

Raising Voices for Kentucky's Children



Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board
2019 Annual Report

CFCRB volunteers provide record number of reviews for children in out-of-home care

Kentucky continues to report a record number of children in foster care. During Fiscal Year 2019, the number of children in out-of-home care was at an all-time high of 13,737.

Fortunately, the number of Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers reached a high as well, with 760 citizens providing the resources to review 27,530 cases of children in the custody of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The CFCRB is required by law to review the case of every child in care due to dependency, neglect and abuse. These citizen volunteers must conduct reviews in a timely manner and present recommendations to the judge on the best option for giving a child a safe and permanent home.

The review boards have an enormous responsibility and their advocacy for vulnerable children is something that all Kentuckians can be proud of.



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

The Department of Family & Juvenile Services of the Administrative of the Courts oversees this important work and I commend the court staff who provide support to the dedicated CFCRB volunteers.

I encourage you to read the 2019 CFCRB Annual Report for an in-depth look at what these dedicated volunteers accomplished last year on behalf of Kentucky's children.

If you would like to learn more about how to be a CFCRB volunteer, visit <https://kycourts.gov/courtprograms/cfcrb/Pages/contact.aspx>.

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Progress Report on Kentucky Children in Foster Care

Fiscal Year 2019: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Tom Stevenson
Executive Committee Chair
Citizen Foster Care Review Board

I am pleased to present the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019. The CFCRB volunteers continue to provide an invaluable service to children in out-of-home care.

The CFCRB program administers the state's review of foster children as required by law and provides a direct service to judges by giving findings and recommendations to the court on every child reviewed by the local boards. The intent is to improve services for children in foster care, as well as work to attain permanency for these children in a timely manner.

CFCRB volunteers also provide legislative support by submitting recommendations for policy reform to improve services and outcomes for these children.

The CFCRB has been engaging with the Department for Community Based Services to understand the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act. This federal legislation provides funding for prevention

and preservation services in an effort to reduce the number of children in out-of-home care. The funding helps families and children who need substance use disorder and mental/behavioral health services.

Services are available to any child who is deemed eligible for foster care and who can safely stay home or in a kinship placement, any child in foster care who is pregnant or parenting, and any parent or kinship caregiver who requires services to keep the child from entering foster care. We hope this type of legislation will lead to increased resources for families and children.

This report will give you a comprehensive look at the children served by the CFCRB, the activities of the review boards and the support services provided by the Department of Family & Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

This year we also incorporated material that reflects the strength of our volunteers and the services our program provides. It's important to recognize those who do so much for the children of Kentucky. I'm excited to share our volunteer involvement and proud of what we've been able to accomplish together.

Snapshot of Kentucky Foster Care System

CFCRB Reviews. In FY 2019, 760 CFCRB volunteers conducted 12,872 paper reviews and 14,658 interested party reviews for a total of 27,530 reviews of 13,737 children. In FY 2018, there were 739 volunteers who conducted 21,562 reviews of 12,493 children.

Length of Stay. The average length of stay for children in care was 17.5 months, a slight decrease from the 17.9 months reported in FY 2018.

Reunification. Of the children reviewed by the CFCRB, 37 percent were released through reunification to parents or primary caregivers in FY 2019. Another 29 percent were released through placement with relatives. These numbers remain consistent with FY 2018.

Exiting Care. In FY 2019, 10 % of youth aged out of care, which remained consistent with FY 2018.

Ages of Children Served. Of the children reviewed by the CFCRB, those age 5 and younger remain the largest age group at 33 percent. The next largest groups were ages 11 to 15 at 23 percent and ages 16 to 20 at 22 percent.

Number of Placements. Children experienced an average of 2.02 placements per commitment, a slight decrease from the 2.07 placements in FY 2018. This figure is close to the federal expectation of no more than 2 placements until a child achieves permanency.

Finalized Adoption. In FY 2019, 22% of children achieved adoption, a slight increase over 21% in FY 2018. Children with a finalized adoption spent 37.5 months in care, a slight increase over 37 months in care in FY 2018.

Interested Party Reviews. CFCRB volunteers conducted 14,658 IPRs in FY 2019, a 38% increase over FY 2018. The IPRs focused on 6,883 children, a 15% increase over last year.

CFCRB Meetings. The number of boards statewide that use IPR as the standard for reviewing all cases continued to grow. In FY 2019, 74 percent of the boards used the IPR process, up from 71 percent in FY 2018.

CFCRB volunteers advocate for children with state legislators

2019 Recommendations for Legislative and Policy Reform

The Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board is required by Kentucky Revised Statute 620.320(5) to evaluate and make annual recommendations regarding state law and the practices, policies and procedures within the commonwealth that affect permanence for children in out-of-home placement. These are to be shared with the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and the Legislative Branch's Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee.

The CFCRB State Board approved the following legislative recommendations for 2019.

Update Board Member Membership

Amend KRS 620.190(2)(e) regarding membership on

local boards to allow non-Department for Community Based Services employees in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to serve on local boards.

Support the Statewide Expansion of Family Court

The CFCRB has historically regarded the statewide expansion of Family Court as a high priority due to improved outcomes for families and children who have access to the expanded services provided by Family Court. To further this cause, the CFCRB would support a future judicial redistricting plan that brings Family Court to every county in the commonwealth.

Funding for DCBS Staff

The CFCRB recommends increased funding for the Department for Community Services that is dedicated to securing and maintaining local staff to work caseloads for the well-being of families and children.

Guardian ad Litem Requirements

The CFCRB recommends that the Kentucky Court of Justice clarify the responsibilities of guardians ad litem to the children they represent and hold GALs accountable for meeting these responsibilities. It further recommends that the General Assembly increase the minimum pay for guardians ad litem in family law cases.

CFCRB volunteers meet with legislators on Children's Advocacy Day

CFCRB volunteers once again traveled to Frankfort for the annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

The event took place Feb. 13, 2019, continuing a tradition that began in 2004 as a way to let advocates across the state join forces on behalf of the safety, health, education and economic well-being of children and families.

This event provides an opportunity for hundreds of concerned citizens to bring the needs of children and proposed solutions to the attention of state legislators.

The CFCRB program was a sponsor of the 2019 event. In addition, several CFCRB volunteers attended and met with

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 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.

Regional forums let communities weigh in on foster care system

The Kentucky General Assembly made the welfare of foster children a priority when it passed House Bill 1 in 2018. The legislation was designed to reform Kentucky's foster care system by removing barriers to children being placed in permanent homes.

HB 1 affected the work of the Citizen Foster Care Review Board by adding a section to KRS 620.270 that requires local review boards to participate in regional community forums at least twice a year.

These forums give the public a venue to discuss areas of concern about the foster care system and identify barriers

to timely permanency, well-being and safety for children in out-of-home care. Per statutory guidelines, the CFCRB program has provided these findings to the Supreme Court, governor and legislature.

The following is a summary of findings from the seven CFCRB Regional Forums held in the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019. The findings are based on concerns and recommendations from members of the public and have been categorized by party or stakeholder group.

Note: These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Kentucky Court of Justice elected officials and non-elected employees.

Fall 2018 Regional Forums: Issues & Concerns

Children

- Provide more preventative measures and services.
- Provide trauma-informed care for children.
- Need to advocate for biological parents.
- Keep siblings together and in their community.
- Teach independent living skills to older youth.
- Place adoptive children in pre-adoptive homes.
- Provide more services for medically complex children.
- Reduce the number of reunifications to unsafe environments.

Foster Parents

- Provide more information on court process.
- Give foster parents more authority over child's education and care.
- Give foster parents access to counseling services.
- Provide information on resources for foster parents.
- Provide education on adoption for foster parents.
- Improve communication with biological family and Department for Community Based Services.

