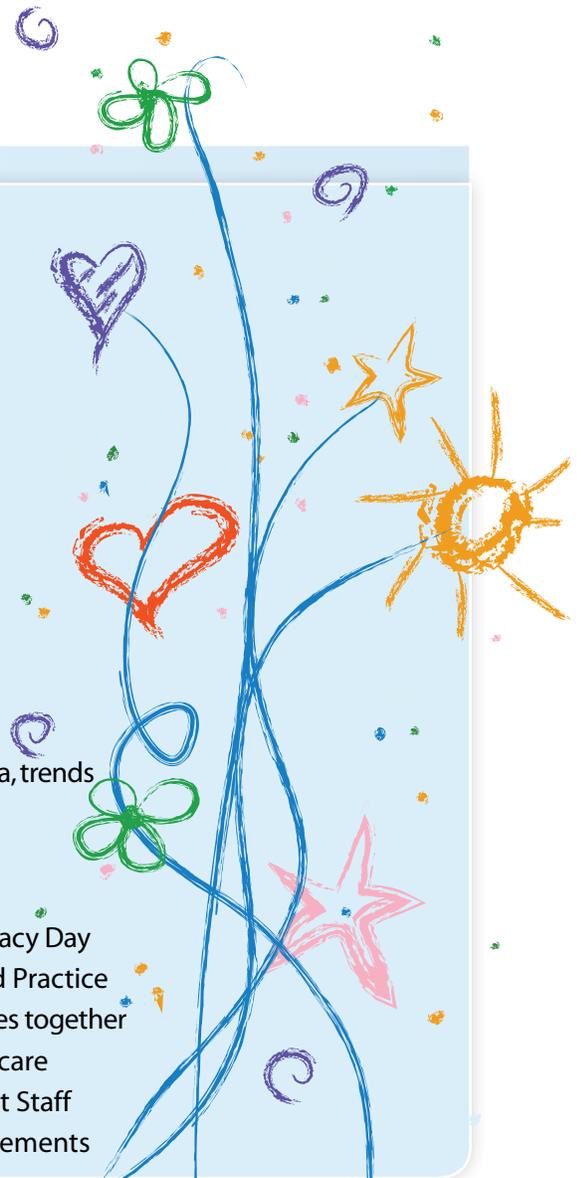
The Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts provides support and resources to the CFCRB program.

The 2013 CFCRB Annual Report offers a thorough analysis of this important program. You will see how the program continues to improve its processes, training and technology to give volunteers an even stronger foundation from which to advocate for vulnerable children.

I appreciate the many men and women who give their time and talents to helping ensure our children have a brighter future.

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Progress Report on Kentucky Children in Foster Care

Rachel Bingham, Executive Officer
Department of Family and Juvenile Services, Administrative Office of the Courts

CFCRB Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2013: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

I am pleased to present the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013. The CFCRB program continues to provide an invaluable service to Kentucky judges by monitoring children in out-of-home care and supplying their findings and recommendations to the court.

This report offers a detailed analysis of the children served by the CFCRB. It also provides the recommendations that CFCRB volunteers submit to the state legislature in hopes of improving services for children in care.

I have had the privilege of working with the CFCRB program for many years and I continue to be impressed with the caliber of the volunteers and their commitment to the children they review. The staff of the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts considers it a privilege to support such a worthwhile endeavor.

The following are highlights from FY 2013:

- 791 CFCRB volunteers conducted 17,856 paper reviews and 3,224 interested party reviews for a total of 21,080 reviews of 10,491 children.
- The average length of stay for children in care was 18.7 months, a slight decrease over the 18.9 months reported in FY 2012.
- Forty percent of the children reviewed by the CFCRB were released through reunification to parents or primary caregivers. Another 28 percent of the children were released through placement with relatives. These numbers are consistent with the figures reported in FY 2012.
- Thirteen percentage of children aged out of care, a number consistent with FY 2012.
- Of the children reviewed, those ages 5 and younger were the largest age group (34 percent) and those ages 16 to 20 were the next largest age group (24 percent).
- Children experienced an average of 2.3 placements per commitment, a slight decrease from the 2.7 placements per commitment in FY 2012.

- Slightly fewer children achieved adoption, with 17 percent exiting from care due to a finalized adoption compared with 18 percent in FY 2012. In addition, children who exited from care due to a finalized adoption spent more time in care – 36.7 months in FY 2013 compared with 34.9 months in FY 2012.
- CFCRB volunteers conducted 3,224 interested party reviews, a 28 percent increase over FY 2012.
- The interested party reviews focused on 2,336 children, a 25 percent increase over FY 2012.
- The number of boards using interested party review as the standard grew to 37 percent in FY 2013, compared with 29 percent in FY 2012 and only 1.4 percent in FY 2008.
- CFCRB volunteers broke a record by holding 1,628 meetings. The increase was due to more interested party reviews and the addition of reviews for committed status offenders.
- Our training program continued to be a success, with 454 CFCRB volunteers completing continuing education at 30 trainings offered throughout the state.

I commend the CFCRB volunteers for their selfless devotion to improving the lives of children in out-of-home care. Our volunteers are instrumental in helping these children achieve permanent homes to last a lifetime.



CFCRB Executive Committee

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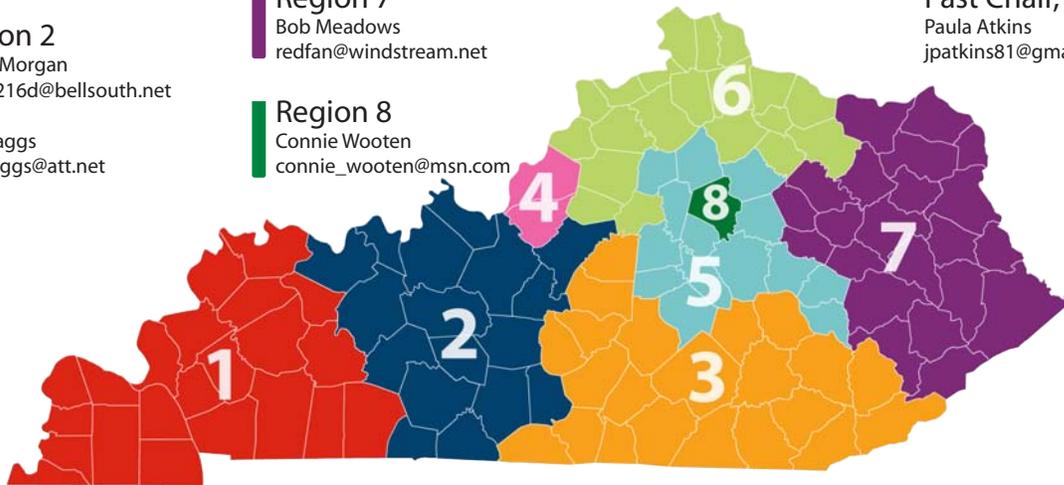
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CFCRB Mission

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 2013 Recommendations 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.

