



## Administrative Office of the Courts

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*For Immediate Release*

### Public invited to give input on state foster care system at regional forums March 28-April 18 **6 forums being held statewide under House Bill 1 reforms**

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 22, 2019 – The public is invited to attend any of six regional community forums across the state March 28-April 18 to discuss improving outcomes for Kentucky children and families involved in the state foster care system. Citizen Foster Care Review Boards in the regions are hosting the forums.

The forums are among the reforms called for in [House Bill 1](#), which was passed in 2018 to address issues with foster care and adoption. CFCRBs first provided regional forums to get public input on the foster care system from August-October 2018.

“We encourage people to come to the forums and share their concerns about foster care,” said Tom Stevenson, chairman of the Kentucky CFCRB, which guides the work of local CFCRBs statewide. “It’s an opportunity to talk about what can be done to make the system better for thousands of Kentucky children and families. These forums are a pipeline from the public to the governor, legislature and Supreme Court. Let’s talk about getting children into permanent homes quickly, ensuring the safety and well-being of children while they’re in care and other issues. I’m hopeful that some forum attendees may also decide to get involved by volunteering with their local foster care review board.”

Findings from the forums will be reported to the Kentucky CFCRB and will be included in the board’s annual recommendations to the governor, legislature and Supreme Court of Kentucky.

Due to confidentiality, specific case information will not be discussed at the forums.

## Forum Schedule

### **Somerset**

March 28, 2019

3-4:30 p.m. ET

Pulaski County Board of Education  
Central Office Board Room  
925 N. Main St.

### **Madisonville**

April 9, 2019

3-4:30 p.m. CT

Madisonville Community College Education Center  
Community Room 103 A & B  
2000 College Drive

### **Florence/Union**

March 30, 2019

3-4:30 p.m. ET

Boone County Public Library, Scheben Branch  
(not a Boone County Public Library event)  
8899 U.S. 42

### **Frankfort**

April 15, 2019

3-4:30 p.m. ET

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1001 Vandalay Drive

### **Owensboro**

April 8, 2019

3:15-4:45 p.m. CT

Kentucky Wesleyan College  
Tapscott Chapel  
3000 Frederica St.

### **Louisville**

April 18, 2019

3-4:30 p.m. ET

Home of the Innocents  
Advanced Therapy Center Gymnasium  
1100 E. Market St.

## **Citizen Foster Care Review Boards**

CFCRBs are teams of court-appointed volunteers who make a difference in the lives of local children who are in foster care in Kentucky due to dependency, neglect or abuse. The 700-plus volunteers review cases and make recommendations to state courts and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services on behalf of the children. The volunteers work to ensure that children's needs are met while in care and that they are placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. The CHFS administers the state foster care program.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the Kentucky CFCRB in 1982 to decrease the time children spend in out-of-home care. In Fiscal Year 2018, volunteers conducted more than 21,500 reviews of the cases of more than 12,400 children in out-of-home care.

The Administrative Office of the Courts provides support services to the CFCRB program. The AOC is the operations arm for the state court system and supports the activities of more than 3,400 employees and 404 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

## **Volunteer with a CFCRB**

CFCRBs statewide need volunteers right now. Potential volunteers must consent to a criminal record and Central Registry check. A recommendation is then made to the chief judge of the District Court or Family Court for appointment. Volunteers must complete a six-hour initial training session. Visit the [CFCRB online](#) to get more information and apply. View the [2018 CFCRB Annual Report](#).