Biological Parents

- Address lack of transportation.
- Increase funding for reunification services for incarcerated parents.
- Provide information on resources for biological parents.
- Give biological mothers access to birth control under Medicaid.

Department for Community Based Services

- Provide transitional services for adoptive children.

- Address lack of staffing, funding, visitation locations and services for the Department for Community Based Services.
- Reduce county-to-county transfers.
- Improve interstate compact process for out-of-state placements.
- Reduce inconsistencies among Department for Community Based Services' service regions.

Relatives/Kinship Care

- Provide information on compensation and resources.
- Increase number of staff for Kinship Care Hotline.
- Apply continued quality improvement process to payment of vouchers.
- Provide definitive information about who qualifies for financial support as fictive and kinship caregivers.

Judges & Court Personnel

- Hold guardians ad litem more accountable for how they handle cases involving children.
- Implement a stricter review of timelines.
- Increase number of Family Court judgeships.
- Streamline termination of parental rights process.
- Provide HB 1 information, training and outcomes.
- Remove barriers involving county and state lines.

Overall Comments & Suggestions

- Provide therapeutic services for adopted children.
- Recognize importance of mental health of foster parents and DCBS workers.
- Implement more family mentorship programs.
- Focus on diversity and cultural sensitivity when recruiting foster parents.

Spring 2019 Regional Forums: Issues & Concerns

Children

- Put preventative measures in place to keep children from entering foster care.
- Provide trauma-informed care for children.
- Need to advocate for biological parents.
- Keep siblings together and in their community.
- Teach independent living skills to older youth.
- Place adoptive children in pre-adoptive homes.
- Provide more services for medically complex children and children with placement disruptions.
- Reduce the number of reunifications to unsafe environments.

Foster Parents

- Increase number of recruitment and certification staff and foster homes.
- Provide more information on how to request a new guardian ad litem.
- Require guardians ad litem to visit each child they represent.
- Give foster parents access to counseling services.
- Provide information on resources for foster parents.
- Provide education on adoption for foster parents.
- Decrease number of placement disruptions by providing training to foster parents.
- Improve communication with biological family and Department for Community Based Services.

Biological Parents

- Work to eliminate issues with transportation and services, which are barriers to parents completing their case plan.
- Provide services to help incarcerated parents work on their case plan while in jail or prison.
- Begin providing case plans electronically.

Department for Community Based Services

- Provide transitional services for adoptive children.
- Address lack of staffing, funding, visitation locations and services for the Department for Community Based Services.
- Expand to child-specific foster homes to help keep children in their communities.
- Require DCBS staff to visit private child care facilities more frequently.
- Improve interstate compact process for out-of-state placements.
- Reduce inconsistencies among Department for Community Based Services' service regions.

- Review subsidies for families who no longer have children in their home.
- Include cultural diversity services in Standard Operating Procedures.
- Provide definitive information about who qualifies for financial support as fictive and kinship caregivers.

Relatives/Kinship Care

- Apply continued quality improvement process to payment of vouchers.
- Provide definitive information about who qualifies for financial support as fictive and kinship caregivers.

Judges & Court Personnel

- Hold guardians ad litem more accountable for how they handle cases involving children.
- Require GALs to notify interested parties when they are appointed to represent a child.
- Implement a stricter review of timelines.
- Increase number of Family Court judgeships.
- Streamline termination of parental rights process.
- Provide HB 1 information, training and outcomes.
- Remove barriers involving county and state lines
- Increase number of CFCRB volunteers and court-appointed special advocates statewide.

Overall Comments & Suggestions

- Mental health services need to be communicated to foster parents and DCBS workers.
- Encourage school representative to be present in Family Court to alert schools of custody changes.
- Promote amendment to statute that would allow foster parents who have fostered a child for a substantial amount of time to obtain standing as fictive kin in order to move for custody of the child.
- Develop resource parents to serve as a resource for the entire foster family.

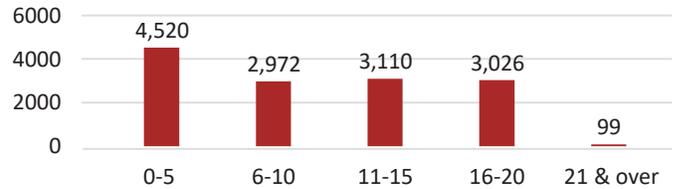
CFCRB Overview by the Numbers

Out-of-Home Care Demographics

What are the ages of children in foster care?

In FY 2019, the youngest child reviewed by Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers was 7 months old and the oldest was 26 years old (due to extended commitment). The average age remained constant at 10 years. Children age 5 and younger remain the largest age group (33%) reviewed by the CFCRB. Children aged 11 to 15 are the next largest age group (23%) to be reviewed, closely followed by children aged 16 to 20 at 22%. The age analysis is based on children who were in out-of-home care on June 30, 2019, and includes children who were released from the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services anytime during the fiscal year.

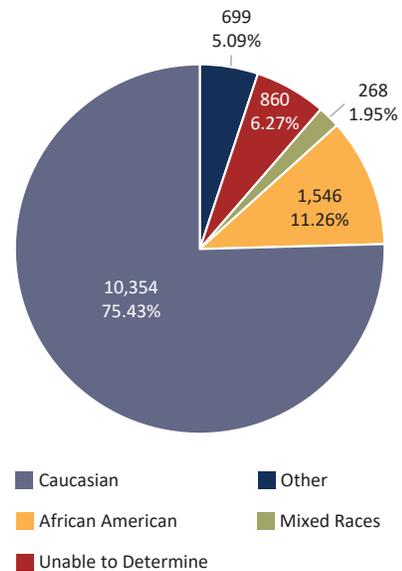
Foster Care Children by Age



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

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

Foster Care Children by Race

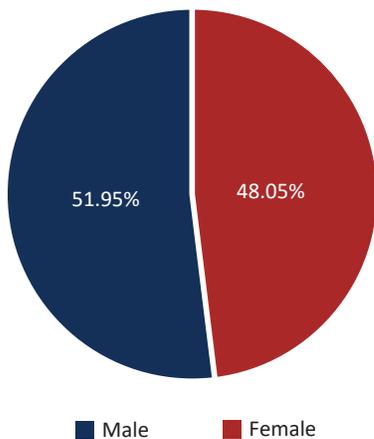


What race are children in foster care?

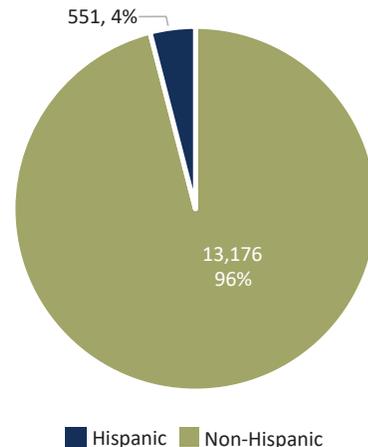
Of the children in foster care, 75% are Caucasian, 11% are African American, 6% are unable to be determined, 5% are other and the remaining 2% are mixed races. The other races include American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. In addition, 4% of the children in foster care have Hispanic ethnicity.

Note: As of March 2018, the CATS system updated the race codes to allow the selection of multiple race types; however, this only affects children who have entered care since March 2018.

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 2019 – experienced an average length of stay of 20 months. Inactive children – children released at any time during the fiscal year – experienced an average stay of 15.4 months. The overall average length of stay for FY 2019 was 17.5 months, which represents a slight decrease from the average length of stay of 17.9 months in FY 2018.

Children over age 15 continue to remain in care longer than younger children and are experiencing an average of 23 months in care compared with 14 months in care for children age 5 and younger.