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 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. This would also include that all youth would have access to their educational record at age 18, as many youth exiting from the Cabinet's custody at this age do not have parents who can access this information. These youth need this information for workforce readiness programs.

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?

In FY 2013, the youngest child reviewed by CFCRB volunteers was 2.4 months old and the oldest was 24 years old (due to extended commitment). The average age remained constant at 10 years. Children age 5 and younger were the largest age group (34 percent) to be reviewed. Children between the ages of 16 to 20 were the next largest age group (24 percent) to be reviewed.

The age analysis is based on children who were in out-of-home care on June 30, 2013, and includes children who were released from the Cabinet's custody any time during the fiscal year.

What gender are children in out-of-home care?

The gender of children in out-of-home care is almost evenly split, with 52 percent male and 48 percent female.

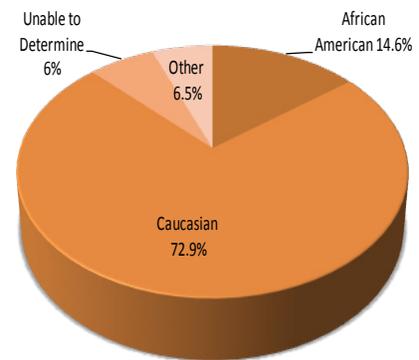
What race are children in foster care?

Of the children in foster care, 73 percent are Caucasian, 15 percent are African American, 6 percent are unable to be determined and the remaining 6.5 percent are other races. The other races include American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.

Children by Age

By Age	Number of Children
0-5 Years	3,591
6-10 Years	2,167
11-15 Years	2,089
16-20 Years	2,513
21 Years & Older	131
Total	10,491

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?

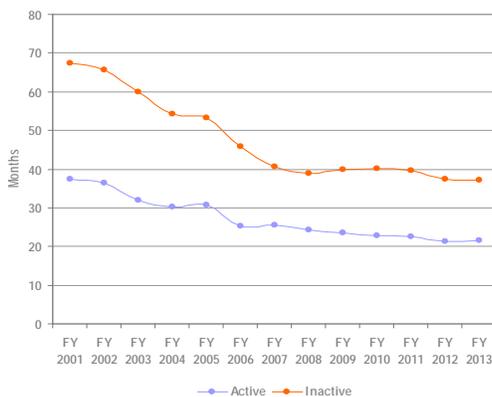
Active children – children who were still in care at the end of FY 2013 – experienced an average length of stay of 21.5 months. Inactive children – children released at any time during the fiscal year – experienced an average stay of 16 months. The overall average length of stay for FY 2013 was 18.7 months, which represents a slight decrease from the average length of stay of 18.9 months reported for FY 2012.

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 and are experiencing an average of 27 months in care, compared with 13 months in care for children age 5 and younger.

Note: Statistics captured in this chart represent all children whose cases were reviewed between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013. The term “active children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year and who were still in care on June 30, 2013. “Inactive children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year but were released prior to June 30, 2013.

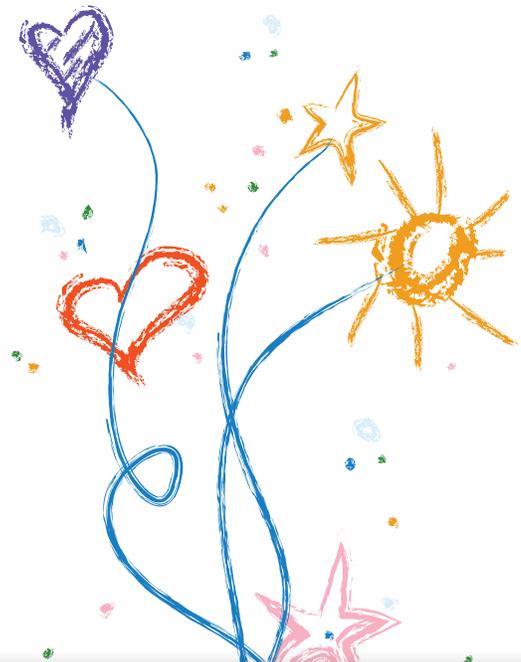
It should be noted that in calculating the average length of stay, children who were in care less than 24 hours are counted as “zero” on the spectrum of length of time in care. These are children who may have been in the process of being removed from the home when a suitable relative assumed custody of the child. When taking into account these zeros, it may actually skew the average to the lower end of the spectrum.

Average Length of Stay in Months as of 6/30/2013



Average Length of Stay in Months as of 6/30/2013

Age in Years	Active	Inactive	All Children
0-5 Years	16.0	10.8	13.4
6-10 Years	18.7	13.4	16.1
11-15 Years	22.1	14.1	18.9
Over 15 Years	29.6	24.5	27.1
Overall	21.5	15.6	18.7



Exiting Out-of-Home Care

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

The majority of children – 40 percent – were released from care through reunification with parents or primary guardians. This is consistent with the 41 percent reported for FY 2012. The next largest group of children exiting care – 28 percent – was through placement with relatives. This is a slight increase from the 27 percent reported for FY 2012.

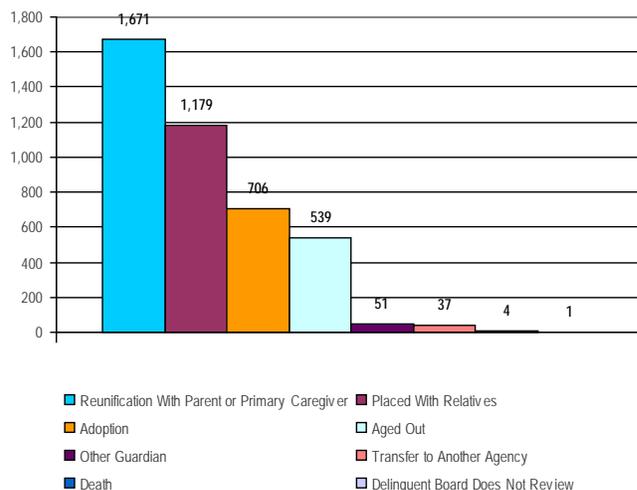
You will also notice on the chart that four children reviewed in FY 2013 died during the review period. These children died from medical conditions and not as a result of maltreatment. These deaths are not included in the Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities and Near Fatalities Report compiled by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, which reports on children who have suffered death or near-death injuries as a result of abuse or neglect.

