



2016

# Annual Report

**Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board**



Working for Kentucky's Future ... Our Children





## CFCRB volunteers are important advocates for Kentucky children in out-of-home care

John D. Minton Jr.  
Chief Justice of Kentucky

Kentucky children in out-of-home care have a special group of people advocating on their behalf. More than 700 men and women volunteer with the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to help these children obtain permanent placements as quickly as possible.

Kentucky law requires the CFCRB to review the cases of children who are in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services due to dependency, neglect and abuse.

In Fiscal Year 2016, CFCRB volunteers conducted nearly 21,000 reviews of more than 11,300 children in out-of-home care. You will find this information and much more in the 2016 CFCRB Annual Report, which provides the latest statistics, legislative recommendations

and updates on initiatives related to the review boards.

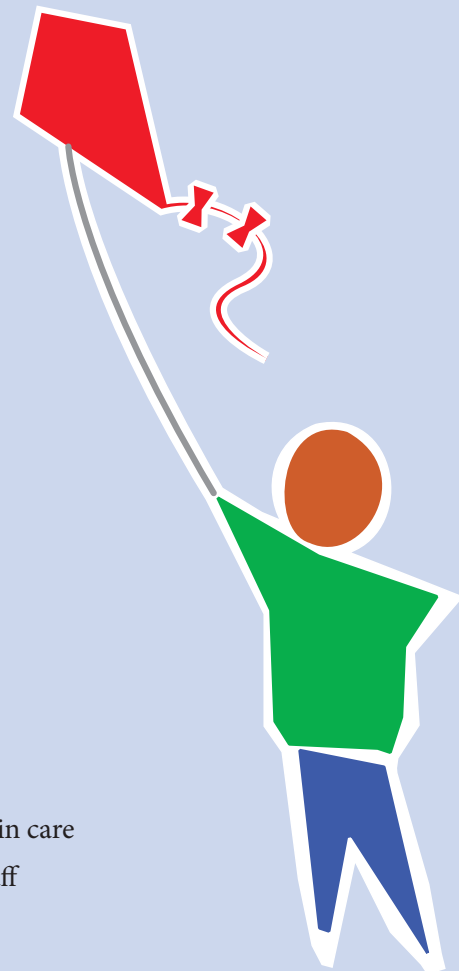
Through regular monitoring, CFCRB volunteers can make informed recommendations to judges on permanency plans that are in the best interests of the children.

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

Just one person can make a difference in a child's life. CFCRB volunteers prove that every day, and I want to thank each of them for their extraordinary commitment to Kentucky's children.

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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 2016: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

I am pleased to present the 2016 Citizen Foster Care Review Board Annual Report. This report offers a detailed analysis of the children served by the CFCRB, review board activities and support services provided by the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

CFCRB volunteers offer an invaluable service to Kentucky's children in out-of-home care. In addition, they provide a direct service to judges throughout the state by monitoring children placed in out-of-home care and presenting findings and recommendations to the court on every child reviewed by the local boards.

CFCRB volunteers also submit legislative recommendations to help improve services for children in out-of-home care and work to attain permanency for these children in a timely manner.

Federal policies, such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, emphasize more timely permanency for children in the child welfare system. Recommendations include shortening timelines in making decisions about permanency and clarifying when reasonable efforts to reunify a child with birth parents is not required. These policies provide a firm foundation for the advocacy of the CFCRB volunteers.

Here is a current snapshot of Kentucky's foster care system:

**Children in Care.** In Fiscal Year 2016, 720 CFCRB volunteers conducted 14,509 paper reviews and 6,360 interested party reviews for a total of 20,869 reviews of 11,387 children. This represents 4,356 volunteer hours on paper case file reviews and 11,746 volunteers hours on interested party reviews.

**Length of Stay.** The average length of stay for children in care was 18.9 months, a slight increase over 18.7 months in FY 2015.

**Reunification.** Of the children reviewed by the CFCRB, 35 percent were released through reunification to parents or primary caregivers in FY 2016. Another 28 percent were released through placement with relatives. These numbers remain consistent with FY 2015.

**Exiting Care.** The percentage of children who aged out of care remained consistent with the prior fiscal year. In FY 2016, 12 percent of youth exited care by aging out of care.

**Ages of Children Served.** Of the children reviewed by the CFCRB, those ages 5 and younger remain the largest age group at 33 percent. The next largest age groups were children ages 6 to 10 at 23 percent and ages 16 to 20, also at 23 percent.

**Number of Placements.** Children experienced an average of 1.85 placements per commitment, a slight decrease from the 2.02 placements per commitment reported in FY 2015. This figure is close to the federal expectation of no more than 2 placements until a child achieves permanency.

**Finalized Adoption.** FY 16 saw a slight increase in the percentage of children achieving adoption, with 24 percent exiting care due to a finalized adoption compared to 20 percent in FY 2015. Children with a finalized adoption spent 38 months in care, a slight increase over 37 months in care in FY 2015.

**Interested Party Reviews.** CFCRB volunteers conducted 6,360 IPRs in FY 2016, a 21 percent increase over FY 2015. The IPRs focused on 4,121 children, a 20 percent increase over the previous year. The number of review boards statewide that use IPR as the standard for reviewing all cases grew to 65 percent, up from 59 percent in FY 2015 and 53 percent in FY 2014.

**CFCRB Meetings.** CFCRB volunteers conducted a record number of meetings – 2,222 – in FY 2016. The additional board meetings were due to reviewing committed status offenders and the increase in interested party reviews.

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I commend the many CFCRB volunteers for their dedication to children in out-of-home care. I remain impressed by these tireless advocates who provide a voice for the children who need it most.

Their work is critical in helping Kentucky's children achieve better outcomes, including safe, permanent homes.