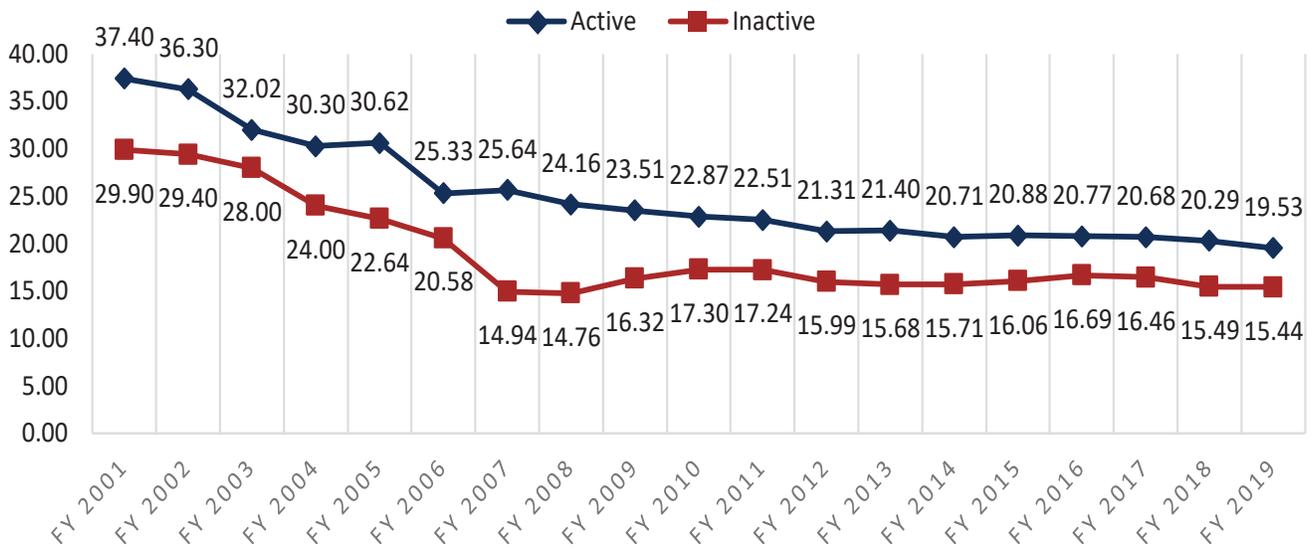
It should be noted that in calculating the average length of stay, children who were in care less than 24 hours are counted as “zero” for the length of time in care. These are children who may have been in the process of being removed from the home when a suitable relative assumed custody of the child. 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, 2018, and June 30, 2019. The term “active children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year and who were still in care on June 30, 2019. “Inactive children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year but were released prior to June 30, 2019.

Age in Years

Age Group	Active	Inactive	All Children
0-05 Years	16.0	12.6	14.3
06-10 Years	18.4	15.5	17.0
11-15 Years	19.3	14.4	17.4
Over 15 Years	25.1	20.3	22.9
Overall	19.5	15.4	17.7

Average Length of Stay in Months



Establishing Permanency Goals

How is the permanency goal established and defined?

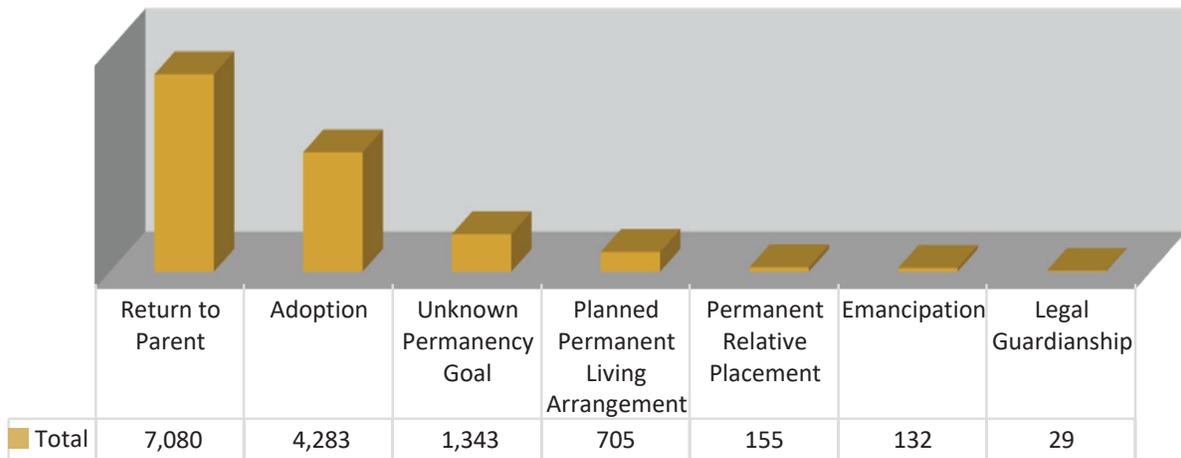
The Cabinet for Health and Family Services establishes a permanency plan for each child who enters foster care and his or her family. The plan is filed with the court and addresses the reason the child is in custody. The plan focuses on achieving objectives and completing tasks to ensure the child obtains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

The chart below 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

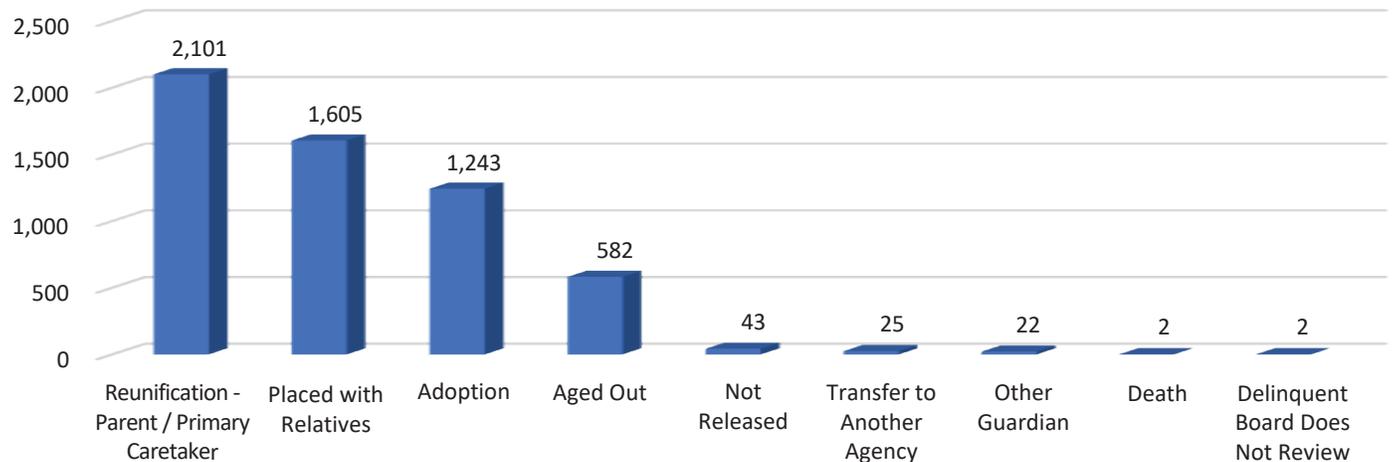


Exiting Out-of-Home Care

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

The majority of children – 37% – were released from care through reunification with parents or primary guardians. The next largest group of children exiting care – 29% – was through placement with relatives. These percentages are fairly consistent with FY 2018.