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

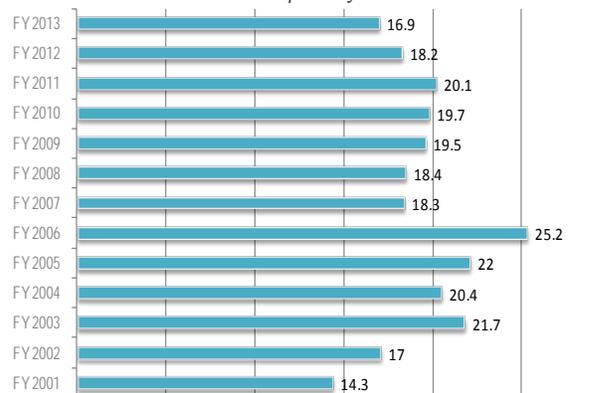
Seventeen percent of the children released from out-of-home care achieved permanency through adoption in FY 2013. Children who exited care because of a finalized adoption spent 36.7 months in care prior to adoption. The percentage of children achieving adoption decreased slightly over FY 2012, which saw 18 percent of children released through adoption. The months in care before achieving a finalized adoption increased from the 34.9 months reported in FY 2012.

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. In FY 2005, the reasons for release were gathered from individual CFCRB case reviews. Since CATS was launched in 2006, release information has been obtained primarily through downloads from TWIST, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' data-tracking system.

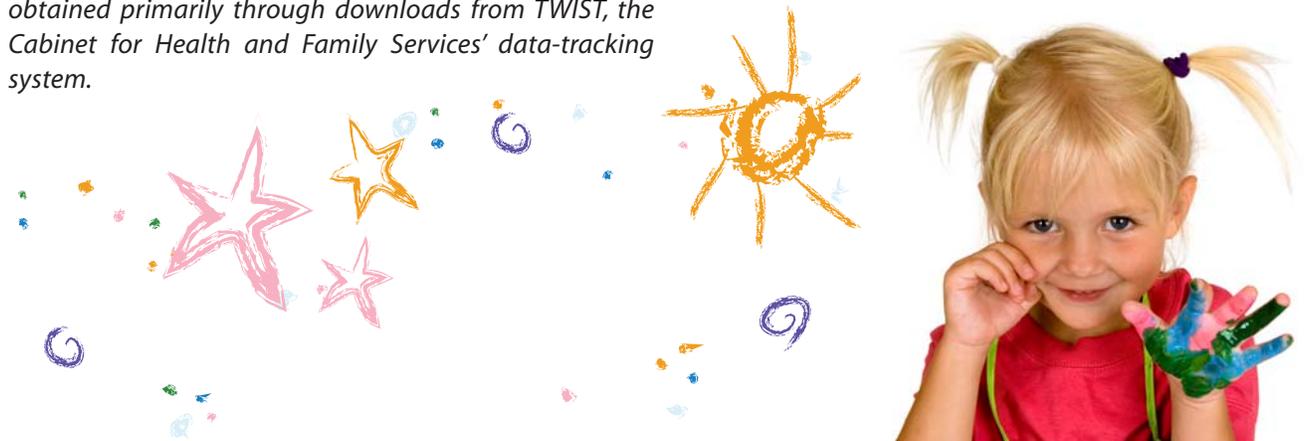
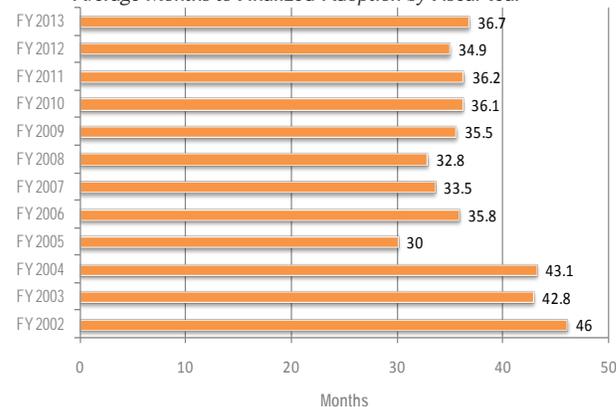
How Children Exited Care



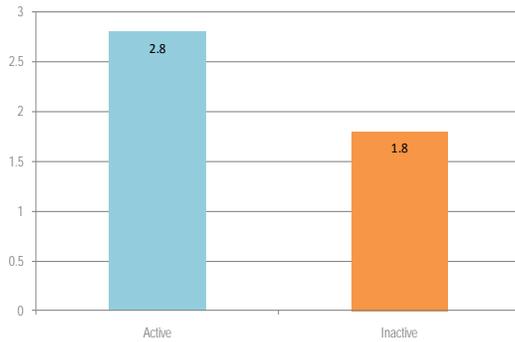
Percent of Adoption by Fiscal Year



Average Months to Finalized Adoption by Fiscal Year



Average Placements



Placement Stability

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

Fewer placements create stability and lessen the trauma for children in care. Children experienced an average of 2.3 placements per commitment in FY 2013. The average number of placements is an improvement over the last two fiscal years, which reported 2.7 placements per commitment in FY 2012 and 3 placements per commitment in FY 2011. This number is also closer to the federal expectation of 2 placements for a child in out-of-home care.

In addition, the number of placements per commitment for children still active as of June 30, 2013, has continued to decrease. There were 2.8 placements per commitment for active children in FY 2013, 3.3 placements in FY 2012, 3.5 placements in FY 2011 and 3.8 placements in FY 2010. The number of placements per commitment for children who were released from care decreased over the prior fiscal year, with 1.8 placements per commitment for FY 2013, 2.1 placements for FY 2012 and 2.5 placements for FY 2011 and FY 2010.