# CFCRB Executive Committee

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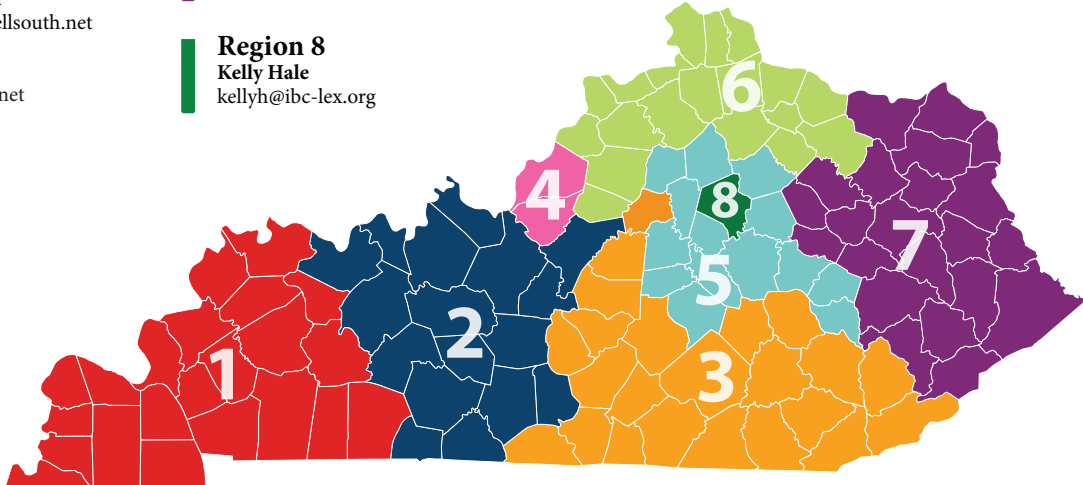
**Public Relations  
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## CFCRB Mission

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

## CFCRB Vision

With respect to children in care:

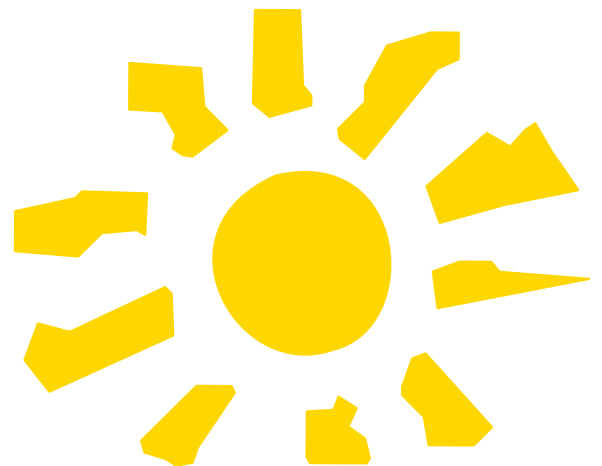
To ensure adequate and necessary services are provided to families and children with the utmost importance given to safety, well-being and permanency.

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 the CFRB volunteers:

To promote awareness and understanding regarding children's issues through educational opportunities at local, regional and state levels.



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# Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

## 2016 Recommendations for Legislative & Policy Reform

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

The CFCRB State Board approved the following legislative recommendation for 2016:

### **Eliminate duplication when notifying parties for 6-month and annual reviews**

KRS 620.270 defines the scope of the Citizen Foster Care Review Board's six-month review. During the 2015 legislative session, KRS 620.270 was changed to add subsection (4), which reads: Notice of this review and the right to attend and participate in the review shall be provided to the

child's parents, if parental rights have not been terminated or surrendered; the parent's attorney; the guardian ad litem, the attorney for the child, or both; the foster parents; the prospective adoptive parent; the relative providing care for the child; and the child who is a party to the proceeding. The cabinet and the court shall develop adequate procedures to provide notice of the review to these persons.

However, the addition of subsection (4) resulted in duplicating the notifications for parties in a case when the child's annual permanency review conducted by the judge and the six-month review conducted by the CFCRB occur in the same month.

To streamline the notification process and avoid duplication, the CFCRB recommends adding this statement to KRS 620.270(4): The provisions of this subsection shall not apply if the review occurs in the same month as the court's annual permanency review 610.125.



# Questions & Answers

## Out-of-Home Care Demographics

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

In FY 2016, the youngest child reviewed by CFCRB volunteers was 3 months old and the oldest was 22 years old (due to extended commitment). The average age remained constant at 10 years. Children ages 5 and younger were the largest age group (33 percent) to be reviewed. The next largest age groups were children ages 6 to 10 at 23 percent and ages 16 to 20, also at 23 percent.

The age analysis is based on children who were in out-of-home care on June 30, 2016, and includes children who were released from the Cabinet's custody any time during the fiscal year.

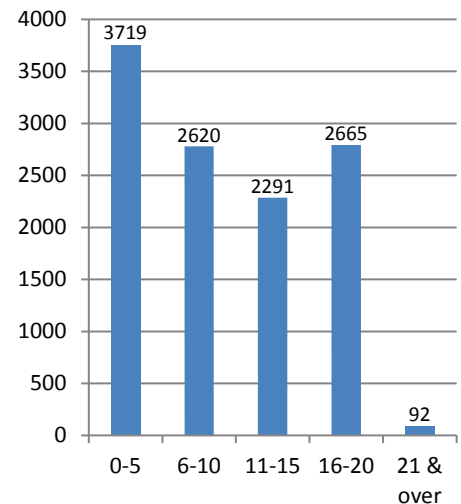
### What gender are children in out-of-home care?

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

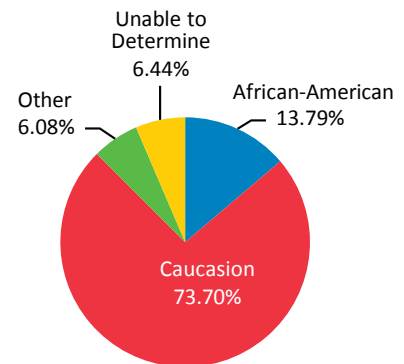
### What race are children in foster care?

Of the children in foster care, 74 percent are Caucasian, 14 percent are African-American, 6 percent are unable to be determined and the remaining 6 percent are other races. The other races include American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. Across all the races listed above, 4 percent identified their ethnicity as being Hispanic.

