



Juvenile Court

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE & DAVIDSON COUNTY

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

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Second Annual Statewide Foster Care Review Board Meeting May 5, 2015

This meeting was very informative and invigorating. After a welcome and introduction by Assistant Commissioner, Debbie Miller, our very own Janet Nielsen, FCRB Program Coordinator, spoke on "A Board Perspective". She gave a historical perspective of the evolution of FCRB in Davidson County and stressed that even though reviews are a "lot more thorough and tougher than in years past we are definitely looking after the child's best interest". Then Latoya Phillips, Peer Advocate, spoke on a Peer Advocate Perspective—good job Latoya! Then we had an education update and child health update from DCS. After lunch we had breakout sessions according to region. Davidson County is it's own region so we had about 20 participants. We discussed what a successful FCRB looks like, barriers to a successful FCRB and developed some solutions. Afterward we heard from Commissioner Henry as to DCS progress and plans. The FCRB Chairs had a meeting on June 26th to continue this discussion and another is set for August 28th, 2015.

Felicity Peck

FCRB member of Board #2 and #3.

On April 17, 2017 State Representative John Ray Clemmons presented Felicity Peck with a joint resolution from the State Legislature (HJR 0151), in recognition of Felicity for her dedication to the children of Tennessee and her many years of selfless and continued volunteer services.

Congratulations Felicity!



Member Corner

The FCRB Program welcomes the following new members since April of 2015:

Gerald Davis—#1
Debra Simpkins—#1
Sierra Agens—#14
Mafia McKinley—#12
Sharon Barker—#12
Rhonda Dunn—#2
Tiffany Wardlaw—#7



Members Resigning since April 2015: We wish you all the best!

Julie Travis—#4 Larry Post—#7
Connor Hoke—#6 Ron Bailey #8
Erika Burnett—#6
Kristin King—#9
Shamika Floyd—#9
Brittany Mason—#3
Sarah Ballard—#4
Abby Whisenant—#12
Cindy VanBrackle—#7
Susie Estes—#12

The AOC's Court Improvement Program is now providing our FCRB Program an opportunity to use data to tailor our services to children in DCS custody and track changes in DCS custody population over time. They have created a *FCRB Dashboard*, which transforms custody data from TFACTS (DCS case management system) into a display summarizing data on demographics, timeliness, and other custody information. The Dashboard also addresses particular custody populations, such as children who reentered custody and children in full guardianship of DCS. However, identifying information is not exchanged. Below is some of the data (Davidson County) from the 1st quarter of 2015 (January—March):

of children in custody at end of quarter = 461

Timeliness toward goal achievement =

Reunification = 9.8 months

Relative placement = 1.1 months

Adoption = 27.6 months

Average age at custody entrance = 13

Current age on average = 14

Age under 14 = 254 (45%)

Age 14-16 = 157 (28%)

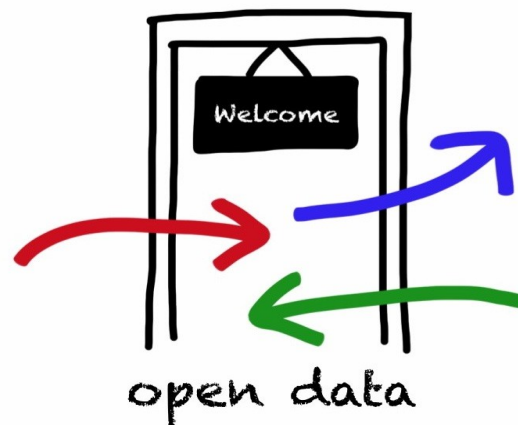
Age 17 = 106 (19%)

Race & Hispanic Origin = 118 (27%) white

282 (65%) African American

64 (11%) Hispanic or Latino

Placement = 176 (32%) children had a placement change



State of TN DCS Administrative Policies & Procedures 16.32

Foster Care Review Board & Quarterly Reports

LEARNING CORNER



Purpose: To provide procedures to ensure that all children in DCS custody participate in Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) or the local court review of progress of the permanency plan, with the exception that Boards are not required to review cases of youth placed in DCS Youth Development Centers, although some courts may instruct their Boards to hear these cases. This policy applies to all children/youth, including those who are or may be subject to compliance with Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).

This policy was revised on **4-21-2015**. To read in it's entirety

go to the DCS web site: <http://www.tn.gov/youth/>

Click on *DCS guide* on the left

Click on *Policy and Procedures* on the right

Click on *Chapter 16 Foster Care*

Click on *16.32 FCRB & Quarterly Progress Reports*



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Reminder: Anyone who wishes to include an article or picture for our newsletter please feel free — just contact me.

Thanks!

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Julia Parker



Our many thanks to FCRB #5 Chairperson, Julia Parker, for conducting a training session for our Educational Specialists on June 5, 2015! We really appreciate Julia and her vast educational experience and knowledge! See below for more educational news:

Check out this web site for information on "Making High School Count" - information on SAT & ACT:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/making-high-school-count/standardized-tests/v/overview-of-act>

New law passed in the General Assembly and signed by the Governor on 5-4-15

Senate Education Committee 1 Amendment No. 1 to SB0537

Gresham Signature of Sponsor AMEND Senate Bill No. 537* House Bill No. 567

SA0278 005524 -1-

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

No LEA shall require any enrolling or transferring student, who is in grade eleven (11) or higher and in the custody of the department of children's services or exiting its custody, to meet more than the minimum requirements for graduation set forth by the state board of education. The LEA shall issue a full diploma to any such student who meets the minimum requirements.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.