Foster Care Children by Exit Type



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

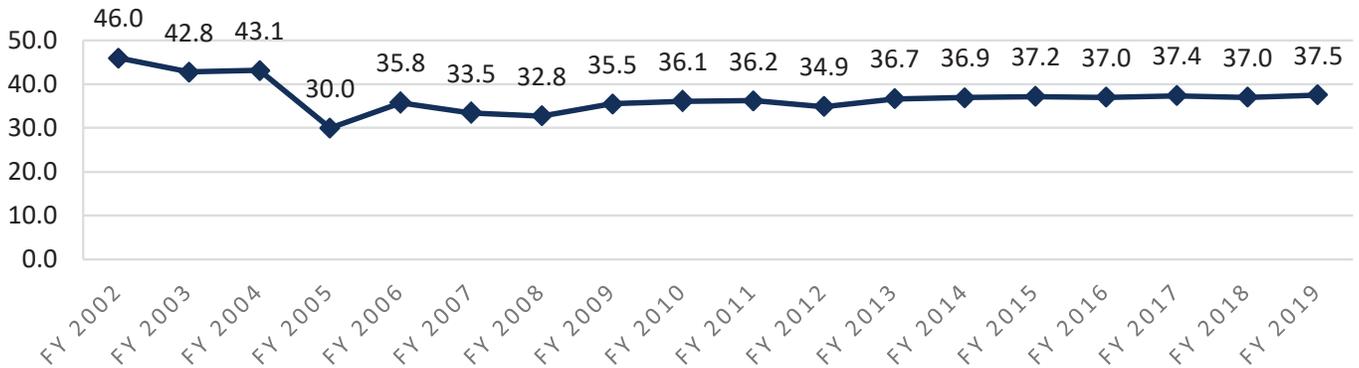
Of the children released from out-of-home care in FY 2019, 22% achieved permanency through adoption, a slight increase over 21% in FY 2018. Children who exited care because of a finalized adoption spent 37.5 months in care prior to adoption.

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

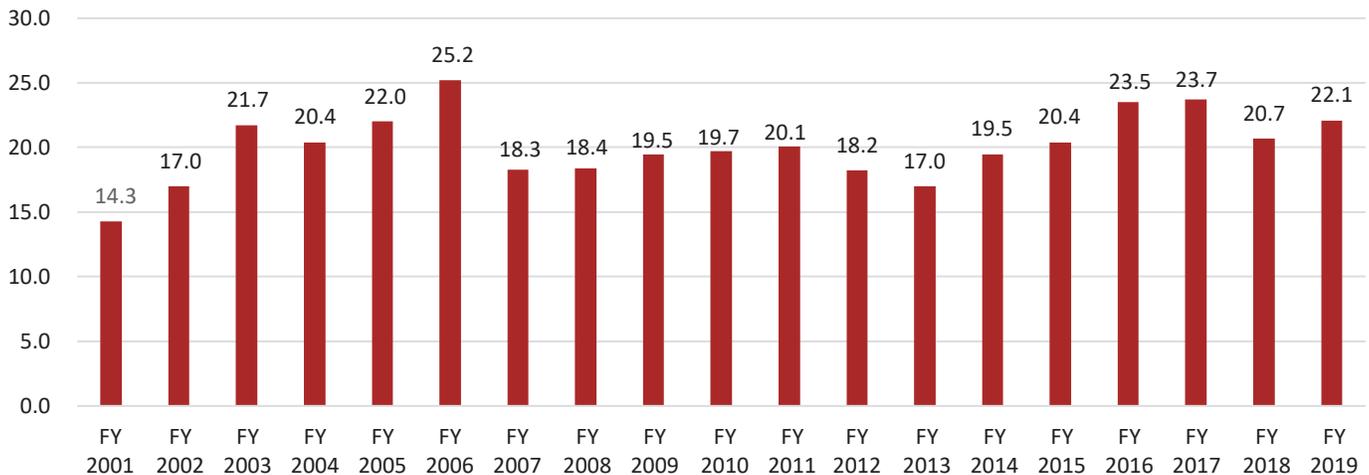
Note: The variance in the statistical comparison between FY 2005 and FY 2006 may be due to the implementation of CATS, the Children’s Automated Tracking System. In FY 2005, the reasons for release were gathered from individual CFCRB case reviews. With CATS in place, the release information is obtained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



Average Months to Finalized Adoption



Percentage 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 2.02 placements per commitment in FY 2019. The average number of placements remained fairly consistent with the 3.0 placements in FY 2018. While we hope this number will improve, it is still close 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, 2019, has decreased:

- FY 2019 – 2.02 placements
- FY 2018 – 3.0 placements
- FY 2017 – 1.9 placements
- FY 2016 – 2.2 placements

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

- FY 2019 – 1.5 placements
- FY 2018 – 1.1 placements
- FY 2017 – 1.3 placements
- FY 2016 – 1.5 placements

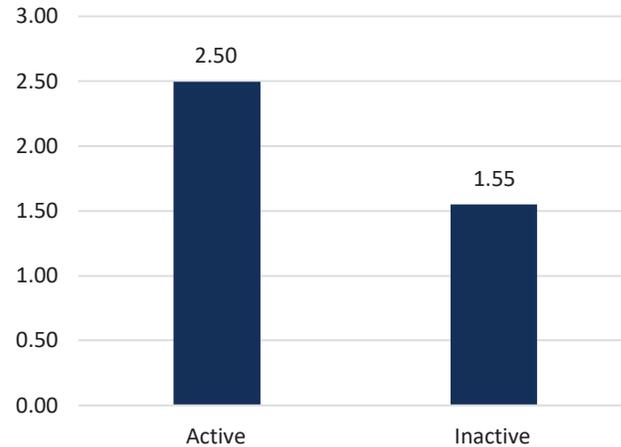
The Cabinet for Health and Family Services reports that 47.7% of the children in their custody in FY 2019 were placed in private child-care arrangements, which is a slight decrease from the 49.3% in FY 2018.

The placement of children in foster care is determined by the level of care necessary to meet their needs, with level 5 representing the most needs. Of the children in private child care, 5.4% are in level 5 placements with an additional 5.4% placed in therapeutic foster care at level 5.¹

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.

¹ Cabinet for Health and Family Services, TWS-058 SFY 2016, SFY 2017, SFY 2018, SFY 2019; Foster Care Facts for July 2016, July 2017, July 2018, July 2019.

Average Placements Per Child



How many of these placements were out of state?

Based on information provided by the CHFS, 97 children were placed out of state in FY 2019. 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-058 SFY 2016, SFY 2017, SFY 2018, SFY 2019; Foster Care Facts for July 2016, July 2017, July 2018, July 2019.



Snapshot of CFCRB Volunteers

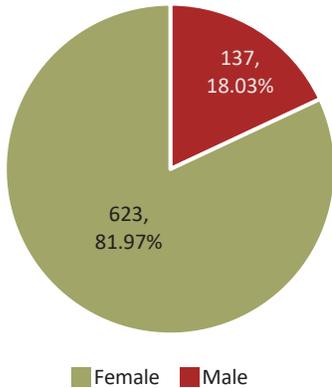
Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but they all share a sincere concern for the welfare of children.

Of the 760 volunteers, 82% are female and 45% have

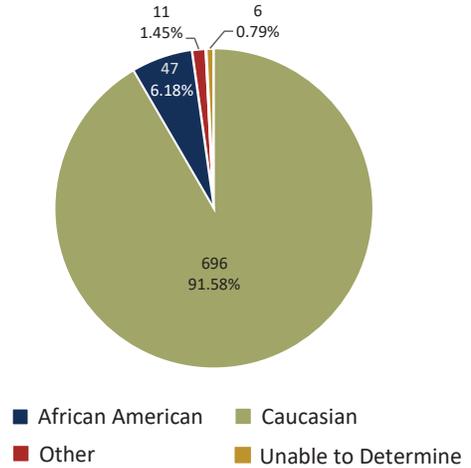
backgrounds in education, medicine, law, social work and psychology. They range in age from 18 to 92, with an average age of 55.

The average length of service is six years, which demonstrates a long-term commitment to the children they serve.