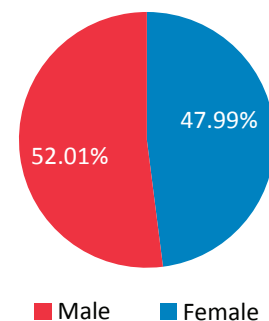
Foster Care Children by Age



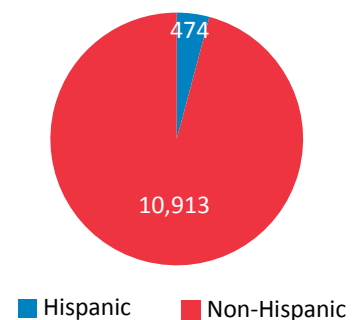
Foster Care Children by Race



Foster Care Children by Gender



Foster Care Children by Ethnicity



## 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 2016 – experienced an average length of stay of 20.8 months. Inactive children – children released at any time during the fiscal year – experienced an average stay of 16.7 months. The overall average length of stay for FY 2015 was 18.9 months, which represents a slight increase from the average length of stay of 18.7 months reported for FY 2015.

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 24 months in care compared to 15 months in care for children ages 5 and younger.

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.

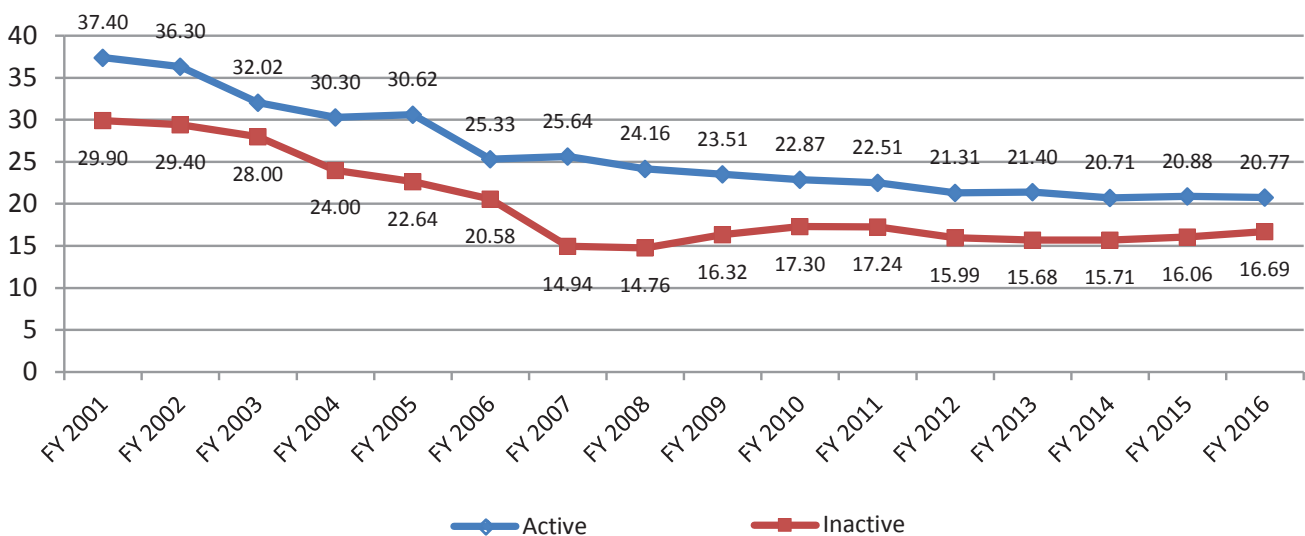
*Note: Statistics captured in this chart represent all children whose cases were reviewed between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. The term “active children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year and who were still in care on June 30, 2016. “Inactive children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year but were released prior to June 30, 2016.*



Age in Years

Age in Years	Active	Inactive	All Children
0-5 Years	17.0	13.0	15.0
6-10 Years	19.5	17.3	18.5
11-15 Years	20.4	15.3	18.3
Over 15 Years	26.7	21.8	24.3
Overall	20.8	16.7	18.9

Average Length of Stay in Months





## Exiting Out-of-Home Care

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

The majority of children – 35 percent – were released from care through reunification with parents or primary guardians. The next largest group of children exiting care – 28 percent – was through placement with relatives. These percentages are consistent with FY 2015.

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

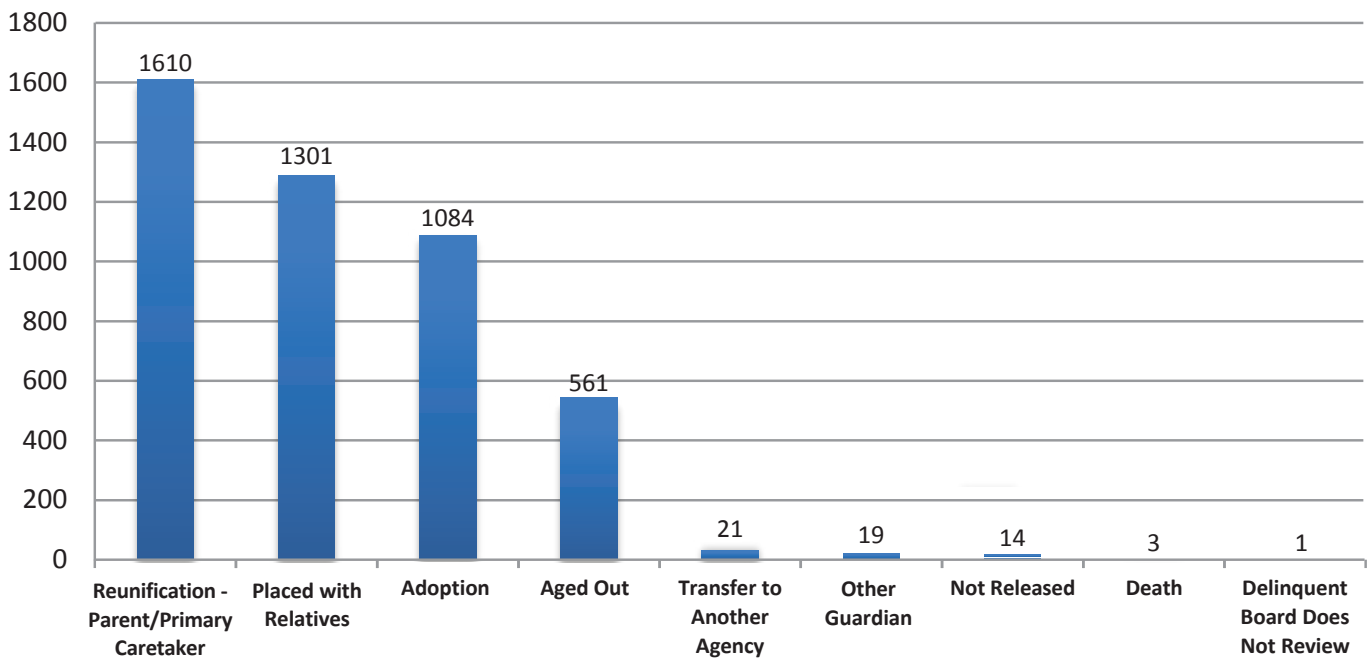
Twenty-four percent of children released from out-of-home care achieved permanency through adoption in FY 2016. Children who exited care because of a finalized adoption spent 38 months in care prior to adoption. The

percentage of children achieving adoption increased slightly over FY 2015, which saw 20 percent of children released through adoption.

