



# Juvenile Court

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE & DAVIDSON COUNTY

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## FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

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Chelsea Clark, a college sophomore, received the keys to a free 2006 Mustang this week -- a gift donated to her by Jaimee Brown, who chose to give her car to a young person who had been in foster care. "It was definitely a gift to see her excitement," Brown said. "We are honored to be a small part of Chelsea's story. She's wonderful and we can't wait to hear what's ahead for her." Chelsea, 19, is in the *DCS Extension of Foster Care* program and was identified by staff as the recipient that best would benefit from the gift. She lives on campus and has needed DCS staff to drive her places. The car gives her independence, which is what the DCS staff strive to offer young people who have aged out of foster care. "I don't have to be dependent anymore on anybody else taking me anywhere," Chelsea said. "And I get to have fun in it. Celebrate a blessing." As she got the keys from Brown, Chelsea was at a loss for words. I told her Thank you. This is probably the best thing that ever happened to me," she said. "I am more than grateful for Extension of Foster Care!"

- See more at: <http://www.tn.gov/dcs/article/chelseas-car#sthash.CBbI7NE7.dpuf>



## FCRB member spotlight:

### *Mafia McKinley*

Mafia is a member of board #12 & #13. She has subbed over and over again when we need her in order to have a quorum. Thank-you Mafia, we really appreciate you!!!!



# Member Corner



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

- Suzanna Reese-Wilson—#10
- Judy Quarles—#10
- Nannette Clark—#7
- Rahwa Mehari- #11
- Donna Goodaker—#12
- Shanique Nixon—#14
- Cherika Shelton—#10
- Caroline Summerville—#7
- Gail Bright—#11
- Michelle Peyton—#6
- Zina Yzquierdo—#14

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

- Susan Shand—#2
- Carolyn Evans—#13
- Peggy Vinson—#8
- Debra Simpkins—#1
- Shree Walker—#5

## 2015 FCRB Data

	# reviews	# exited	# hotsheets	# members present
#1	112	7	2	5
#2	138	2	1	5
#3	144	23	1	5
#4	104	16	5	6
#5	84	14	3	6
#6	122	12	1	5
#7	123	10	1	5
#8	151	18	4	6
#9	209	24	8	5
#10	82	10	2	4
#11	115	8	0	7
#12	93	8	2	6
#13	76	10	1	6
#14*	56	0	1	6
Total	1609	162	32	average = 6

3 boards canceled due to inclement weather

\* Board #14 began in May 2015 (met only 8 months)

### Child/youth presence at FCRBs: (began tracking in August 2015)

August = 86%

September = 76%

October = 82%

November = 84%

December = 72%

# 2015 Hotsheets

Below are details of the Hotsheets (motions) filed by the FCRBs in calendar year 2015.

The Board number is listed in parenthesis in red after the results.

Reason for Hotsheet	Results
1. Child needs new active GAL	GAL will stay on case but be more active (#9)
2. DCS did not provide list of services in the home with the kids on THV with Mom as ordered at last hotsheet (2014)	services were proven & children returned to Mom's custody (#8)
3. Case needs work. Goal is "relative" & there is no identified relative, need educational records.	a possible relative is identified but home study is needed, ed. records still not provided, re-set (#1)
4. Placement presents a safety risk; no cohesive plan for permanency	placement found inappropriate; Re-set for review (#7)
5. Child feels unsafe in placement; health & safety concerns due to her diabetes	ordered to add safety concern to current SIU investigation; set Transitional Living hearing (#13)
6. Placement safety concerns; ICPC concerns	new info. given; even though there are still concerns Court not ready to remove her; FCRB can re-file if needed (#8)
7. Infant - goal not changed to adoption even though that is what the plan is , TPR with Legal	granted, Perm plan set, DCS reported they are adding adoption goal; TPR filed (#9)
8. DCS FSW did not show for FCRB two times, out of compliance	granted; set perm plan date (#2)
9. Child taken off all meds without consultation with DCS	DCS to obtain medical/psychological records, set again to insure; at next review placement was deemed not least restrictive, gave DCS 30 days to locate a step-down, set another review (#9)
10. No TPR filed even though DCS Legal referral was made one year ago	TPR filed 6-4-15 prior to hotsheet being heard, motion stricken (#9)
11. Child feels unsafe in his placement (i.e. being bullied by girls due to his transgender)	Court ordered 90 THV with Grandmother immediately (#8)
12. No TPR; been in care for 18 mts.	denied; ordered regular supervised visitation with Mom (#6)
13. YV plan to have 2 sibs do an overnight visit with unknown possible adoptive home which is harmful to the kids	until a bonding assessment is done it is contrary to the welfare of the - children to be grouped in a new potentially pre-adoptive home; this does not influence respite or visitation with prospective parents (#9)
14. Two first FCRBs scheduled & no one appeared	Motion granted, review set, DCS ordered to appear (#4)
15. Eye health concern; family therapy not happening	child now has glasses; family therapy starts 8/4/15 (#4)