In addition, 52.4 percent of the children in the Cabinet's custody in FY 2013 were placed in private child care arrangements, which is a slight increase from the 51.9 percent reported in FY 2012. Children in foster care are in placements determined by the level of care necessary to meet their special needs. Level 5 is the level of care representing the most needs. Of the children in private child care, 5.8 percent are in level 5 placements with an additional 2.4 percent placed in therapeutic foster care at level 5.¹

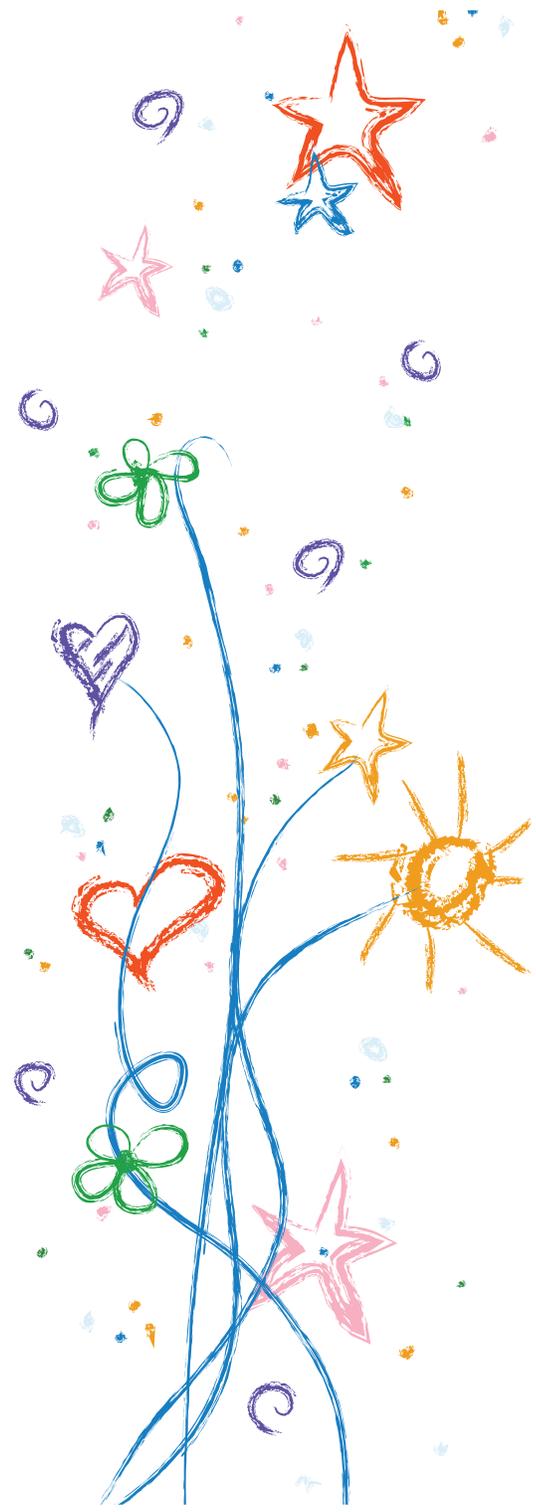
When determining placement for a child, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services considers the least restrictive and most appropriate placement. The CHFS may change the placement of a child for a variety of reasons, such as safety concerns or the need for more intensive services.

¹ Cabinet for Health and Family Services, TWS-W058 SFY 2012 and SFY 2013 reports.

How many of these placements were out of state?

In FY 2013, 203 children were placed out of state. 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.² Out-of-state placements are approved through the Interstate Compact process.

² Cabinet for Health and Family Services, TWS-W058 report, SFY 2013.



Establishing Permanency Goals

How is the permanency goal established and defined?

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services establishes a permanency plan for each child who enters foster care and his or her 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.

Per KRS 610.125, children who remain in the custody of the Cabinet for 12 months after 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 Board?

The Kentucky General Assembly created the Citizen Foster Care Review Board in 1982 in response to federal legislation aimed at decreasing the amount of time children spend in foster care. Today 791 volunteers serve on 149 review boards throughout Kentucky.

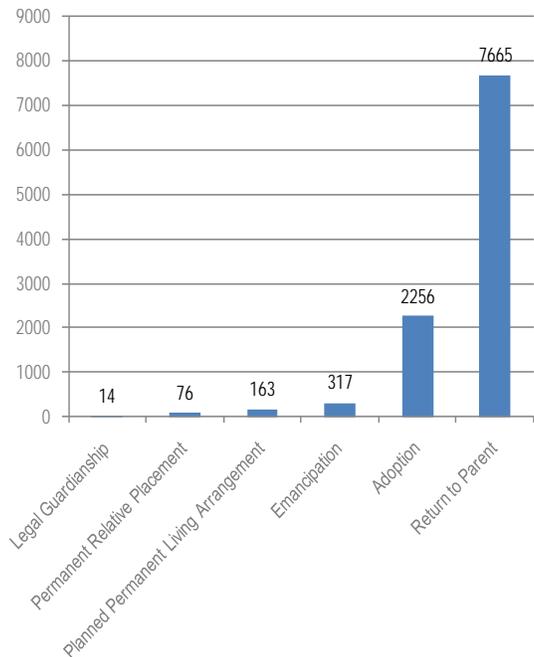
CFCRB volunteers are appointed by their chief Family Court or District Court judge to review the cases of children placed in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services due to dependency, neglect or abuse.

Volunteers regularly review each child's case with a particular focus on the out-of-home placement and the permanency plan established by the Cabinet. Based on information obtained from the reviews, the volunteer makes recommendations to the judge to ensure the child is placed in a safe and permanent home in a timely manner.

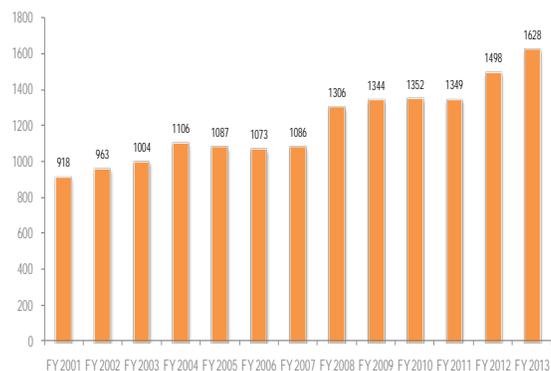
In FY 2013, the volunteers held 1,628 meetings and conducted 21,080 reviews on 10,491 children in out-of-home care. The increase in board meetings can be attributed in part to the addition of seven new review boards and the increase in interested party reviews.

The CFCRB operates within the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort. The AOC is the administrative arm of the Kentucky Judicial Branch.