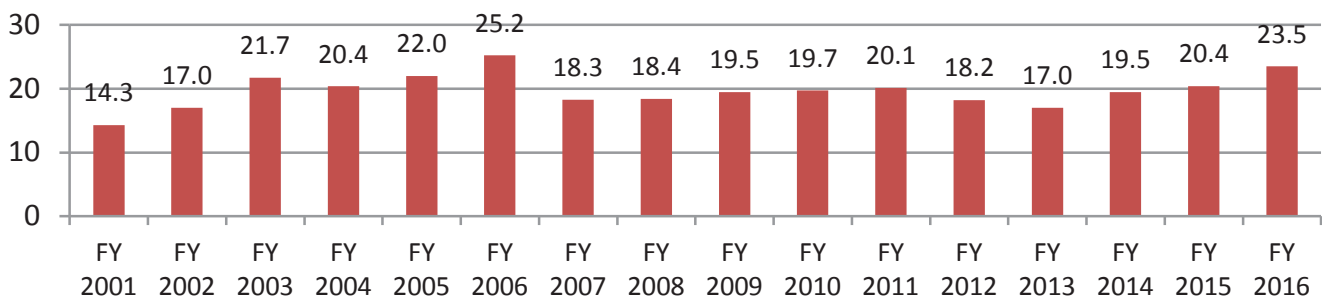
These two charts show the percentage of adoptions and average number of months to finalized adoptions.

*Note: The variance in the statistical comparison between FY 2005 and FY 2006 may be due to the implementation of CATS, the Children’s Automated Tracking System. 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 data-tracking system for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.*

Foster Care Children by Exit Type



Percent of Adoptions Per Fiscal Year



## 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 1.85 placements per commitment in FY 2016. The average number of placements is an improvement over the last three fiscal years, which reported 2.02 placements per commitment in FY 2015, 2.15 placements per commitment in FY 2014 and 2.3 placements per commitment in FY 2013. This number is also much closer to the federal expectation of 2 placements for a child in out-of-home care.

The number of placements per commitment for children still active as of June 30, 2016, has continued to decrease:

FY 2016 - 2.2 placements  
 FY 2015 - 2.4 placements  
 FY 2014 - 2.6 placement  
 FY 2013 - 2.8 placements

The number of placements per commitment for children who were released from care decreased from the prior fiscal year:

FY 2016 - 1.5 placements  
 FY 2015 - 1.6 placements  
 FY 2014 - 1.7 placement  
 FY 2013 - 1.8 placements

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services reports that 55.5 percent of the children in their custody in FY 2016 were placed in private child care arrangements, which is a slight increase from the 54.6 percent reported in FY 2015. 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, 11 percent are in level 5 placements with an additional 5 percent placed in therapeutic foster care at level 5.<sup>1</sup>

When determining placement for a child, the CHFS 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.

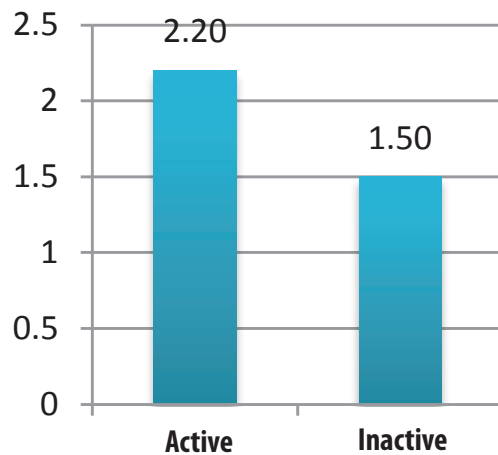
<sup>1</sup> Cabinet for Health and Family Services, TWS-058 SFY 2013, SFY 2014, SFY 2015; Foster Care Facts for July 2013, July 2014, July 2015, July 2016.

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

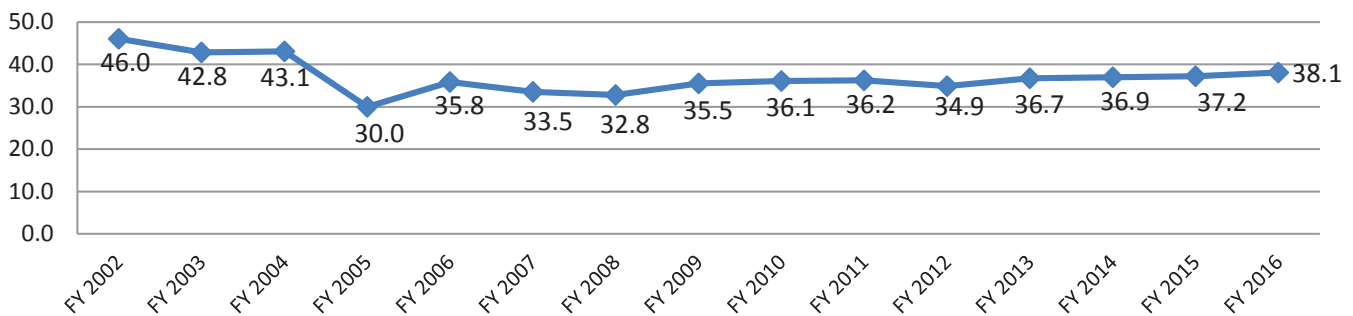
Based upon information provided by the CHFS, 73 children were placed out of state in FY 2016. Children are often placed out of state when the CHFS locates a relative living outside of Kentucky who is willing to accept the child for placement.<sup>2</sup> Out-of-state placements are approved through the Interstate Compact process.

