



Spring 2015

Compiled by the Citizen Foster Care Review Board Public Relations Committee

Message from AOC Executive Officer Rachel Bingham



Greetings, Citizen Foster Care Review Board Volunteers! I hope everyone has stayed safe during the snow, ice and extremely cold temperatures we have experienced throughout the state in February and March.

As usual, this year has gotten off to a busy start. I am glad to report that we have been approved by the Administrative Office of the Courts to host eight CFCRB regional trainings this year. As you are well aware, for the past several years, we have offered three to four regional trainings. This represents an increase in training opportunities for our volunteers, for which we are grateful. We have also been approved to provide another two day Chair and Vice Chair training in conjunction with the November State Board meeting. Plans are underway for the Training Committee to begin working on these projects. We welcome and encourage input from you on these upcoming trainings.

I would also like to provide updates on our progress in implementing juvenile justice reform under Senate Bill 200. SB 200 requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to take the lead in establishing the Family Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) Teams, as well as adopting and implementing a validated risk- and needs-assessment tool, and provide training for staff and community partners. SB 200 requires a continuum of sanctions that take into account factors such as the severity of a child's violation, child's previous criminal record and the child's assessed risk level. AOC staff have researched best practices and sanctions found to be effective and in the best interest of the children and families involved in the court system. These findings form the basis of the sanctions and responses for inclusion into the final guidelines. The AOC has reviewed numerous risk- and needs-assessment tools and has determined that the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) assessment tools are the best for this project at this time. FAIR Teams have been developed in the following fifteen judicial districts (twenty-five counties): Anderson, Shelby, Spencer; Barren; Bourbon, Scott, Woodford; Breathitt, Powell, Wolfe; Campbell; Christian; Clark/Madison; Daviess; Hardin; Jefferson; Kenton; Knox/Laurel; Muhlenberg/McLean; Warren; and Whitley/McCreary. These teams have been assessing appropriate service coordination and collaboration to achieve success for the children and families.

In conjunction with SB 200, the Kentucky Supreme Court has convened a Statewide Advisory Committee on Juvenile Rules of Procedure and Practice. The AOC is providing technical assistance and support services to this committee. Deputy Chief Justice Mary Noble chairs this advisory committee which has established four subcommittees: court jurisdiction, status offenses, public/youthful offenses, and forms and administrative processes. Proposed rules that are developed will be reviewed by a new Supreme Court Standing Committee on Juvenile Rules. It is anticipated that new statewide uniform Juvenile Rules of Procedure and Practice will be adopted and become effective September 1, 2015.

We have also experienced some staff changes. Audrey Ramsey is the Family Services Coordinator stationed in Fayette County. Many of you already know Audrey, as her previous position was that of Administrative Support Staff for the CFCRB program. We are also in the process of filling the vacant coordinator position in Jefferson County.

In closing, please know how much your collaboration is appreciated and valued. Working together, we can accomplish much for the CFCRB program and Kentucky's children in out-of-home care.



Message from CFCRB State Chair Richard Vincent



First, I want to thank each of you for your service to your local Citizen Foster Care Review Board. Your work each month makes an important difference in the lives of Kentucky's children in out-of-home care. Keep up the good work!

To follow up on our discussion at our State Board meeting in November 2014, I emailed all board chairs on November 20th to introduce myself as the new CFCRB State Chair and to discuss the importance of annual continuing education hours for all CFCRB volunteers.

As you know statute requires all new volunteers to be trained prior to the judge appointing them to a board [KRS 620.190 (2) (g)]. We do an excellent job of meeting this mandate. However, our policies state that every year, our reviewers are to receive six hours of continuing education. The duty of approving and providing training programs for our reviewers is one assigned to the State Board by statute KRS 620.320 (1). The idea of obtaining the continuing education every year is that it keeps us fresh and we have more learning opportunities which will enable us to become more informed on the issues facing the children and families we review. There are many ways to earn this continuing education. There are CFCRB regional trainings offered throughout the state, as well as the Legal Trainings for Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Cases (formerly called GAL Trainings) offered on a state-wide basis. There are also on-line possibilities as well as local trainings occurring in our communities. To make this practice effective, we will need to work together to encourage all CFCRB board members to attend at least six hours of continuing education each year. I am glad that we will have eight CFCRB regional trainings this year, as that will provide more training opportunities.

I and my local CFCRB – Union County – had the opportunity to meet with our new Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers. Judge Rogers was very interested in learning about our program and how we can best work together. I encourage all boards to meet with their new judges. It is the first step in building a positive working relationship.

I would also like to provide you with contact information for your representatives on the CFCRB Executive Committee. Below is a listing of our judicial regions and counties as well as the members of the 2015 – 2016 CFCRB Executive Committee.