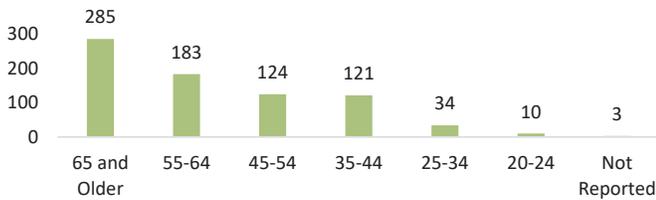
Volunteers by Gender



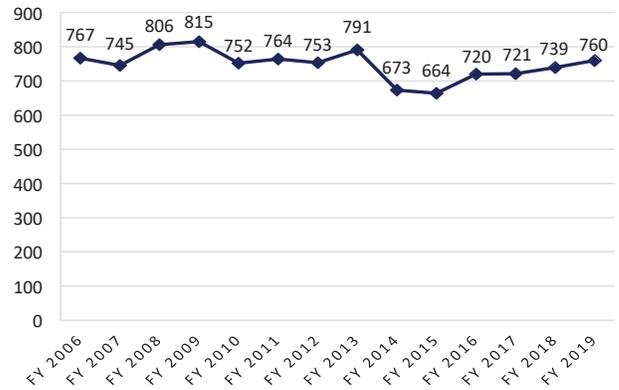
Volunteers by Race



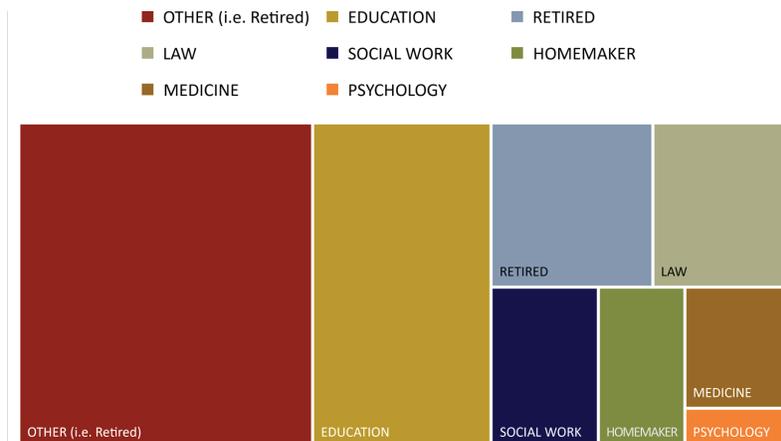
Volunteers by Age Group



Volunteers Per Fiscal Year



Volunteers by Profession



Case Review Boards: Activity for FY 2019

	Reviews	Children Reviewed		Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	34	34	JESSAMINE IPR	210	157
ALLEN	33	33	JOHNSON IPR	16	15
ANDERSON	186	80	KENTON 1 IPR	11	11
BARREN	330	213	KENTON 2	329	194
BATH/MENIFEE	136	88	KENTON 3-Campbell	283	137
BELL	88	52	KENTON 4 IPR	15	15
BOONE/GALLATIN	379	159	KENTON 5 IPR	11	9
BOURBON	99	57	KENTON 6	276	190
BOYD	348	207	KENTON 7-Campbell	351	217
BOYD IPR	1	1	KENTON 8 IPR	9	8
BOYLE IPR	8	4	KENTON STATUS IPR	22	21
BREATHITT	13	13	KNOTT/PERRY IPR	23	22
BRECKINRIDGE	36	36	KNOX IPR	109	95
BULLITT	3	3	LARUE	14	14
BULLITT B	9	9	LAUREL IPR	99	92
BUTLER	11	11	LAWRENCE IPR	11	9
CAMPBELL 1	287	149	LEE/OWSLEY IPR	22	22
CAMPBELL 2	362	199	LESLIE	31	29
CAMPBELL 4 IPR	6	6	LETCHER	18	17
CARROLL	145	82	LINCOLN IPR	23	23
CARTER IPR	56	34	MADISON A IPR	34	31
CASEY	10	10	MADISON B	233	130
CHRISTIAN	2	1	MADISON C	196	125
CHRISTIAN B IPR	2	2	MAGOFFIN IPR	2	2
CLARK	307	162	MARION/WASHINGTON IPR	14	12
CLARK IPR	10	9	MARSHALL	4	4
CLAY IPR	97	89	MARTIN IPR	9	7
CLINTON	11	9	MASON/BRACKEN	205	130
CRITTENDEN	1	1	MCCRACKEN A IPR	1	1
EDMONSON	46	46	MCCREARY	67	64
ELLIOTT/MORGAN IPR	20	18	MEADE	69	69
ESTILL IPR	7	7	MEADE A	1	1
FAYETTE 1 IPR	23	19	METCALFE	20	20
FAYETTE 2 IPR	20	19	MONROE/CUMBERLAND	22	22
FAYETTE 4 IPR	30	29	MONTGOMERY IPR	94	63
FAYETTE A	110	54	NELSON	27	26
FAYETTE B	114	55	NICHOLAS IPR	16	16
FAYETTE B IPR	1	1	OHIO	1	1
FAYETTE C	155	86	OLDHAM IPR	12	12
FAYETTE D	131	79	OWEN	72	38
FAYETTE E IPR	3	3	PENDLETON IPR	20	19
FAYETTE F IPR	74	50	PERRY	193	109
FAYETTE G IPR	34	33	PIKE	68	66
FAYETTE H	104	59	POWELL IPR	25	22
FAYETTE I IPR	23	22	PULASKI IPR	148	133
FAYETTE I PAPER BOARD	29	25	ROCKCASTLE IPR	39	37
FAYETTE J	187	74	ROWAN A IPR	23	11
FAYETTE K	199	124	ROWAN B IPR	8	6
FAYETTE L	113	56	RUSSELL	45	41
FLEMING/ROBERTSON	76	49	SCOTT	255	109
FLOYD	67	55	SHELBY	144	83
FRANKLIN	289	162	SHELBY IPR	9	6
FRANKLIN IPR	1	1	SIMPSON	37	37
GARRARD IPR	25	25	SPENCER IPR	20	19
GRANT	186	115	TAYLOR	35	29
GRAVES	30	19	TODD	1	1
GRAYSON	267	177	TRIMBLE IPR	19	17
GRAYSON A	3	3	WARREN A	215	135
GREEN	9	8	WARREN A IPR	5	5
GREENUP/LEWIS IPR	16	14	WARREN B	29	29
HARDIN A	33	33	WARREN C	253	163
HARDIN B	29	29	WARREN C IPR	24	24
HARDIN C	71	68	WARREN D IPR	22	22
HARDIN D	77	77	WAYNE	30	22
HARLAN IPR	53	45	WHITLEY	51	43
HARRISON IPR	8	6	WHITLEY IPR	90	84
HART	10	10	WOLFE	20	14
HENRY IPR	12	11	WOODFORD	92	45
JACKSON IPR	31	31	STATEWIDE	12,872	6,883
JEFFERSON 1	377	153			
JEFFERSON 1/3 IPR	18	16			
JEFFERSON 10	245	129			
JEFFERSON 10 IPR	15	15			
JEFFERSON 2	360	203			
JEFFERSON 3	253	108			
JEFFERSON 4	300	188			
JEFFERSON 6	305	165			
JEFFERSON 7	9	8			
JEFFERSON 7A	2	1			
JEFFERSON 8A	118	76			
JEFFERSON 9	242	148			