<sup>2</sup> Cabinet for Health and Family Services, TWS-058 SFY 2013, SFY 2014, SFY 2015; Foster Care Facts for July 2013, July 2014, July 2015, July 2016.

Average Placements Per Child for FY 2016



Average Months to Finalized Adoption



## Establishing Permanency Goals

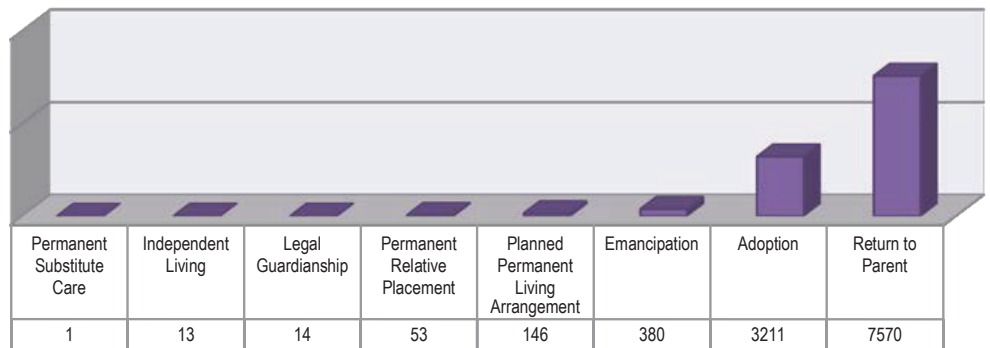
### How is the permanency goal established and defined?

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 CHFS 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.

**Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care**



## 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, 720 volunteers serve on 165 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.

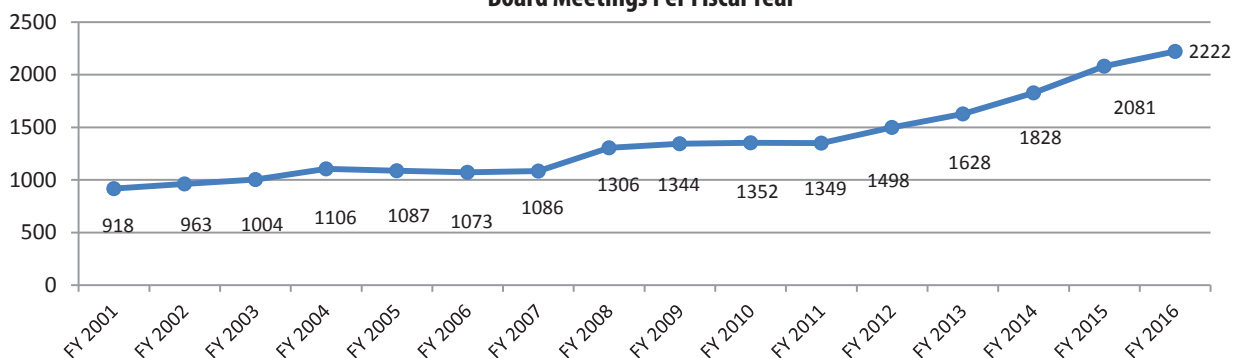
Volunteers regularly review each child's case with a particular focus on the out-of-home placement and the

permanency plan established by the CHFS. 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 2016, the volunteers held 2,222 meetings and conducted 20,869 reviews on 11,387 children in out-of-home care. The growth can be attributed in part to 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.

**Board Meetings Per Fiscal Year**



**Who are CFCRB volunteers?**

CFCRB volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but all are committed to the welfare of Kentucky children.

Of the 720 volunteers, 86 percent are female and 43 percent have backgrounds in education, medicine, law, social work and psychology. The volunteers range in age from 21 to 89, with an average age of 57. The average length of service is six years, which demonstrates their dedication 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 report from the Administrative Office of the Courts and a Central Registry Check from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

New volunteers are trained on the following topics:

- Cabinet for Health and Family Services 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 provided the background checks and completed the initial 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 six hours of continuing education, which is required each year.

**What cases do CFCRB volunteers review?**

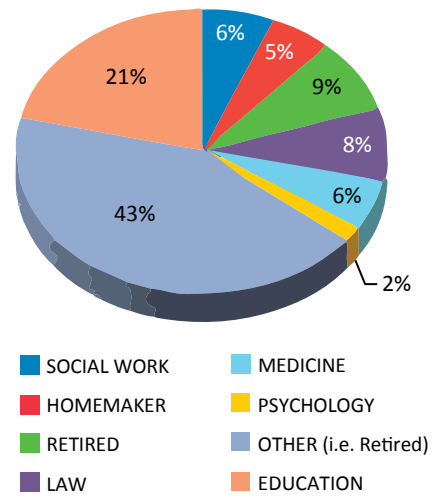
Pursuant to KRS 620.270, CFCRB volunteers review the case of each child who is placed into the custody of the CHFS by a court order for temporary custody or commitment. The reviews are conducted in the county or counties served by the local CFCRB board.

The cases include children 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.

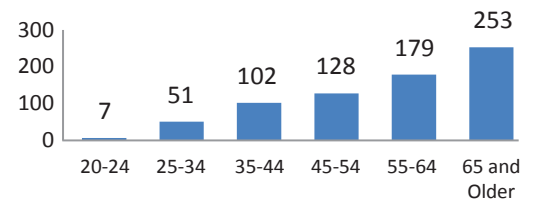
**What resources are needed to conduct a review?**

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

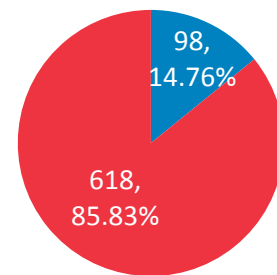
**Volunteers by Profession**



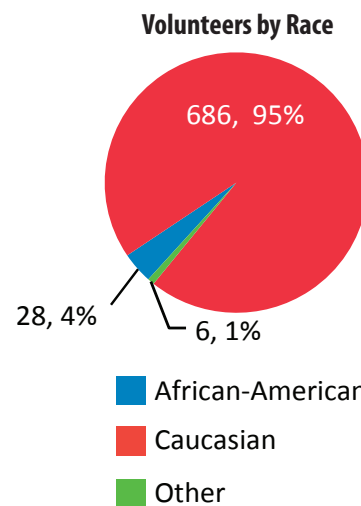
**Volunteers by Age Group**



**Volunteers by Gender**



**Volunteers by Race**



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 CHFS 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 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.