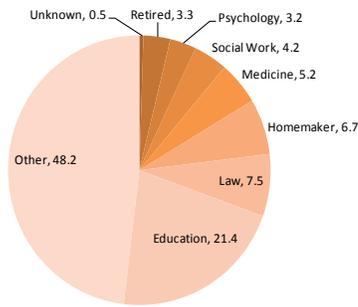
Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care



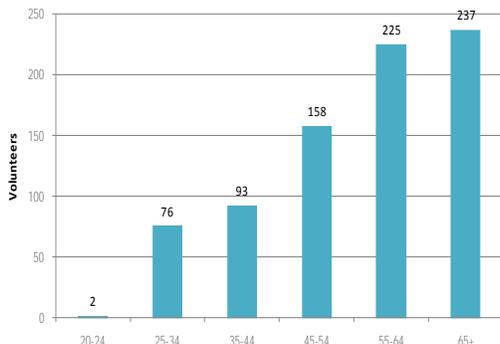
Board Meetings by Fiscal Year



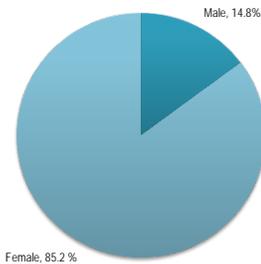
Volunteers by Profession



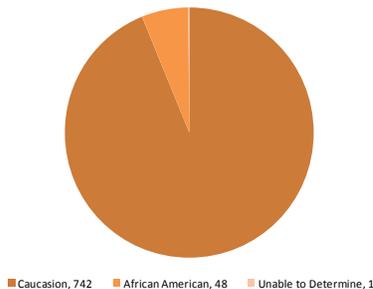
Volunteers by Age Group



Volunteers by Gender



Volunteers by Race



Who are CFCRB volunteers?

CFCRB volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but all share a genuine concern for children and their welfare.

Of the 791 volunteers, 85 percent are female and 42 percent have backgrounds in education, medicine, law, social work and psychology. The volunteers range in age from 24 to 87, with an average age of 56. The average length of service is six years, which demonstrates their commitment to the children they serve.

What are the requirements for becoming a CFCRB volunteer?

Those interested in volunteering must complete an initial six-hour training session and consent to a criminal record and Cabinet for Health and Family Services Central Registry Check. New volunteers are trained on the following topics:

- ▶ CHFS procedures
- ▶ 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 review

Once a volunteer has completed the background checks and training, a recommendation is made to the chief judge of the local Family Court or District 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.

What cases do CFCRB volunteers review?

Pursuant to KRS 620.270, CFCRB volunteers review the case of each child who is placed into the custody of the CHFS by a court order for temporary custody or commitment. The reviews are conducted in the county or counties served by the local CFCRB board.

The cases include those of youth whose commitments have been extended, children placed for adoptions that have not been finalized, children who have been returned home but remain committed and young adults whose out-of-home commitments have been extended. Children and young adults are also subject to review if they were originally committed as dependent, neglected or abused but have been recommitted as status or public offenders, provided the commitment was not interrupted.

What resources are needed to conduct a 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. The reviews are conducted through the paper case file or an interactive meeting called an interested party review.

Each review board has access to all pertinent information and records maintained by the Cabinet on the parents or person exercising custodial control or supervision for the child being reviewed. The board also has access to all pertinent information and records of the court, the Cabinet, 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.

Each local board may request in writing, with a notice of five work days, for the employees of the Cabinet and other agencies to appear at local board meetings.

How often are reviews conducted?

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

Where are reviews conducted?

Reviews are conducted in every county in Kentucky. Larger counties may have multiple boards. Smaller counties in the same judicial circuit or district may join together for a combined board.

The chief Family Court or District Court judge designates where the review will take place. Reviews are often conducted at the local office of the Department for Community Based Services. Many of the interested party reviews are conducted in local judicial centers.

Where are CFCRB reviews conducted if a child moves to another county?

Pursuant to KRS 620.270(1), if a child moves to another county due to a preadoptive placement or if the Cabinet has moved the child, the responsibility for reviewing cases remains with the local review board that serves the county of commitment/temporary custody.

When does the CFCRB stop conducting reviews?

Pursuant to KRS 620.270, reviews by a CFCRB shall cease when the child is no longer in the custody of the Cabinet or an adoption has been finalized. The case record will document the release.

CFCRB Activity by IPR Review Board for Fiscal Year 2013

	IPR Reviews	Children Reviewed
Adair	21	15
Allen	91	58
Ballard/Carlisle	20	17
Barren River	46	46
Bluegrass Rural	58	54
Bullitt B	62	49
Caldwell/Lyon	32	19
Calloway	15	15
Casey	24	14
Christian	110	70
Clinton	37	23
Crittenden	15	8
Cumberland Valley	59	56
Daviess A	92	69
Daviess C	33	33
Elliott/Morgan	35	22
Fayette	71	63
Fayette One	1	1
Fayette Permanency IPR	7	7
Fayette Permanency IPR Board	33	33
Fayette Status IPR	46	31
FIVCO	64	61
Floyd	72	48
Fulton/Hickman	29	17
Garrard	66	41
Gateway/Buffalo Trace	64	61
Graves	40	40
Green	15	10
Hardin A	16	16
Hardin B	72	54
Hart	6	6
Henry	9	9
Hopkins	43	43
Jefferson	81	79
Jefferson 5	126	85
Jefferson 7	78	55
Jefferson IPR A	6	6
Jefferson IPR C	1	1
Jefferson Status IPR	15	10
Johnson	109	66
Kenton Status IPR	27	22
Kentucky River	78	76
Kipda Rural	41	39
Lawrence	61	37
Lee/Owsley	6	6
Leslie	29	14
Lincoln Trail	1	1
Livingston	18	10
Madison A	94	76
Magoffin	58	31
Marshall	121	76
Martin	6	6
McCracken B	82	52
McLean	9	5
Meade	77	50
Mercer	44	32
Monroe/Cumberland	13	8
Montgomery	51	35
Muhlenberg	38	25
Nelson	69	47
Northern Kentucky	68	65
Ohio	45	27
Oldham	65	43
Pendleton	19	19
Pulaski	75	52
Russell	29	19
Spencer	27	16
Taylor	42	24
Trigg	22	13
Union	38	23
Warren Status IPR	10	10
Wayne	29	20
Webster	12	7
Statewide	3,224	2,336