JUDICIAL REGIONS AND THEIR COUNTIES

Region 1 – Purchase Region

Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union, and Webster

Region 2 – Green River Region

Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Larue, Meade, Metcalfe, Nelson, Ohio, Simpson, and Warren

Region 3 – Cumberland Region

Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Marion, McCreary, Monroe, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne, and Whitley

Region 4 – Metro Region

Bullitt and Jefferson

Region 5 – Bluegrass Region

Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Franklin, Garrard, Jessamine, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Owsley, Scott, and Woodford

Region 6 – Northern Region

Anderson, Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Kenton, Mason, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble

Region 7 – Mountain Region

Bath, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Powell, Rowan, and Wolfe

Region 8 – Fayette Region

Fayette

2015-2016 CFCRB Executive Committee Members

Chair: Richard Vincent - vincent8878@roadrunner.com

Vice Chair: Ed Staats – edstaats@gmail.com

Secretary: Marti Dickerson – martidsw49@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Linnea Caldon – linnea.caldon@gmail.com

Past Chair: Nathan Goins - nathan.goins@gmail.com

Region 1: Lark Buckman – larkbuckman@yahoo.com

Region 2: Chuck Morgan – chuck216d@bellsouth.net

Jan Skaggs – jan.skaggs@att.net

Region 3: Dean Prather – jdprather1@live.com

Region 4: Karen Phillips - kynutmeg@aol.com

Anna O’Neal - aoneal@twc.com

Region 5: Jim Regan – j-lregan@twc.com

Region 6: Tami Blevins – tamaralynn15@hotmail.com

Region 7: Bob Meadows - redfan@windstream.net

Region 8: Kelly Hale – kellyh@ibc-lex.org

Committee Chairs:

Training & Development Committee: Connie Wooten - connie_wooten@msn.com

Recognition Committee: Lark Buckman – larkbuckman@yahoo.com

**Public Relations Committee:
(Newsletter Editor)** Peggy Meriedeth – pmeriedeth@brtc.net

Legislative Committee: Nathan Goins - nathan.goins@gmail.com

Review Committee: Nancy Douglas – n.douglas97@yahoo.com

Jan Skaggs - jan.skaggs@att.net

Strategic Planning Committee: Linda Freeman – linda.freeman@twc.com

Again, I thank you for time and dedication to the children in out-of-home care, and I look forward to serving you as State Chair.



Greetings from Peggy Meriedeth, CFCRB Public Relations Committee Chair



As Chair of the Public Relations Committee, I would like to invite you to share with me any ideas or suggestions on how to improve our newsletter. Please let us know what you think. We also welcome suggestions for articles, including updates from your local boards.

I hope to see you at upcoming events and trainings and look forward to working together to produce an informative newsletter.

With Child Abuse Prevention Month on the horizon in April, please let us know of any events your board may be participating in and send in any pictures. It benefits us all when we read about our fellow board members' activities across the state.

I can be reached at pmeriedeth@brtc.net



In Memoriam



Paula Atkins as State Chair

Paula Atkins, former State Citizen Foster Care Review Board Chair, passed away January 31, 2015. Many of you may remember Paula, as she also served as Chair of the Legislative Committee. Her local board was in Muhlenberg County. Paula served on the CFCRB since 2002. Paula's term as State Chair began in November 2010 and ended in November 2012. She also served as Nominating Committee Chair, and often participated in Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

The Citizen Foster Care Review Board program has also lost the following dedicated volunteers, all of whom are greatly missed:

Jesse Jordan, passed away September 21, 2014; Jesse was an active volunteer of the Franklin County CFCRB since 2005;

Fred Graef, passed away October 14, 2014; Fred was a volunteer since 2010 and served as Chair of Jefferson 7A IPR Board; he also volunteered on the Bullitt IPR Board;

Margaret King, passed away November 24, 2014; Margaret joined the CFCRB in 2008 and served as Vice Chair of the Pulaski County Board and also served on the Wayne and McCreary County Boards; Margaret was also the Region 3 Regional Representative;

Tammy Miller, passed away January 29, 2015; Tammy served on the Hancock County Board since 1997 and had served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Hancock County Board; Tammy was well-known by many volunteers for hosting the Hospitality Room at several CFCRB conferences, including the 2004 CFCRB conference in Owensboro.



Children's Advocacy Day

Children's Advocacy Day was held on February 5, 2015 at the Capitol in Frankfort. This event began in 2004 as an effort to unite advocates throughout Kentucky to raise their voices together on behalf of children's and families' safety, health, education, and economic well-being. It provides an opportunity for hundreds of advocates from across the state to bring children's needs and solutions to state legislators. The Citizen Foster Care Review Board program was one of the sponsors of the event; in addition, several CFCRB volunteers, including State Chair Dick Vincent, Lark Buckman, Nathan Goins, Chuck Morgan, and Jan Skaggs, participated in the event and met with state legislators during Children's Advocacy Day.