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

**How often are reviews conducted?**

According to KRS 620.270, every child must be reviewed at least once every six months. However, 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?**

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.

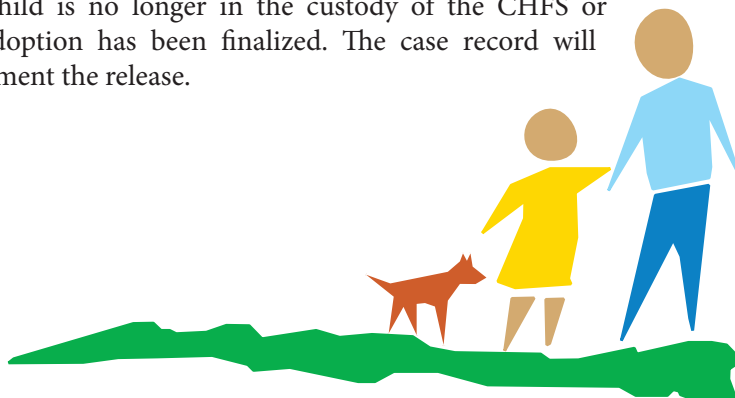
The chief judge of Family Court or District Court designates where the review will take place. Reviews are often conducted at the local office of the Department for Community Based Services. Many of the interested party reviews are conducted in local judicial centers.

**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 pre-adoptive placement or if the CHFS 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?**

According 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 will document the release.



**CFCRB Activity by Interested Party Review Board for Fiscal Year 2016**

	IPR Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	29	18
ALLEN	59	39
BALLARD/CARLISLE	29	18
BOYLE COUNTY IPR	124	67
BREATHITT	47	32
BRECKINRIDGE	78	46
BULLITT	71	41
BULLITT B	69	40
CALDWELL/LYON	43	30
CALLOWAY	104	67
CAMPBELL 4 IPR	59	35
CARTER COUNTY IPR	76	57
CASEY	29	21
CHRISTIAN	134	106
CHRISTIAN B IPR	3	3
CLAY COUNTY IPR	120	63
CLINTON	16	12
CRITTENDEN	34	19
DAVISS A	79	50
DAVISS B	73	45
DAVISS C	61	43
EDMONSON	70	45
ELLIOTT/MORGAN	42	27
ESTILL	64	35
FAYETTE	2	2
Fayette 1 IPR	1	1
Fayette 2 IPR	45	36
Fayette 4 IPR	48	35
FAYETTE E	20	19
Fayette G	1	1
FLOYD	36	25
FULTON/HICKMAN	18	11
GARRARD	82	47
GRAVES	82	56
GREEN	20	12
HARDIN A	133	102
HARDIN B	102	76
HARDIN C	100	77
HARDIN D	44	44
HARRISON/NICHOLAS IPR	97	79
HART	19	15
HENDERSON	69	43
HENRY	33	19
HOPKINS	119	74
IPR BOYD	60	55
IPR CLARK	25	25
IPR FAYETTE E	12	12
IPR FAYETTE G	50	45
IPR Floyd	5	5
IPR GREENUP	83	52
IPR JOHNSON	46	36
IPR LINCOLN	99	53
IPR MONTGOMERY	78	61
IPR PIKE	66	52
IPR ROCKCASTLE	80	48
IPR ROWAN	76	55
IPR WHITLEY	85	64
JACKSON	27	15
JEFFERSON	29	29
JEFFERSON 1/3 IPR	11	11
JEFFERSON 10 IPR	10	9
JEFFERSON 3 IPR	6	6
JEFFERSON 5	82	49
JEFFERSON 5A	83	53
JEFFERSON 7	75	49
JEFFERSON 7A	57	38
JEFFERSON 8 IPR	25	22
KENTON 4 IPR	61	41
KENTON 5 IPR	99	77
KENTON 5 IPR	69	44
Kenton Status IPR	46	33
KNOTT/PERRY IPR	20	16
KNOX COUNTY IPR	119	67
LARUE	35	23
LAUREL 1	69	46
LAWRENCE	38	22
LEE/OWSLEY	32	20
LESLIE	6	4
LETCHER	55	35
LIVINGSTON	7	5
LOGAN	97	60
Madison A	116	75
MAGOFFIN	31	20
MARION/WASHINGTON	44	35
MARSHALL	105	62
MARSHALL B	62	39
MARTIN	43	31
MCCRACKEN B	62	39
MCCREARY	119	65
MCLEAN	16	8
MEADE	116	77
MERCER	80	50
METCALFE	27	17
Monroe/Cumberland	28	19
MUHLENBERG	33	25
NELSON	44	26
OHIO	79	55
OLDHAM	66	44
PENDLETON	42	23
POWELL	75	47
PULASKI	110	66
ROCKCASTLE	9	9
RUSSELL	51	32
SIMPSON	27	24
SPENCER	49	32
TAYLOR	43	25
TODD	34	26
TRIGG	27	20
TRIMBLE	34	23
UNION	43	31
WARREN A IPR	70	42
WARREN B	34	34
Warren Status IPR	21	14
WAYNE	29	21
WEBSTER	13	10
WHITLEY	60	48
WOLFE	11	4
STATEWIDE	6,360	4,121