CFCRB Activity by Review Board for Fiscal Year 2013

	Paper Reviews	Children Reviewed		Paper Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	8	8	KENTON 3	78	52
ALLEN	34	33	KENTON 5	100	73
ANDERSON	207	84	KENTON 6	182	134
BALLARD/CARLISLE	15	11	KENTON 7	38	30
BARREN	155	100	KENTON A	78	58
BATH/MENIFEE	112	67	KENTON B	127	95
BELL	59	40	KENTON C	160	125
BOONE/GALLATIN	246	142	KENTON F	169	112
BOURBON	63	33	KENTON STATUS IPR	11	11
BOYD A	217	126	KNOTT	44	35
BOYD B	211	98	KNOX	118	89
BOYLE	203	108	LARUE	70	41
BREATHITT	37	22	LAUREL 1	176	109
BRECKINRIDGE	94	49	LAWRENCE	26	25
BULLITT	248	123	LEE/OWSLEY	85	64
BULLITT B	5	5	LESLIE	5	5
BUTLER	85	60	LETCHER	119	66
CALDWELL/LYON	9	9	LEWIS	42	18
CALLOWAY	159	99	LINCOLN	76	51
CAMPBELL 1	202	127	LIVINGSTON	1	1
CAMPBELL 2	152	102	LOGAN	110	62
CAMPBELL A	109	88	MADISON A	143	99
CAMPBELL B	205	143	MADISON B	138	68
CAMPBELL C	43	39	MADISON C	122	78
CAMPBELL D	49	40	MAGOFFIN	9	9
CARROLL	113	45	MARION/WASHINGTON	110	68
CARTER	166	83	MARSHALL	42	41
CASEY	6	6	MARTIN	133	71
CHRISTIAN	30	30	MASON/BRACKEN	108	86
CLARK	342	115	MCCRACKEN A	316	91
CLAY	164	102	MCCRACKEN B	19	19
CLINTON	2	2	MCCREARY	327	141
CRITTENDEN	5	5	MCLEAN	2	2
DAVISS A	58	58	MEADE	21	21
DAVISS B	111	79	MERCER	17	17
DAVISS C	3	3	METCALFE	35	19
EDMONSON	88	64	MONROE/CUMBERLAND	7	6
ELLIOTT	39	34	MONTGOMERY	17	17
ESTILL	63	36	MORGAN	1	1
FAYETTE A	267	153	MUHLBERG	16	16
FAYETTE B	262	167	NELSON	27	27
FAYETTE C	199	129	OHIO	21	21
FAYETTE D	235	143	OLDHAM	29	29
FAYETTE E	160	108	OWEN	52	15
FAYETTE F	182	117	PENDLETON IPR	8	8
FAYETTE G	273	146	PERRY	261	150
FAYETTE H	250	136	PIKE	156	89
FAYETTE I	279	158	POWELL	66	53
FAYETTE J	270	123	PULASKI	64	57
FAYETTE K	53	40	ROCKCASTLE	87	56
FAYETTE STATUS IPR	19	19	ROWAN	153	100
FLEMING/ROBERTSON	95	39	RUSSELL	16	16
FLOYD	94	76	SCOTT	215	96
FRANKLIN	133	52	SHELBY	212	112
FULTON/HICKMAN	5	5	SIMPSON	69	45
GARRARD	15	12	SPENCER	16	13
GRANT	160	81	TAYLOR	26	26
GRAVES	56	45	TODD	61	40
GRAYSON	265	178	TRIGG	13	13
GREEN	10	10	TRIMBLE	92	53
GREENUP	176	105	UNION	11	11
HANCOCK	56	25	WARREN A	233	162
HARDIN A	262	132	WARREN B	177	103
HARDIN B	98	83	WARREN C	159	98
HARLAN	107	56	WARREN STATUS IPR	2	2
HARRISON/NICHOLAS	65	53	WAYNE	15	15
HARRISON/PENDLETON/NICHOLAS	59	43	WEBSTER	1	1
HART	35	27	WHITLEY	191	134
HENDERSON	135	81	WOLFE	27	14
HENRY	68	45	WOODFORD	87	43
HOPKINS	101	80	STATEWIDE	17,856	9,283
IPR ELLIOTT	1	1			
JACKSON	30	24			
JEFFERSON 1	402	171			
JEFFERSON 10	383	158			
JEFFERSON 2	308	124			
JEFFERSON 3	310	132			
JEFFERSON 4	327	112			
JEFFERSON 5	30	30			
JEFFERSON 6	333	124			
JEFFERSON 7	40	40			
JEFFERSON 8	321	137			
JEFFERSON 9	338	147			
JEFFERSON STATUS IPR	9	9			
JESSAMINE	96	60			
JOHNSON	76	71			
KENTON 1	180	123			
KENTON 2	166	124			

News & Updates

Regional trainings help volunteers stay current on child welfare data, trends

The Citizen Foster Care Review Board held its 2012 regional trainings in Frankfort, Madisonville and Hazard from July 13 to Nov. 2.

The trainings give volunteers the required six hours of annual continuing education. They also enhance the ability of the volunteers to conduct thorough, informed reviews and make meaningful recommendations to the court.

The specialized regional trainings included the following topics:

Understanding CFCRB

Data. The AOC presented this session in conjunction with the Department for Community Based Services. It focused on examining data and completing findings and recommendations forms, specifically the Children's Automated Tracking System application. Participants also learned about current data trends and definitions of placement and compliance.

Child Welfare Trends.

Judges had input into this session, which looked at state and national trends involving transparency and child fatality or near fatality.

Co-occurring Disorders and Psychotropic Medications.

This training was on the safe, appropriate and effective use of psychotropic medications among children in foster care when needed as a component for treatment.

Interested Party Review reaches 60-county milestone in just 5 years

In only five years, the intensive review process that focuses on case plans for parents and children has been implemented in half of Kentucky's 120 counties.

The number of Citizen Foster Care Review Boards using Interested Party Review as the standard have increased at a fast pace since IPR was introduced in 2008.

Today 58 boards representing 60 counties use IPR. In FY 2013, 37 percent of the local boards used IPR as the standard for reviewing all cases, compared with 29 percent in FY 2012, 24 percent in FY 2011, 18 percent in FY 2010, 16 percent in 2009 and 1.4 percent in FY 2008.

In FY 2012, CFCRB volunteers conducted 3,224 IPRs for a 28 percent increase over FY 2012. During that same time, 2,336 children received an IPR, which was 25 percent more than in FY 2012.

The IPR involves Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers, parents, care providers, service providers, Department for Community Based Services personnel, Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers and attorneys for children and parents. Their primary

goal is to track the progress being made to secure permanency for the child.

Once the mandatory review has been completed, a family services coordinator compiles a comprehensive report of findings and recommendations. The report is submitted to the judge responsible for case review.

Regional IPR boards are in place for counties that do not have a local IPR board. Cases are pulled from the counties served by each region, which makes the IPR process available to children statewide.