CFCRB Members at the Capitol for Children's Advocacy Day: left to right, Nathan Goins, past State Chair; Dick Vincent, State Chair; and Lark Buckman, Regional Representative for Region 1.



April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

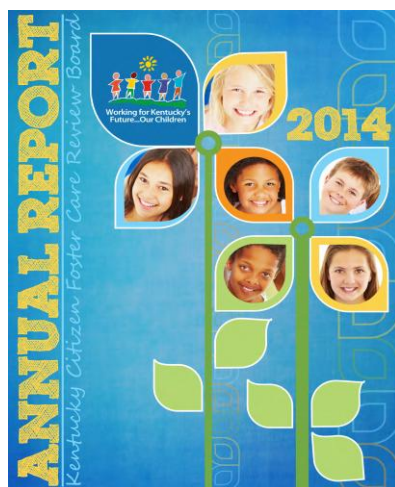
Last April, many of our volunteers participated in local community projects to help with Child Abuse Prevention Month. We wanted to take this time to remind you of the calendar of scheduled events and the resource packet available to you in assisting with planning your community projects. This year's campaign is Commit to Prevent Child Abuse.

If you are hosting or participating in any event, please send photos or news articles to CFCRB, 1001 Vandelay Drive, Frankfort Kentucky 40601 or by e-mail at CFCRB@kycourts.net.

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky has prepared a 2015 Child Abuse Prevention Month Resource Packet which can be accessed at: http://www.pcaky.org/child_abuse_prevention_month.html.

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky has also prepared a calendar of events taking place state wide, which is available at <http://www.pcaky.org/calendar.php>.

In addition, we want to remind you of the 2014 CFCRB Annual Report release and other resources available online at: <http://courts.ky.gov/courtprograms/cfcrb/Documents/2014CFCRBAnnualReport.pdf>.



As always, we commend you and thank you for your many efforts on behalf of Kentucky's children in care.



CFCRB Meet and Greet Sessions

Jefferson County boards hosted a Meet and Greet to thank their outgoing Family Court Judges on October 10, 2014. At this Meet and Greet, Tina Willauer, START Director from the Cabinet also presented on the START program. START stands for Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams. The Kentucky START program is an intensive intervention model for substance abusing parents and families with the child welfare system that integrates addiction and recovery services, family preservation, community partnerships and best practices in child welfare and substance use disorder treatment. The following Kentucky counties have START programs: Boyd, Daviess, Jefferson, Kenton and Martin.



Jefferson County Meet and Greet, left to right:
Patricia Tennen, CFCRB; Judge Jerry Bowles; Judge Eleanor Garber;
Judge Patricia FitzGerald; Chris Owens, CFCRB; Anna O'Neal, CFCRB;
Pat Gray, CFCRB; Mary Gayle Smith, CFCRB; Richard Lewis, CFCRB;
Laura Raque, CFCRB; Bud Sanders, CFCRB; Judge Joseph O'Reilly

The Franklin County Citizen Foster Care Review Board held a Meet and Greet with Franklin County Family Court Judge William Squire at their December 15, 2014 CFCRB meeting. The board really appreciates Judge Squire attending and enjoys getting to talk with him about what he looks for on the review forms and what is important to him. The Franklin County Chair, CJ Howard, sets this up every December; the board has Christmas goodies as snacks and has the opportunity to speak with Judge Squire.



Franklin County Meet and Greet, front row, left to right:
Kate Morgan, CFCRB; Brenda Rice, CFCRB; Amy Smitha, Family Services
Coordinator; and CJ Howard, CFCRB
Back row from left to right: Sarah Carter, CFCRB; Sam Johnson, CFCRB;
Larry Perkins, CFCRB; Francine Poe, CFCRB; and Judge William Squire



Plans for 2015 CFCRB Regionals and Chair Training

We are pleased to announce we have been approved by the Administrative Office of the Courts to host eight CFCRB regional trainings this year. As you are well aware, for the past several years, we have offered three to four regional trainings. This represents an increase in training opportunities for our volunteers, for which we are grateful. Over the next few months we will be working to schedule exact locations and dates for these trainings. Registration will be available in the future on your website at the following address: <http://courts.ky.gov/courtprograms/cfcrb/Pages/default.aspx>. This is also the web site for potential new volunteers to use to register for initial trainings.

The regionals will take place in August, September and October in the following counties: Fayette, Floyd, Hardin, Jefferson, Kenton, Lyon, Pulaski and Rowan. Volunteers will receive 6.0 hours of required continuing education training. Chairs and Vice Chairs will receive regional training at the two day chair vice chair training in November.