## CFCRB Activity by Review Board for Fiscal Year 2016

	Paper Reviews	Children Reviewed		Paper Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	12	12	JEFFERSON 2	305	159
ALLEN	41	41	JEFFERSON 3	270	113
ANDERSON	180	83	JEFFERSON 4	310	170
BALLARD/CARLISLE	6	5	JEFFERSON 5	39	37
BARREN	203	139	JEFFERSON 5A	25	24
BATH/MENIFEE	105	57	JEFFERSON 6	313	141
BELL	65	39	JEFFERSON 7	31	31
BOONE/GALLATIN	253	109	JEFFERSON 7A	15	15
BOURBON	130	64	JEFFERSON 8	192	128
BOYD	382	220	JEFFERSON 8 IPR	2	2
BOYLE COUNTY IPR	46	43	JEFFERSON 9	200	106
BREATHITT	16	15	JESSAMINE	164	81
BRECKINRIDGE	35	35	KENTON 1	246	132
BULLITT	26	25	KENTON 2	148	105
BULLITT B	27	27	KENTON 3	236	114
BUTLER	101	69	KENTON 4 IPR	6	6
CALDWELL/LYON	3	3	KENTON 5	18	18
CALLOWAY	44	42	KENTON 6	339	204
CAMPBELL 1	298	136	KENTON 7	149	78
CAMPBELL 2	237	125	KENTON 8 IPR	19	19
CAMPBELL 4 IPR	8	8	KENTON STATUS IPR	16	16
CARROLL	127	52	KNOTT	35	25
CARTER	83	74	KNOTT/PERRY IPR	22	22
CASEY	10	10	KNOX COUNTY IPR	48	42
CHRISTIAN	85	82	LARUE	32	30
CLARK	323	176	LAUREL	39	35
CLAY	59	59	LEE/OWSLEY	50	45
CLINTON	19	18	LESLIE	8	6
CRITTENDEN	3	3	LETCHER	38	38
DAVISS A	41	41	LEWIS	18	11
DAVISS B	48	48	LIVINGSTON	7	7
DAVISS C	36	36	LOGAN	50	47
EDMONSON	42	40	MADISON A	48	46
ELLIOTT/MORGAN	29	21	MADISON B	215	100
ESTILL	16	16	MADISON C	301	130
Fayette 2 IPR	10	10	MAGOFFIN	20	20
Fayette 4 IPR	11	11	MARION/WASHINGTON	42	35
FAYETTE A	189	101	MARSHALL	42	42
FAYETTE B	232	100	Marshall B	12	12
FAYETTE C	291	140	MARTIN	51	37
FAYETTE D	163	96	MASON/BRACKEN	225	131
FAYETTE E	96	75	MCCRACKEN A	162	42
FAYETTE F	194	94	MCCRACKEN B	18	18
FAYETTE G	45	37	MCCREARY	39	39
FAYETTE H	278	127	MCLEAN	7	6
FAYETTE I	273	105	MEADE	50	49
FAYETTE J	192	90	MERCER	34	31
FAYETTE K	161	88	METCALFE	1	1
FAYETTE L	52	46	MONROE/CUMBERLAND	20	20
FLEMING/ROBERTSON	72	51	MUHLENBERG	37	37
FLOYD	85	64	NELSON	12	12
FRANKLIN	226	97	OHIO	70	70
FULTON/HICKMAN	6	6	OLDHAM	53	46
GARRARD	22	22	OWEN	116	41
GRANT	158	91	PENDLETON IPR	20	20
GRAVES	36	36	PERRY	186	103
GRAYSON	196	146	PIKE	21	16
GREEN	10	9	POWELL	11	11
HANCOCK	26	9	PULASKI	82	69
HARDIN A	74	74	ROWAN	45	42
HARDIN B	73	71	RUSSELL	14	11
HARDIN C	66	63	SCOTT	182	91
HARDIN D	32	32	SHELBY	182	94
HARLAN	48	29	SIMPSON	58	44
HARRISON/NICHOLAS	28	28	SPENCER	56	52
HARRISON/NICHOLAS IPR	70	67	TAYLOR	32	28
HART	23	23	TODD	42	40
HENDERSON	24	24	TRIGG	17	17
HENRY	20	19	TRIMBLE	28	21
HOPKINS	26	26	UNION	17	17
IPR CLARK	12	12	WARREN A	198	142
IPR Fayette G	43	40	WARREN A IPR	21	21
IPR GREENUP	27	23	WARREN B	95	77
IPR JOHNSON	118	88	WARREN C	168	107
IPR LAWRENCE	16	16	WARREN STATUS IPR	7	7
IPR LINCOLN	41	36	WAYNE	34	32
IPR MONTGOMERY	39	32	WEBSTER	17	17
IPR PIKE	103	81	WHITLEY	32	30
IPR ROCKCASTLE	70	68	WOLFE	2	2
IPR ROWAN	32	32	WOODFORD	75	37
IPR WHITLEY	79	75	STATEWIDE	14,509	8,692
JACKSON	16	13			
JEFFERSON 1	366	138			
JEFFERSON 10	281	155			
JEFFERSON 10 IPR	12	11			

# News & Updates

## CFCRB volunteers learn specialized skills at Regional Trainings

The Citizen Foster Care Review Board provided two rounds of Regional Trainings in Fiscal Year 2016. The trainings help CFCRB volunteers improve their ability to conduct thorough case reviews and make informed recommendations to the court. They also provide the six hours of continuing education that volunteers must receive each year.

The programs took place in Boone, Caldwell, Carter, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Jefferson, Laurel, Hardin, Rowan and Warren counties from September 2015 to June 2016.

### Fall 2015 Regional Trainings

**Volunteer Safety.** This session focused on steps taken by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department for Community Based Services to ensure CFCRB volunteers are safe during board meetings. Attendees learned how to use de-escalation techniques when dealing with potentially hostile individuals at interested party reviews.

**Dependency, Neglect and Abuse: Understanding Important Legal Processes in Relation to the Review Process.** This interactive session gave CFCRB volunteers the opportunity to discuss scenarios incorporating issues routinely encountered during reviews of children in out-of-home care. The scenarios provided information on state and federal law, policies of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Family Court Rules of Procedure and Practice, and other topics.

**Understanding Judicial Responsibility and Reasonable Efforts.** A local Family Court or District Court judge presented this session, which covered judicial determinations related to reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan and judicial determinations contrary to the welfare requirement of Title IV-E.

**Identifying Barriers to Permanency to Include in CFCRB Recommendations.** In this session, CFCRB volunteers discussed obstacles that may impede a child from reaching permanency in a timely manner and how the child welfare system provides solutions to some of these barriers.

**Writing Effective Recommendations.** This interactive session called for CFCRB volunteers to work in groups to compile recommendations to present to the court. The recommendations were based on the state and federal laws and policies discussed in the earlier session.

### Spring 2016 Regional Trainings

**Domestic Violence.** Participants took part in the “Comings and Goings” exercise to learn how choices made by domestic violence victims impact their children and how this trauma can have a harmful effect on the children in the home.

**Kinship/Relative Placement.** A member of the DCBS staff presented a scenario to guide CFCRB volunteers through what is available for a family in kinship/relative placements. The DCBS staff person explained the difference between kinship placement and foster care, including options for families and the services offered.