16. Lack of therapeutic services provided by DCS, resulted in a disrupted placement	in home services started, GAL has this hotsheet set for monthly reviews by Magistrate (#9)
17. Case remains at a standstill; need TPR filed	DCS filed the TPR petition before hotsheet was heard (#9)
18. TPR needed	Court did not order DCS to file TPR, petition pending by Aunt for 2 siblings but not this child. (#1)
19. No TPR filed, child in care for 19 mts	Court did not order DCS to file TPR due to father being in a program, continued to 8-25-15. No order from 8-25-15 hearing; verbal in Sept. reported they are going to pursue the TPR that is with their Legal Department (#9)
20. Did not want child to exit care to Mom without needed in home services	Exited to Mom after Court assured services were in the home. (#5)
21. Child needs to be stepped down & DCS did not bring child to last two reviews	Child being moved to a more appropriate placement & Court set another hearing in Feb. (#4)
22. Youth still in Maury Co. Detention; educational needs not being met.	Child was moved to G4S Academy for Boys (#10)
23. No Transitional Living plan, child turns 18 in 3 mts	THV extended to 1 day past his 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday so he could accept EFC. TL presented. (#5)
24. 2 reviews set & participants not notified by DCS	Motion granted, review set & participants to be notified (#4)
25. Ed. needs not being met; FSW not communicating with parents	TL approved on oldest, others continued to Feb. 2016 (#4)
26. Inappropriate placement (detention) since custody date (90 days)	Placement found inappropriate, hearing set to review (#12)
27. Repeatedly tried to get ed records from DCS, finally received at board time but FSW did not appear for review and FCRB did not have time to review at the last minute.	DCS has obtained all of the ed record except the transcript which will be obtained & presented at the Perm Plan hearing next month. (#5)
28. DCS plans on releasing youth from YDC to relative in Ohio who is not a naturalized US citizen & DCS has not developed a TL plan.	Youth released to his brother prior to hearing. (#14)
29. Child does not feel safe in his Level 4 placement	Child stepped down to Deer Valley (#12)
30. DCS did not appear for two FCRBs	DCS management has been notified & is addressing; review set for 1-26-16 (#3)
31. Child not permitted to have her inhaler with her in her placement	Floor staff will be trained as to her needs; & a nurse is on call 24 hours a day & can access 911; according to placement her inhaler has not been used since 2014. (#10)
32. Children are violent & foster placement is not appropriate	Children's placement was changed prior to hearing (#8)

# Trauma Informed FCRBS

Up to 90% of system involved youth report exposure to some type of traumatic event in their past.\* Just as many children in the child welfare system have experienced different kinds of trauma, many birth parents involved with child welfare services have their own histories of childhood and/or adult trauma.\*\*

It is not uncommon for the court setting or legal process (i.e. FCRB) to trigger feelings of helplessness or loss of control in children & parents, which may be exacerbated by the child's or parents' past trauma and its reminders. Court experience itself can be confusing, intimidating, disempowering, and, at times, re-traumatizing. Courts must minimize treats and maximize safety, both real & perceived, by those before the Court to be effective. \*\*\*This is one of the reasons we are holding the Extension of Foster Care (EFC) review boards away from the Court building beginning in January of 2016. As to the other boards it is not feasible to have their boards away from the building at this time. However, we can be aware when discussions arise that may re-traumatize the children that we excuse the children from the discussion and have the "adults talk alone". I realize this can be a balancing act but since we want the children at the reviews & want their input as to their well being we have to find that balance between having them be present and discussing past traumatic situations which may have been the cause of foster care placement. Pay attention to ways trauma can play out during reviews. Trauma experienced by birth parents involved in the child welfare system can impact their engagement with staff, participation in services and likelihood of reaching goals.

We need to do our best to become a trauma-informed FCRB program! Understanding the basic dynamics of trauma, recognizing trauma reactions and maintaining self-care are vital. There is a multitude of information at the following sites:

National Child Traumatic Stress Network [www.nctsn.org](http://www.nctsn.org)

The Adverse Child Experiences Study [www.cestudy.org](http://www.cestudy.org)

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges [www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org).

- from: "A Trauma Primer for Juvenile Probation & Juvenile Detention Staff"
- \*\* from: [www.nctsn.org](http://www.nctsn.org)
- \*\*\* from: "Preparing for a Trauma Consultation in your Juvenile & Family Court", NCJFCJ

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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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