Interested Party Review Boards: Activity for FY 2019

	IPR Reviews	Children Reviewed		IPR Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	71	35	LAWRENCE IPR	71	33
ALLEN	161	69	LEE/OWSLEY IPR	36	13
BALLARD/CARLISLE	115	62	LESLIE	33	20
BATH/MENIFEE	2	2	LETCHER	39	20
BOYD IPR	65	43	LINCOLN IPR	136	69
BOYLE IPR	215	115	LIVINGSTON	31	22
BREATHITT	79	34	LOGAN	142	74
BRECKINRIDGE	180	60	MADISON A IPR	117	70
BULLITT	124	78	MAGOFFIN IPR	35	19
BULLITT B	118	68	MARION/WASHINGTON IPR	54	30
BUTLER	176	82	MARSHALL	141	91
CALDWELL/LYON	72	53	Marshall B	128	68
CALLOWAY	266	131	MARTIN IPR	49	23
CAMPBELL 1	2	1	MCCRACKEN A IPR	238	121
CAMPBELL 4 IPR	81	29	MCCRACKEN B	166	95
CARTER IPR	159	82	MCCREARY	201	94
CASEY	29	15	MCLEAN	76	39
CHRISTIAN	244	137	MEADE	303	138
CHRISTIAN B IPR	276	116	MEADE A	21	14
CLARK IPR	108	64	MERCER IPR	98	56
CLAY IPR	124	57	METCALFE	62	29
CLINTON	37	22	MONROE/CUMBERLAND	69	34
CRITTENDEN	103	43	MONTGOMERY IPR	236	141
DAVISS A	159	91	MUHLENBERG	129	47
DAVISS B	154	82	NELSON	126	36
DAVISS C	154	76	NICHOLAS IPR	72	31
EDMONSON	97	48	OHIO	311	159
ELLIOTT/MORGAN IPR	96	50	OLDHAM IPR	91	37
ESTILL IPR	139	79	PENDLETON IPR	42	24
FAYETTE 1 IPR	143	80	PIKE	84	50
FAYETTE 2 IPR	113	58	POWELL IPR	75	45
FAYETTE 4 IPR	100	53	PULASKI IPR	315	138
FAYETTE B IPR	5	4	ROCKCASTLE IPR	123	58
FAYETTE E IPR	107	51	ROWAN A IPR	81	41
FAYETTE F IPR	12	11	ROWAN B IPR	101	48
FAYETTE G IPR	90	45	RUSSELL	137	61
FAYETTE H	1	1	SCOTT IPR	4	1
FAYETTE I IPR	81	41	SHELBY IPR	32	12
FLOYD	149	63	SIMPSON	74	34
FRANKLIN IPR	29	18	SPENCER IPR	30	16
FULTON/HICKMAN	59	33	TAYLOR	74	33
GARRARD IPR	74	41	TODD	73	40
GRAVES	257	147	TRIGG	66	33
GRAYSON A	75	42	TRIMBLE IPR	42	20
GREEN	20	7	UNION	112	51
GREENUP/LEWIS IPR	84	50	WARREN A	1	1
HANCOCK	29	12	WARREN A IPR	111	37
HARDIN A	232	99	WARREN B	98	40
HARDIN B	314	103	WARREN C IPR	89	43
HARDIN C	201	86	WARREN D IPR	113	45
HARDIN D	261	112	WAYNE	58	32
HARLAN IPR	22	16	WEBSTER	40	16
HARRISON IPR	204	89	WHITLEY	2	1
HART	71	30	WHITLEY IPR	232	128
HENDERSON	167	68	WOLFE	19	9
HENRY IPR	50	23	STATEWIDE	14,658	6,362
HOPKINS	231	70			
JACKSON IPR	71	54			
JEFFERSON 1	5	4			
JEFFERSON 1/3 IPR	111	69			
JEFFERSON 10 IPR	133	67			
JEFFERSON 3	3	3			
JEFFERSON 5	143	76			
JEFFERSON 5A	184	81			
JEFFERSON 6	2	2			
JEFFERSON 7	191	99			
JEFFERSON 7A	152	73			
JEFFERSON 8	143	91			
JEFFERSON 8A	6	5			
JEFFERSON 9	4	4			
JESSAMINE IPR	123	104			
JOHNSON IPR	90	45			
KENTON 1 IPR	79	44			
KENTON 4 IPR	80	39			
KENTON 5 IPR	136	52			
KENTON 8 IPR	118	48			
KENTON STATUS IPR	98	34			
KNOTT/PERRY IPR	69	39			
KNOX IPR	173	79			
LARUE	54	22			
LAUREL IPR	264	132			



Work of CFCRB volunteers continues to amaze and impress

This year has been nothing short of amazing and I'm proud of the work of the volunteers and staff on behalf of children in out-of-home care. We continue to build on the Citizen Foster Care Review Board's success by focusing on timely permanency for Kentucky's children. As part of those efforts, we collected information from the public to help identify barriers to permanency, addressed disparity, increased the number of interactive reviews, and provided training and other resources for our volunteers.

CFCRB volunteers remain our driving force as they provide a voice to the children who need it most. I sincerely value their commitment and I look forward to what the future has in store for us.

Rachel Bingham, Executive Officer

Department of Family & Juvenile Services, Administrative Office of the Courts

Training programs give CFCRB volunteers new skills, insight

The Administrative Office of the Courts offered a variety of trainings statewide in FY 2019, which gave 709 Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers an impressive 4,233 hours of initial and continuing education. These trainings included:

- CFCRB regional trainings
- Initial and interested party review dual-track trainings
- Chair/vice chair trainings
- Legal trainings for dependency, neglect and abuse cases
- Local trainings devoted to children's issues and approved by local chairs, such as the Kids Are Worth It Conference

CFCRB Regional Trainings

The AOC provided specialized regional trainings in the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019.

The 2018 fall trainings took place from Aug. 24-Oct. 29 in Boone, Fayette, Hardin, Hopkins, Jefferson, Magoffin and Pulaski counties. These trainings gave volunteers the required six hours of annual continuing education and covered the following topics:

Overview of House Bill 1. Participants gained a working knowledge of the sweeping child welfare reforms passed under House Bill 1 and the effect those reforms are having on the CFCRB and the courts.

Department for Community Based Services' Response to House Bill 1. Those attending learned how recent legislative changes have affected foster care policies and procedures followed by the Division of Protection and Permanency, Department for Community Based Services in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Child Welfare Trends and Impact on Courts. This session focused on causes for the increase in child welfare dockets and how CFCRB volunteers can assist courts with the growing caseloads.

The 2019 spring trainings took place from March 28-April 18 in Boone, Daviess, Franklin, Hopkins, Jefferson and Pulaski counties. This session introduced CFCRB volunteers and DCBS leaders to racial disparity in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Continuing the Conversation: Understanding Cultural Collisions. Pastor Edward Palmer presented this program, which looked at the data behind racial disparity, defined culture and how it impacts behavior, explored how to connect culture to the behavior of youth and families, identified how to recognize the intersection of culture and race, and examined skills to help minimize the possibilities of cultural collisions occurring at cultural intersections.

Pastor Palmer is chair of the Kentucky Subcommittee on Equity and Justice for All Youth and a frequent presenter on racial disparity for court programs.

Regional Community Forum

The local review boards also hosted the regional community forums in conjunction with the regional trainings. (See pages 3-4 for details.)

CFCRB State Board Meeting

The 60 CFCRB volunteers who attended the annual meeting of the CFCRB State Board on Nov. 3, 2019, also had the opportunity to complete the advanced chair/vice chair training that same day.

CFCRB volunteers' good works benefit local communities

In addition to reviewing cases of children in out-of-home care, some Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers go above and beyond by providing services to other organizations as well. These profiles offer a glimpse into how volunteers contribute to their communities.

Jackson County IPR Board

The Jackson County Interested Party Review Board took part in the 5th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Day at Bond Memorial Park in McKee on April 27, 2019.