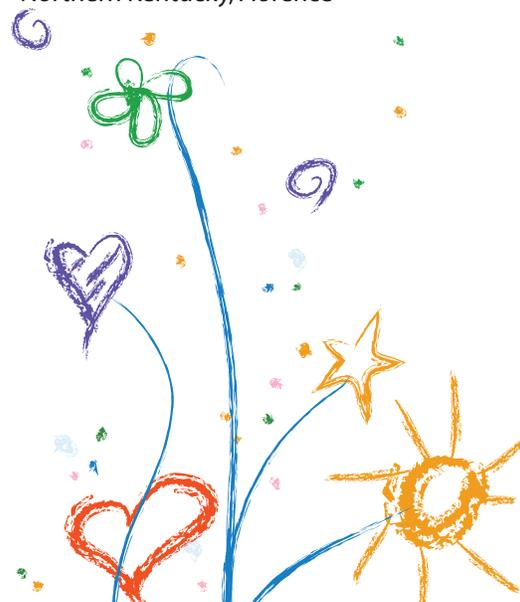
Interested Party Review Boards by County

Adair, Allen, Ballard/Carlisle, Breathitt, Bullitt B, Caldwell/Lyon, Calloway, Casey, Christian, Clinton, Crittenden, Daviess A, Daviess C, Elliott/Morgan, Fayette Status, Floyd, Fulton/Hickman, Garrard, Graves, Green, Hardin A, Hardin B, Hart, Henry, Hopkins, Jefferson 5, Jefferson 7, Jefferson Status, Johnson, Kenton Status, Lawrence, Lee/Owsley, Leslie, Letcher, Livingston, Madison A, Magoffin, Martin, McCracken B, McLean, Meade, Mercer, Monroe/

Cumberland, Montgomery, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Oldham, Pulaski, Russell, Spencer, Taylor, Trigg, Union, Warren Status, Wayne, Webster, Wolfe

Regional IPR Boards

Barren River, Bowling Green
Bluegrass Rural, Lexington
Cumberland Valley, London
Fayette, Lexington
FIVCO, Ashland
Gateway/Buffalo Trace, Morehead
Jefferson, Louisville
Kentucky River, Hazard
KIPDA Rural, Shelbyville
Northern Kentucky, Florence



Upgrades to CATS database improves operating features

The Children's Automated Tracking System got an upgrade in 2013 that improves several of its operating functions.

The Juvenile Search Screen has additional sorting features that allow searches by entry date, permanency goal and months in care. The upgrade also restored the abbreviated version of the status report that lists all children assigned to a particular Citizen Foster Care Review Board.

CATS houses all reviews conducted by CFCRB volunteers on children in out-of-home care and is operated by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The AOC shares the case information with judges, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Department for Community Based Services.

CATS receives weekly downloads from TWIST, The Worker Information

System. TWIST is a statewide child welfare system maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. These downloads allow the CFCRBs to be notified of new children who have entered care, ensuring a timely review.

CATS determines which aspects of the dependency, neglect and abuse proceedings need improvement, including the termination of parental rights, 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.

CATS does the following:

- Supplies review forms for paper and interested party reviews.
- Tracks and records removal and placement information, sibling visitation, and permanency and case planning.

- Tracks the number of prior entries into foster care and the number of moves.
- Maintains identifying and other key information from the CFCRB Findings and Recommendations forms as permanent records.
- Records volunteer hours by training hours and hours spent at board meetings.
- Records the parties notified of an interested party review.

The CFCRB also uses the CATS database to fulfill its statutory requirement for reporting on children in out-of-home care to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and state legislators.

The timely, detailed information available from CATS has given judges and child advocates the ability to improve the outcomes of children in foster care.

Court Improvement Program enhances work of the CFCRB

The federally funded Kentucky Court Improvement Program supports the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards with enhanced education, the Children's Automated Tracking System and the Interested Party Review Program.

CIP grant funds provide resources and technical assistance to promote innovation in court practices, ensure due process for all parties and timely decision-making in family law cases, and help communities more successfully meet the needs of Kentucky's children.

The CIP mission aligns with the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Reviews, by promoting the following:

Safety

Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect. Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

The continuity of family relations and connections is preserved for families.

Well-Being

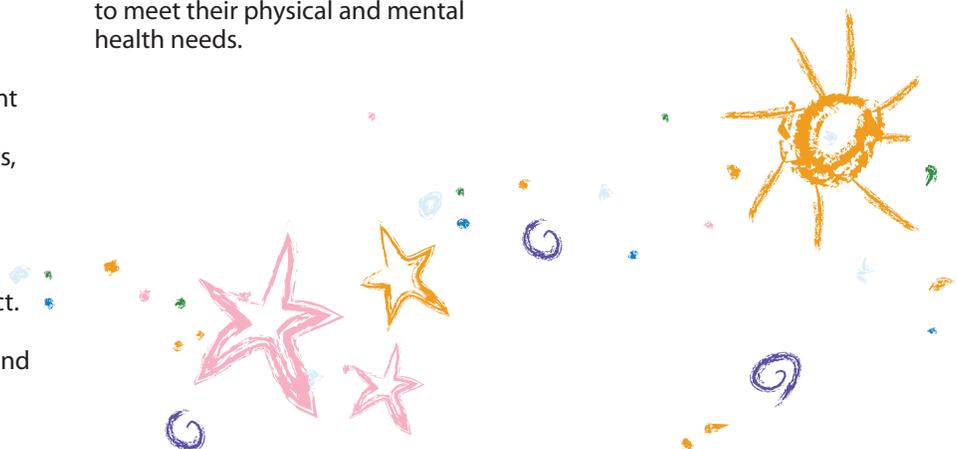
Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

The CIP has developed these initiatives to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children in foster care:

- Implement Best Practices/ Model Court sites
- Revise Family Court Rules of Procedure and Practice
- Continue the Model Court Lead Judges Advisory Board
- Continue collaboration and data-sharing between the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the CFCRB.
- Continue improvements to the Children's Automated Tracking System.



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

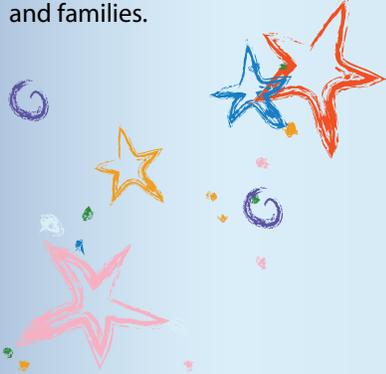
CFCRB volunteers were among the hundreds who gathered in Frankfort on Feb. 7 for the 2013 Children's Advocacy Day.

The Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board was a sponsor for the event, which draws advocates from across the state to educate legislators about children's needs and to propose solutions.