We have also been approved to provide another two day Chair and Vice Chair training in conjunction with the November State Board meeting in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chairs and Vice Chairs will receive their annually required 4.0 training, hours for attending State Board, and the opportunity to receive 6.0 hours on the regional materials offered in the prior months.

Once dates have been set, a notice will be sent to you. So remember to keep August, September, October and November in mind when scheduling your continuing education hours. We hope to see you then!





Highlights from the 2014 CFCRB Regionals, State Board and Chair Training

CFCRB regional trainings were held last October in Frankfort, Princeton and Louisville. Topics covered during the regional trainings included: the new Assessment and Documentation Tool (ADT) used by the Department for Community Based Services when conducting an investigation; compassion fatigue; family engagement; as well as the judicial expectations of the CFCRB.

A two-day Chair and Vice Chair training was conducted in November in Frankfort in conjunction with the annual State Board meeting. Topics covered at the Chair/Vice Chair training included: the ACE Study – Adverse Childhood Experiences, which focused on the impact of childhood trauma on one's health, social well-being and economic stability later in life; Recognizing and Managing Compassion Fatigue, plus the traditional Chair training focusing on procedures.

Volunteer recognition was also a big part of these trainings. Below are some pictures of award winners from these trainings. We hope you will enjoy seeing your fellow board members in the following pictures. And we hope to see you at one of the trainings in the fall of 2015!

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Janet Head, Shelby County CFCRB





Fayette County Family Court Judge Lucinda Masterton presenting Outstanding Volunteer Awards to Judy Adams (left) of Kenton County CFCRB and Mary Forder (right) of Boone/Gallatin CFCRB



Fayette County Family Court Judge Lucinda Masterton presenting Outstanding Volunteer Awards to Wallace Guerrant (left) of Clark County CFCRB and Dianne Shuntich (right) of Madison County CFCRB



Fayette County Family Court Judge Lucinda Masterton presenting the Outstanding Volunteer Award to Ed Staats, Oldham, Henry and Trimble CFCRBs

Department of Family and Juvenile Services, Family Services Administrator, Troy Bell presenting the Outstanding Judge Award to Fayette Family Court Judge Lucinda Masterton





Lifetime Achievement Award
Winners – left to right Vickie Batts,
Fulton/Hickman CFCRB and
Nancy Piper, Ballard/Carlisle
CFCRB



Lark Buckman, CFCRB Regional Representative, Region 1, presenting the 25 Years
Service Award to Anita Williams, McCracken A CFCRB



Lark Buckman, CFCRB Regional Representative, Region 1, presenting the Outstanding Judge Award to Daviess District Judge Lisa Jones

Jefferson Family Court Judge Patricia Walker FitzGerald presenting 25 Years of Service Award to Lea Fischbach, Jefferson 1 and 3 CFCRB and IPR boards





Jefferson Family Court
Judge Patricia Walker
FitzGerald presenting
Outstanding Judge Award to
Jefferson Family Court
Judge Joseph O'Reilly



Dept. of Family and Juvenile Services Executive Officer Rachel Bingham presenting
award of appreciation to outgoing State CFRB Chair Nathan Goins



Nathan Goins, outgoing State Chair presenting award of appreciation to outgoing CFCRB Executive Committee Member and CFCRB Training and Development and Strategic Planning Committee Chair Elizabeth Lucas, Franklin County CFCRB

Nathan Goins, outgoing State Chair, presenting award of appreciation to outgoing Regional Representative, Region 3, Fred Davidson, Leslie County and Perry County IPR





Nathan Goins, outgoing State Chair, presenting award of appreciation to outgoing Regional Representative, Region 8, Connie Wooten, Fayette B CFCRB and Fayette 4 IPR

Nathan Goins, outgoing State Chair, presenting award of appreciation to outgoing Executive Committee member and Legislative Committee Chair, Larry Perkins, Franklin County CFCRB



Award winners not pictured include: Lifetime Achievement Awards to Sherry Ayres, Carroll and Owen Counties; Jo Farley, Calloway County; Patricia Farnell, Rowan County; Joann Harvey, Trigg County; and Patricia McMullin, Calloway County; Outstanding Judge Award to Crittenden, Union and Webster Family Court Judge William Mitchell; Outstanding Volunteer Awards to Berlin Goins, Clay, Knox and McCreary Counties; Deborah Hansford, McCreary County; Tammy Miller, Hancock County, Chuck Morgan, Daviess County; Dr. Ryan Ward, Fayette County.

We salute all CFCRB volunteers for their dedication to Kentucky's children in out-of-home care. Thanks to you, these children's voices do not go unheard.