Board Chair Shawna Mitchell (far right) and Vice-Chair Rosalie Mathis (far left) distributed Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky pamphlets and CFRB materials. They also provided a fishing game for children with toys donated by McDonald's in Manchester.

There was a great turnout and talented youth in foster care provided much of the entertainment.

Fayette County A Paper Board

The Fayette A Paper Board came together in spring of 2019 to donate household items to the One Parent Scholar. This is an organization that helps single parents earn a college degree by providing affordable housing, child care and support.

Fayette County C IPR Board

Members of the Fayette C Interested Party Review Board enjoy reading to elementary school children. This board is comprised of retired teachers and it is delightful to hear the stories they have from their time teaching and the interactions they continue to have with the children they spend time with.

Franklin County IPR Board

Forty-six foster children can now carry their belonging in a new backpack instead of a plastic garbage bag, thanks to two mission drives led by Calvary Baptist in Frankfort.

C.J. Howard, a member of the Franklin County Interested Party Review Board and Calvary Baptist, said her church also sponsored 10 foster children in Franklin County for Christmas.

After obtaining names of children from the Franklin County Department for Community Based Services, they were able to give each child a new coat, clothes, shoes and some other items on their wish lists.



Union County IPR Board

Members of the Union County Interested Party Review Board join local residents from a wide range of backgrounds to carry out the work of the Union County



We Educate to End Child Abuse, a council of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.

Union County CFRB members Tom Stevenson and Lark Buckman are on the UC-WEECAN board and are involved in these local efforts.

In April 2019, UC-WEECAN's activities included asking county government to proclaim April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, hosting a prevention T-shirt design competition for elementary school students, "planting" blue pinwheels to represent the hope and safety of children, and holding a softball tournament to raise funds for prevention efforts.

Volunteers tell why they help children find their forever home

Advocating for the dependent, neglected and abused children in our communities is an important investment in the future of our youth. When we asked several Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers why they give their time to this important program, here's what we learned.



Joan Kleine
*Member of 8 boards
& Representative for Region 5*

"I wanted to feel useful and to help the children and families of Kentucky. I was a CASA volunteer for two years, but due to my physical limitations was unable to continue. At an AARP meeting, I listened to a speaker talk about the Citizen Foster Care Review Board and discovered an opportunity to continue to give back to the community. Being a volunteer makes me feel whole."



Lisa Sanders
Chair, McCracken B IPR Board

"I volunteer because I was asked to help, and I know the need is great. Many children are currently in out-of-home care and the system is overwhelmed. I have two adopted children who were once in the foster care system and have firsthand knowledge of the complexities of 'navigating' the system. I've seen firsthand the effects multiple placements have on children. I thank those working tirelessly for Kentucky's foster children. Our workers and resources are thinly spread and need our assistance. That is why I volunteer."



Debbie Browder
Chair, Logan IPR Board

"Working with children on a daily basis for my career gives me a desire to help whenever I can. Being a volunteer, I want to make sure we can get as much help as we can for children and families, and try to help them reunite with their families. If that is not possible, then to find a permanent home for these children. I want the best possible solution to the problem. Being a volunteer is so rewarding. I just love it."



Charles Morgan
Chair, Daviess C IPR board

"I've been on the board for over 20 years. I believe in our role to protect the children we serve. We should do everything in our power to see that they are able to flourish in their environment in foster care if the child does not return to the home."



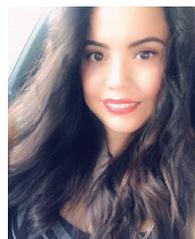
Steven Farr
Chair, Oldham IPR Board

"I volunteer because I believe we have a responsibility as a society to care for the most vulnerable among us. I can't think of any group more vulnerable than children who are not getting the care they need from their parents. But I also recognize that life circumstances have presented many challenges for the parents themselves, some of which make it hard to provide for their children even though they love them very much. If we can help make sure that children and families are being given every opportunity to succeed, we have provided a great service to our community."



John Lydon
*Chair, Bullitt B IPR Board
& Jefferson 6 Case Review Board*

"I continue to be a part of the program because I feel there is a need to have someone pay attention to the young people who are in foster care and to ensure that progress is being made to be reunited with their family or proceed with termination of parental rights. I feel it is important because some of these youth are in situations that need to be corrected with proper supervision and support from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the courts."



Argelia Fabian Aguirre
Board Member, Fayette 4 IPR Board

"I volunteer because I believe it makes a difference in people's lives. Together we're pushing for a healthier environment for our youth and future generations. I volunteer for those who are less fortunate or believe that they don't have a voice."

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Recognizing dedication of longtime CFCRB volunteers

The CFCRB program is fortunate to have 760 volunteers who love helping others and have a heartfelt desire to advocate for children. We want to recognize several of these longtime volunteers for their many years of service.



Janet Fugate
Vice Chair, Warren A Board
31 Years of Service

“Over 30 years ago, an announcement from Judge Tom Lewis in the classified ads of the Park City Daily News (Bowling Green) caught my attention.

The announcement was asking for volunteers to serve on a Citizen Foster Care Review Board. As I was looking for some way to make a difference in the community, I answered the announcement. Judge Lewis appointed Linda Montell and me as volunteers. Thus, began the journey as a CFCRB member.

I am often asked why I wanted to become a volunteer and why I have stayed with it so long. Thirty years ago, I wanted to give back to the community. My career has been giving children the tools they need to succeed in a world that is not always friendly toward them. I saw this as one way to do that. I have thought about what I want my legacy to be. I have accomplished many things, but I want to be remembered for perhaps making a difference in the lives of children.”

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Charles Lindsey
IPR Board Member, Ohio & Butler Counties

“Upon retiring from the AOC’s Department of Family & Juvenile Services, I decided to volunteer with the CFCRB for several reasons. One is that the number of vulnerable young people in

need of services has grown steadily over the years due to factors seemingly beyond societal control and people with knowledge of these services gleaned from dealing with at-risk kids are needed to keep the program effective and meaningful.

It is far better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. The review boards are lighting candles every day of the week across Kentucky. Keeping these flames of hope ablaze is the responsibility of each of us.”



Linda Montell
Member, Warren A Board
31 Years of Service

“When I started this journey to be on the Citizen Foster Care Review Board in 1988, I never thought it would turn out to be a lifetime venture. 2019 is my 31st year as a volunteer. I hope my contribution has had a positive effect on some of the children in the foster care system. I started out thinking if I could help one child, it would be all worth it. I feel like, along with the other members of the board I am on, that we have made a difference and have seen many children find their forever home. Through the years, I have seen many changes in the foster care system in order to help the children in the system.”



Tom Stevenson
Chair, Union IPR Board
28 Years of Service

“Twenty-eight years ago, I was asked by District Judge Rene’ Williams to be a part of an organization I had never heard of, the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board. At the time I thought it sounded interesting but I never imagined that almost three decades later I would still be a member.

I’ve always believed that change is necessary for growth and improvement. Because of this belief, I have been the Union County chair for over 25 years, a committee member and a regional representative. I’ve also served twice as chair and twice as vice chair for the State Board. I’ve learned a lot and met a tremendous number of committed, wonderful people. My journey began with a phone call from Judge Williams. I will always appreciate that call.”



Anna O’Neal
Chair, Jefferson 5A IPR Board
17 Years of Service

“To quote the Muhammad Ali, the Greatest of All Time: ‘Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.’ I never thought I would volunteer for 17 years, but the need is so great and someone needs to look out for the children.”

CFCRB makes it a priority to address racial disparity

Recognizing the need to address the racial and ethnic disparities for children in foster care, the Citizen Foster Care Review Board's Executive Committee created the Diversity Subcommittee in 2016.