Several CFCRB volunteers met with state legislators during Children's Advocacy Day to promote legislation that would give the Cabinet for Health and Family Services access to the Department of Education's electronic portal as a way to enhance the educational records of foster children. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services maintains those case files.

As a result of their efforts, the CFCRB legislation was introduced to the House Health and Welfare Committee as House Bill 114. While the bill did not make it out of committee, the CFCRB was encouraged that the legislation was introduced in the House.

Children's Advocacy Day began in 2004 as a way to unite advocates throughout Kentucky to raise their voices on behalf of the safety, health, education and economic well-being of children and families.



Supreme Court amends the Family Court Rules of Procedure and Practice

The Supreme Court of Kentucky has amended the Family Court Rules of Procedure and Practice, which has helped ensure Kentucky's compliance with the national Adoption and Safe Families Act.

The amendments were effective Jan. 1, 2013, and do the following:

- Streamline ASFA's notice and opportunity-to-be-heard requirements for foster parents, preadoptive parents and relative caregivers. *FCRPP 17*
- Establish a process for the state child welfare agency to provide the names and addresses of these interested parties. *FCRPP 17*
- Establish an independent living review by the court six months prior to release-from-care of children who will turn 18 while still in foster care. *FCRPP 30*
- Specify that any order relating to children committed to the state child welfare agency be in writing and not be verbal or stamped by the judge. *FCRPP 22*
- Specify that a continuance of an annual permanency review may not be granted for any reason beyond 12 months from the date the child entered care. *FCRPP 23*

The Administrative Office of the Courts contracted with the University of Louisville College of Social Work to conduct a process-and-implementation evaluation of the FCRPP initiative in Year 1 and Year 2.

The evaluation included a review of the process used to develop the statewide rules, the prior and current local rules, and the case file review. The evaluation results will be used to determine training needs, problem areas and the need for legal forms.

Judges are currently reviewing their newly revised local rules to see if there are any inconsistencies with the amended FCRPP that need to be addressed. The review is being conducted under the direction of Chief Justice of Kentucky John D. Minton Jr. and the AOC's Department of Family and Juvenile Services.

Chief Justice Minton has also assembled a FCRPP Forms Review Committee – with five subcommittees – to review and revise all Family Court forms, including the forms used in child welfare cases. The subcommittees submitted their recommendations to the full committee for review at the Aug. 29, 2013, meeting.

The Supreme Court also intends to establish a committee to conduct a comprehensive review of all of Kentucky's family law statutes and make recommendations. The Department of Family and Juvenile Services will provide support to this legislative initiative, which is tentatively planned for 2014.



Model Court Initiative expands sites, continues to bring communities together

The Department of Family and Juvenile Services continues to support the expansion of Model Court throughout the state. The strength of Model Court is the program's focus on helping children and families by building community partnerships.

Model Court brings together community partners, including Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers, the Department for Community Based Services staff, Court Appointed Special Advocates, school personnel, guardians ad litem and mental health professionals, to address issues that will improve outcomes of dependent, abused and neglected children and their families.

Kentucky currently has 10 Model Court sites with another expected to come online in 2014. The current sites are Boyle/Mercer, Daviess, Fayette, Grayson, Hardin, Hopkins, Jefferson, Jessamine, Johnson and Kenton counties with a site in Knox/Laurel being implemented. These Model Court teams, under the direction of the lead judge, establish a steering committee of community officials who work together to set goals to meet local needs.

The Model Court Initiative is sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and is administered in Kentucky by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Family services coordinators in the Department of Family and Juvenile Services provide NCJFCJ Resource Guidelines, protocols, resources and technical assistance to help court partners and family law judges identify impediments to safety, timeliness, permanency and due process. They also coordinate the local delivery of services for children in foster care and help local Model Court teams, under the

leadership of a family law judge, set annual goals related to overcoming those barriers.

The 10 Model Court sites held 60 meetings and training sessions in 2013 to encourage community involvement. The meetings addressed local and state programs that are available in the targeted area including drug treatment, DCBS/judicial training, guardian ad litem training, race and child welfare training, and mental health provider training. The committees share ideas with committees at other sites and develop training sessions that will benefit the local community and organizations. Their ideas include holding a multidisciplinary symposium on childhood trauma; providing training for school employees on how to teach parents, grandparents, caretakers and students on Internet safety; and providing peer support training.

The committees also develop new procedures that assist the court and help clients navigate their way through the proceedings. For example, three Model Courts have developed children's waiting rooms so that families and children have a safe, comfortable place to wait for their case to be heard. One court developed a "Survival Guide to Life After 18" for youth aging out of foster care. Another court created a brochure for families in dependency and neglect cases that provides information about the case and developed a video project that explains local court procedures. The video will be played for parties while they wait for their case to be called. Two courts have created a Retrospective Review Committee that will review all cases of children re-entering care.

As Model Court demonstrates its positive impact on children and families, the AOC continues to recruit new lead judges with the hope of growing the program throughout the state.

Annual state board meeting includes training on older youth in care

The CFCRB State Board held its annual meeting in November 2012. The meeting included a training session on the Chafee Independence Program for older youth on extended commitment and services for former foster youth who have exited care.

Chafee Program Administrator Paula Saenz led the session, which included a panel of older youth who were on extended commitment or who had recently left care.

The youth talked about the issues faced by aging out of care, including education, medical needs, housing and employment. The panel discussion gave CFCRB board members the opportunity to discuss the pressing issues facing older youth in care with the young people themselves.



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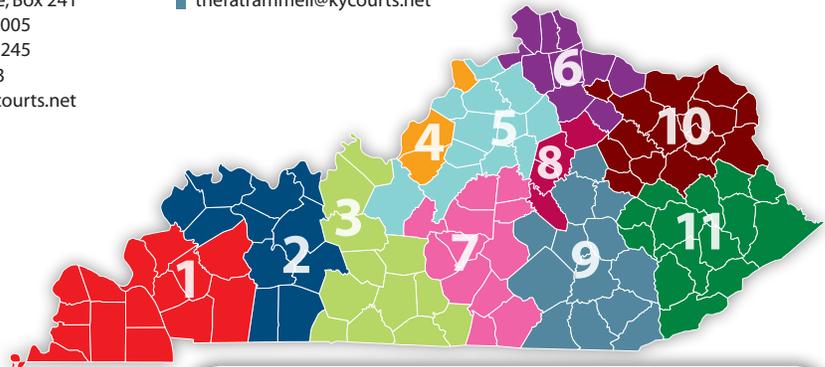
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