### Annual CFCRB State Board Meeting

In addition, the CFCRB State Board held its annual meeting on Nov. 7, 2015. This gave local chairs the opportunity to attend the board meeting and the final regional training for the calendar year. There were 63 volunteers who attended the board meeting.

## CFCRB volunteers raise their voices on Children’s Advocacy Day

Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers once again participated in the annual Children’s Advocacy Day, which took place at the Capitol in Frankfort on Jan. 14, 2016.

Children’s Advocacy Day provides an opportunity for hundreds of advocates to bring children’s needs and solutions to the attention of state legislators. The CFCRB was one of the sponsors of the 2016 event.

The event began in 2004 as an effort to unite advocates throughout Kentucky to speak on behalf of the safety, health,

education and economic well-being of children and families.

The 2015 CFCRB legislative recommendation focused on requiring the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to give CFCRB volunteers access to the most recent educational record of a child via any system maintained by the Kentucky Education Cabinet.

It also required giving all youth in care access to their educational record at age 18. Young people exiting care need this information for workforce readiness programs.

## Interested Party Review Update

An Interested Party Review is an interactive review process that 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. The IPR focuses on 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 completes a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations, which is submitted to the judge responsible for the case review.

In Fiscal Year 2016, CFCRB volunteers conducted 6,360 IPRs for a 21 percent increase over FY 2015. There were 4,121 children who received this intensive review, which is also a 20 percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

The number of counties using IPR has grown significantly since the program began in 2008:

FY 2016 - 65 percent	FY 2012 - 29 percent
FY 2015 - 59 percent	FY 2011 - 24 percent
FY 2014 - 53 percent	FY 2010 - 18 percent
FY 2013 - 37 percent	FY 2009 - 16 percent

## Interested Party Review Boards by County

Adair, Allen, Ballard/Carlisle, Bell, Boyd, Boyle, Breathitt/Wolfe, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Bullitt B, Caldwell/Lyon, Calloway, Campbell 4, Carter, Casey, Christian, Christian B, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Crittenden, Daviess A, Daviess B, Daviess C, Edmonson, Elliott/Morgan, Estill, Fayette 2, Fayette 4, Fayette E, Fayette G, Fayette I, Floyd, Fulton/Hickman, Garrard, Graves, Green, Greenup, Hardin A, Hardin B, Hardin C, Hardin D, Harlan, Harrison/Nicholas, Hart, Henderson, Henry, Hopkins, Jackson, Jefferson 1/3 IPR, Jefferson 5A, Jefferson 5B, Jefferson 7A, Jefferson 7B, Jefferson 8 IPR, Jefferson 10 IPR, Johnson, Kenton 4, Kenton 5, Kenton 8, Kenton Status, Knott/Perry, Knox, LaRue, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee/Owsley, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Livingston, Logan, Madison A, Magoffin, Marion/Washington, Marshall, Marshall B, Martin, McCracken B, McCreary, McLean, Meade, Mercer, Metcalfe, Monroe/Cumberland, Montgomery, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Oldham, Pendleton, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Shelby IPR, Simpson, Spencer, Taylor, Todd, Trigg, Trimble, Union, Warren A IPR, Warren B, Warren C IPR, Warren Status, Wayne, Webster, Whitley

## Children's Automated Tracking System houses information for children in care

The Administrative Office of the Courts uses the Children's Automated Tracking System to track children in care. CATS is a source of case information for the AOC, judges, the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards and the Department for Community Based Services.

The CFCRB also uses data from CATS to fulfill its statutory requirement to provide an annual report to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and state legislators.

CATS maintains all reviews conducted by CFCRB volunteers on children in out-of-home care and receives weekly downloads from The Worker Information System. TWIST is the statewide child welfare information system operated by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The downloads help ensure timely case reviews by notifying CFCRB volunteers when new children have entered care.

CATS also 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.

In 2016, the AOC began planning to improve the CATS database by installing a new, more efficient server and updating the review form by combining the case review with the interested party review.



# AOC Family Services Coordinators

## Area 1

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

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## Area 2

Counties: Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, Logan, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Todd, Warren Status

### Vacant

Warren County Justice Center  
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Bowling Green, KY 42101  
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## Area 3

Counties: Adair, Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Cumberland, Edmonson, Grayson, Meade, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, Warren

### Melissa Huffman

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County: Jefferson

### Jasmine Davis

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## Area 5

Counties: Anderson, Carroll, Franklin, Henry, Oldham, Owen, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Woodford

### Amy Smitha

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## Area 6

Counties: Bracken, Boone, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Mason, Nicholas, Pendleton

### Ann Coffman

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## Area 7

Counties: Bullitt, Green, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Nelson, Taylor, Washington

### Melissa Locklear

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## Area 8

Counties: Bourbon, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Jessamine, Powell

### Audrey Ramsey

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## Area 9

Counties: Boyle, Fayette, Garrard, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer

### Nancy Herndon

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## Area 10

Counties: Bath, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Magoffin, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson, Rowan

### Laura Taulbee

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Salysersville, KY 41465  
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## Area 11

Counties: Breathitt, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Martin, Perry, Pike, Owsley, Wolfe

### Melodie Robinson

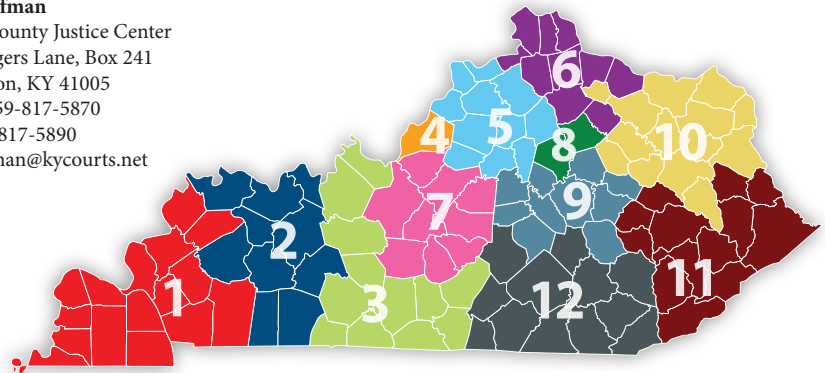
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## Area 12

Counties: Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lincoln, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, Whitley

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Submitted pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statutes 620.320

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