

# FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD (Davidson County)

Metropolitan Davidson County Juvenile Court  
100 Woodland Street  
PO Box 196306  
Nashville TN 37219-6306

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### *SERVING AS THE EYES AND THE EARS OF THE COURT*

As members of the Foster Care Review Board, you do so much for the Court. You literally serve as the eyes and the ears on behalf of the children in Foster Care. As the Juvenile Court Judge, there are three major principles that I plan to focus on during my term. As members of the FCRB, each of you will play an important role towards accomplishing these principles. I look forward to working with you all over the next several years.



First, I plan to focus the court's efforts on preventing problems for the children and families in our court system. Oftentimes, we tend to wait until something happens before we take action when dealing with our children. In so many ways, we have the ability to prevent problems from occurring instead of waiting to fix something after it's already happened. As a member of the FCRB, you can help assist the court in many ways. As you serve as the eyes and ears of the court, you have the ability to stay on top of the cases that come in front of you. By making sure that you ask the right questions, and by demanding the attention deserved on each case, you can make sure that the youth are not only getting by at school, but are achieving great things. You have the ability to make sure that children are properly medicated - and not overly medicated. You have the ability to make sure that each child is getting their proper check-ups - medical, dental, and emotional. You have the ability to prevent our youth from suffering any further harm while they are in our care.

Secondly, I plan to focus on promoting the positive potential for each child and parent that enters into this court system. There is no question that we all have the potential to do positive things; as well as the potential to turn the wrong way. It is up to us, the Court and the FCRB members, to make sure that everyone that we see believes that they can achieve great things in our community. In your reviews, you have the chance to engage each child in a conversation about their strengths, their hopes and dreams. You have the ability to encourage our youth to dream often and dream big. Furthermore, each of you has the wisdom and knowledge to guide our youth towards a positive path. As you review the cases, you can also touch the parents who are trying to get their lives back on the right track. You have the power to engage them, empower them and encourage them.

Thirdly, I plan to restore hope in the system for the children and families that we serve. By the time a child has a case in front of the FCRB, many times the child and family believe that they will not have a fair chance or a chance to be heard. As members of the FCRB, you have the ability to let their voices be heard. You have the opportunity to enable them to have a truly meaningful dialogue about their situation. Just by taking the time to listen to their concerns, you can restore their hope in the system and help them to believe that it is a fair system.

Each of you has so much to give to this Court. The fact that you have VOLUNTEERED your time and your efforts to serve as the eyes and the ears of the court says a tremendous amount about your character. For that, we can never repay your efforts. As I focus on the goals for the court, I will also focus on making your time feel valued. I plan to make sure that you have supportive staff members working with you, that parking is never an issue, and that you have all the tools that you need beforehand in order to conduct a meaningful review.

I look forward to having a chance to meet each and every one of you. I will be checking on each of the boards in the coming months. Please let me know if you have any suggestions or concerns. I would love to hear them.

Again, I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for the youth and the families of this Court and our community! Keep up the great work serving as the eyes and the ears of the court!

*Sheila D. J. Calloway*

# School's Schedules

The Davidson County Educational Specialist, Jennifer Woods, has supplied us with the listing of all of the State's public schools & DCS contract school's schedules for the 2014-2015 school year. If you are in need during a review to know such details ask your Court Liaison to look it up for you, it has been added as an icon on the computer in the FCRB room. Thank-you Jennifer!

**"Health conditions found disproportionately among children in foster care."**

AS a FCRB member you know we ask at each child's review the detailed health questions that are on the summary. This article is great at explaining the importance of those questions. Take a look:

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/healthy-foster-care-america/Documents/HFCAJudgesToolkit.pdf>

## Member Corner

The FCRB Program welcomes the following new members since July of 2014:

Mary Johnston—#10

Constance Caldwell—#5

Laura Herrell—#11

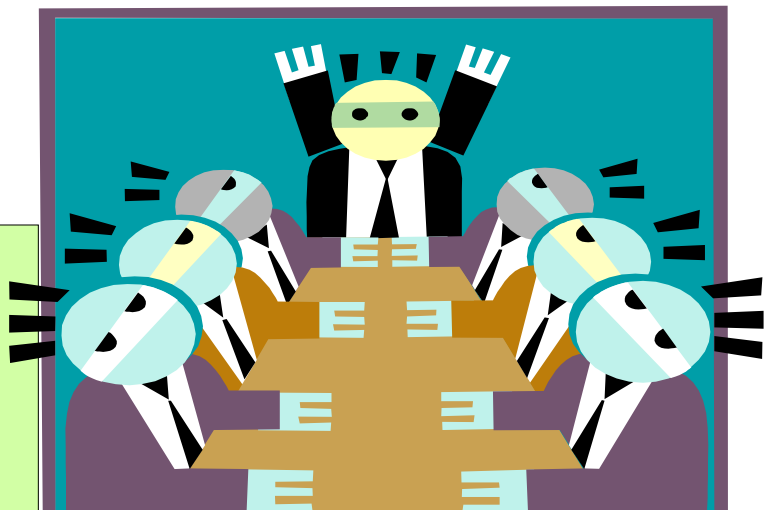
Susan Shand—#2

David Clay—#8

Sarah Ballard—#4

Joyce Crawford—#7

Please let us know how we can assist you in acclimating to the boards!



**Members Resigning since July 2014: We wish you all the best!**

Chase Jones—#4

Tina Arigbe—#13

Joan Van Reece—#6

# Visitation

Everyone involved in child welfare knows the importance of parent-child visitation and its significance for reunification. At every FCRB where a goal of return to parent is on the plan the following questions regarding visitation must be addressed:

*8.a. What is the manner and frequency of visits between the child and:*

*Mother*

*Father*

*Siblings (not residing in the same placement)*

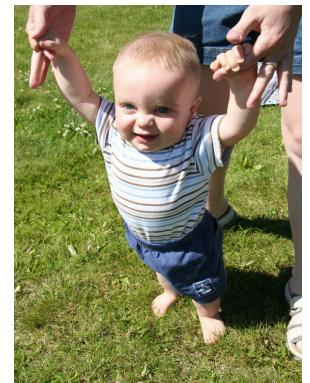
*8. If there is a concurrent goal, is the youth visiting with adult (s) identified in the concurrent goal?*

Remember that visitation has to occur if parental rights remain intact and only the court can suspend visitation.

And always keep in mind: "Is the visitation schedule sufficient to maintain and strengthen the familial relationship?"



Please go to the following web site to read a great article regarding the importance of visitation with family in foster care: [http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/information\\_packets/Visiting\\_with\\_Family.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/information_packets/Visiting_with_Family.pdf)



Reminder: Anyone who wishes to include an

article or picture for our newsletter please feel free — just contact me.

Thanks!

*Janet*

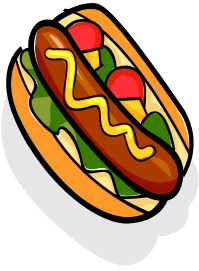
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Davidson County Juvenile Court





LET'S GET GRILLING....  
 JUVENILE COURT  
 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MECCC FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014

11AM-UNTIL

HAMBURGER COMBO \$5

(Turkey Burgers on advance tickets only)

CHEESEBURGER COMBO \$6

ALL BEEF HOT DOG COMBO \$5

All Combos include chips and a drink

SINGLE ENTRÉE \$3

CHIPS, DRINK, & DESSERTS

\$1 Each

Door Prizes \$2 or \$5

Purchase your ticket in advance to get a free \$2 door prize ticket!

To purchase tickets, contact:

Nikkita Chatman, 615-862-8052, [nikkitaChatman@jis.nashville.org](mailto:nikkitaChatman@jis.nashville.org)

Michelle Conner, 615-862-8050, [jessicaconner@jis.nashville.org](mailto:jessicaconner@jis.nashville.org)



FCRB members , please join us at this event! It is a fund raising event for United Way and other Charities from Metro Employees.

*Janet*