The Diversity Subcommittee's first priority was to offer training on implicit bias to all CFCRB volunteers. This training was offered in several locations across the state in 2016 and educated volunteers on the impact of disproportionality for children of color, while providing an understanding of race data across child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The subcommittee's next step was to produce the CFCRB Volunteer Self-Assessment: Cultural Competency Questionnaire to measure how informed volunteers are about foster care, race and disproportionality.

Based on the results of the questionnaire, the subcommittee recommended that all CFCRB volunteers be trained on understanding cultural collision and given skills to help minimize cultural collisions occurring at cultural intersections.

Going forward, the Diversity Subcommittee is tasked with looking at recruitment strategies to help increase the diversity of CFCRB volunteers throughout the state.

It's important for the program to build up a diverse perspective to help bridge cultural gaps among children, interested parties and volunteers, as well as bring cultural awareness and expertise that can help those involved with the child welfare system to see through a clearer lens.

74% of cases now done by interested party review

Since the Citizen Foster Care Review Board adopted interested party review in 2008, the number of boards using this interactive review has grown to 74 percent of all cases reviewed.

In FY 2019, CFCRB volunteers conducted 14,658 IPRs, which is a 38% increase over FY 2018. There were 6,883 children who received this intensive review.

An IPR is an interactive review that focuses on case plans for the parents and their child and the progress being made

to secure permanency for the child.

Those involved in IPRs include CFCRB volunteers, parents, care providers, service providers, Department for Community Based Services personnel, Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers and the attorneys for the children and their parents.

Once the mandatory IPR has been completed, the local CFCRB submits a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations to the judge.



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Cletus Poat
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Marti Dickerson
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Treasurer
Linnea Caldon
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Past State Chair
Ed Staats
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 Newsletter Editor**
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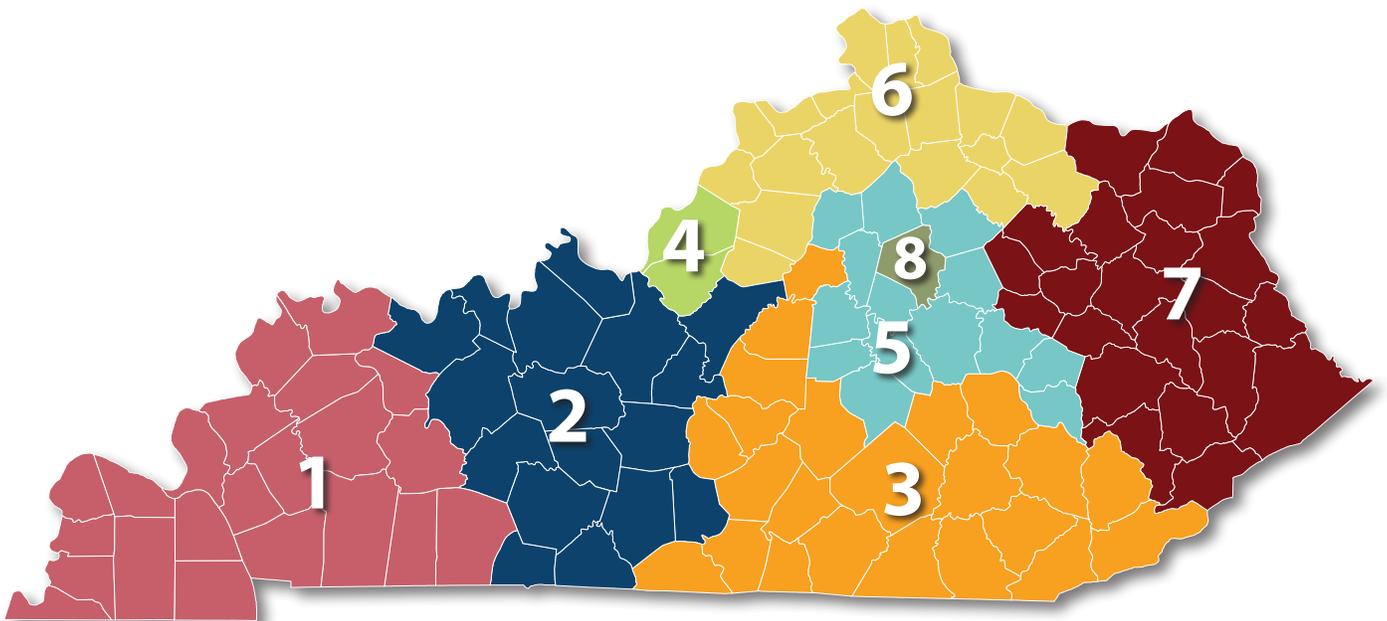
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Laura Taulbee

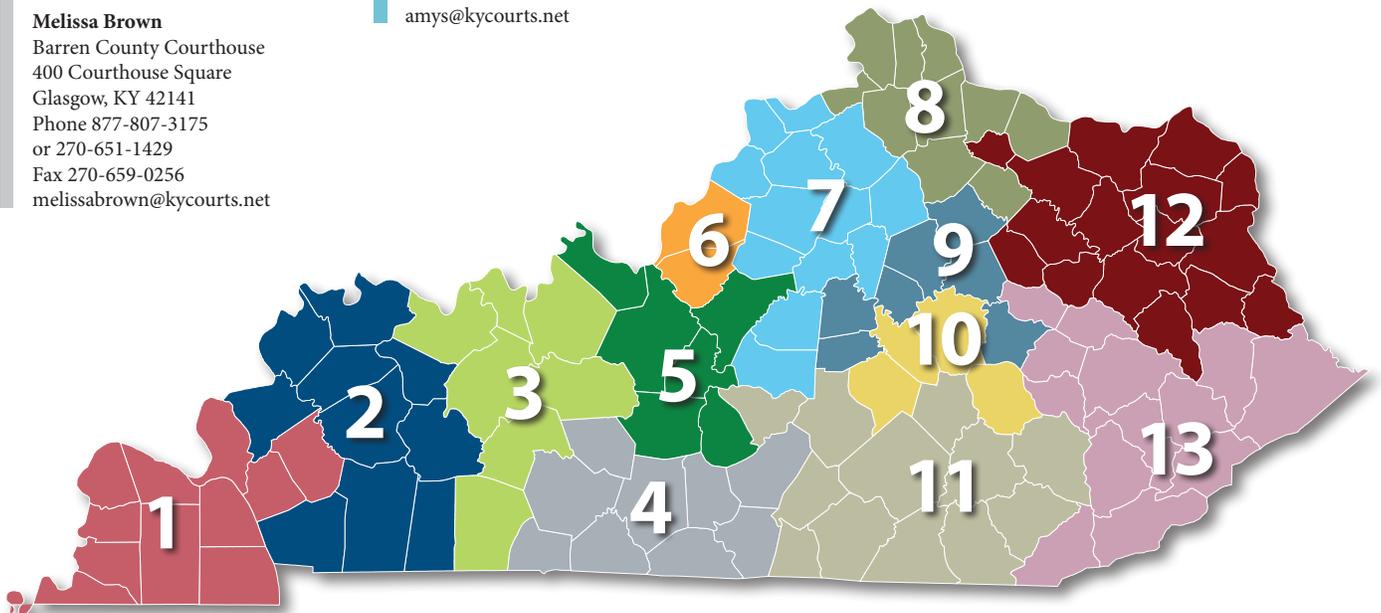
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Acknowledgments

**2019 Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board Annual Report
Submitted pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statutes 620.320(4)**

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**Angela Morris, Family Services Manager
Troy Bell, Family Services Administrator
Family Services Coordinators & Administrative Support Staff
*AOC Division of Family Services***

**Lyn Guarnieri, Drew Haile, Leigh Anne Hiatt, Jim Hoffmann,
Tammy Manley, Shan Sears, Dolores Smith
*Administrative Office of the Courts***



Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board
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