



FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

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Changes, Growth, and Training

As you are all aware with change come struggles, a chance for growth and a chance to learn. Much as our beautiful city of Nashville is growing, so are we here in FCRB. In 2016 we focused on the EFC additions, then we added board #16 in November of 2016. In 2017 we didn't escape change either. We restructured all the boards by age or adjudication (17yr olds, 14-16yr olds, school aged, baby, and adoption). We also had many changes around court happen see Page 4.)

With fitness, it takes consistent training to see the changes. With each training session you can feel physical pain, the perk to that though is when the muscle repairs itself, it is stronger than before. Much like working out, the work we do on FCRB requires constant training and honing our skills. This year we started strong with trainings, we had new forms trainings for the new 17 yr olds, we are in the midst of Motivational Interviewing training (a 3 part sponsored by the AOC), and this will not be the last of it. If you are a new board member and have been wondering when there will be a training for you, we will be conducting a new board member training VERY soon. We have a few possible dates in mind so keep an eye out for an email link to the signup genius for that.

Our FCRB Member spotlight:

I honestly cannot narrow this down to just 1 or 2 so I am going to list some of those that have gone above and beyond so far this year.

Darlene Vestano, Suzette Webster, Jonnae Miller, Gerald Davis, Katie Goetz, Julia Parker, Linda Fazio-Sprague, Mary Cunningham, Shanique Nixon, Amy Cooper, Joyce Johnson, and Therese Plante.

Each of you have been real troopers, and I could list every single one of you, but I will spare you.

You are the team making the gears turn, and making this process continue.



Member Corner



The FCRB Program welcomes the following new members since June 2017:

William Clark Anderson, Sarah Atmajoana, Diane Onyejiaka, Aaron Rummage, Sherrie Hughey, Rachel Jakubovitz, Sandra Stewart, Rechelle Esaw-Crutcher, Ann Webber, Linda Fazio-Sprague, Michael Stern, Josephine Chromy, Phil Cobucci, Mwafaq Aljabbary, Anita Herron, Amy Cooper, Joyce Johnson, Christie Laird, Walter Richardson, and Jonnae Miller.

That's 20 new members!!!

We are looking at starting an internship program with some of the local colleges, these students would be able to earn practicum hours, and would sit on multiple boards.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving as a volunteer please have them call or go to the Juvenile Court Website for the online application.

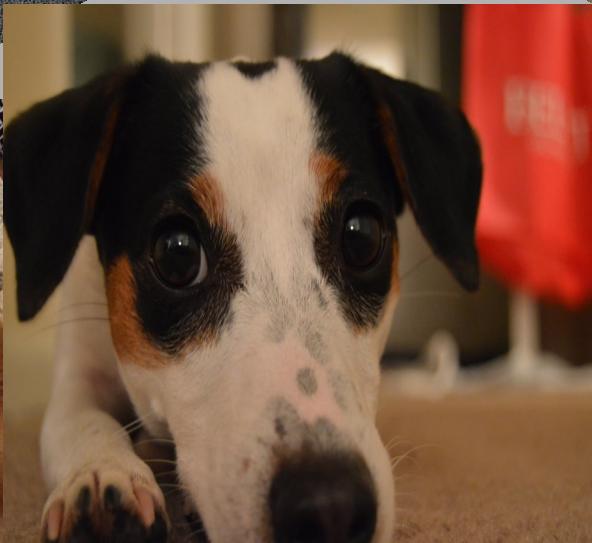
We would like to thank the following members for their service to the FCRB Program:

Kelli Davis, Susan Savage, Kate Stone, Susan Martin, Ivette Nienstedt, Korlu McCainster, Leah Hodgkiss, Gorgianna Hooker, Laquinta Broyles, Kate Bradley, Rokisha Bryant, Anne Peebles, Amy Smith, Shannon Arrington, Nannette Clark, Alissa Shear, Marietta Carter, Frannie Martin, Wende Rutherford, Janice Bates, Gail Bright, Stephanie Livesay, Stacy Macuik, Sharon Barker, Donna Goodakerm Kathy Gracey, Deborah, Grant, Gwendolyn Harris, Sharon Barker, Jane Fleishman, and Adrian Cartledge.

That's 31 members some of which were on multiple boards

We will miss you!

Our 4 legged



From Top left: Alexis, Boone, Cooper

From bottom left: Maverick, Scout, Winnie



Retirement



After working for 28 years at Davidson County Juvenile Court, Patty McMillan has decided it is time to retire. She plans to help care for her mother, stepdad her dog Eddie, and her husband. She will also be taking on the role of Treasurer/ Secretary a few days a week for her church.

She wants to tell you "it has been a pleasure working with you all and I wish all of you success in your future endeavors."



I for one will miss Patty and all the work she does here with the FCRB division!



Other FCRB staff transitions:

Janet Nielsen Retired July of 2017

Brad Edwards became FCRB supervisor July 2017

Jeffrey Howe Joined FCRB January 2018

Janet Jones filled in while we located our full time replacement for Patty's position.

Teresa Busby (who does not want her picture taken) has taken over as the OSR for FCRB

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Trainings & Attendance

Motivational Interviewing

March- 30 Attended

April- 27 Attended

May's training is set as well so please follow the link Teresa sent out a few weeks ago and register if you have not already done so.



With so many board members having resigned over the last year, and not as many as resigned joined we have had to send many emails for subs. You all have stepped up and for that we here at Juvenile Court are immensely grateful. If for some reason you are not able to attend your designated board time please notify us as soon as you possibly can. If you are able to volunteer on a day that you do not normally do please contact one of the court facilitators, or Teresa and we will let you know the scheduled boards.

We had hoped to start a new board in June to help with the 5-13 age group, they have the heaviest load of all the boards. Unfortunately we have not had enough new volunteers. We are now set to start in July, and it will be the 2nd Thursday @12:00 email me if interested

Many of you know that the school documentation is one of the biggest problems we have in making sure the youth are on track to graduate, and are getting the appropriate services while in care. Well I have good news. The AOC, MNPS, DCS, and the Court have been working on a joint project that will kick off July 1, and actually start having an impact with the beginning of this upcoming school year. MNPS is going to have a coordinator for each school quadrant that will meet with DCS to help with school transitions, their appropriateness, the completeness of records, and above all the BEST INTEREST decision making for school placement changes! Residential treatment changes as they step into or out of a metro school will also be part of this pilot.

From the desk of the Chief

I must say over the past 10 months I have learned a lot about Foster Care Review Boards (FCRB) from the court's perspective. As I think most of you know, up until 10 months ago, I was working for DCS for the past 20 years. Working in Foster Care (FC), Juvenile Justice (JJ), Quality Control, and Child Protective Services (CPS); however at some point I was involved with either presenting or representing my staff at the boards.

This week, I was presenting this week to a group of DCS CPS workers at the TBI office in Nashville on "Engaging Teen Males". It was an interesting discussion on trying to relate to teens. They can be combative, mis-read facial cues, quick to anger, and unyielding in their beliefs if and when they feel they have been "wronged" in some way. I pondered the question, "If we all do not feel or react that way sometimes?" I must acknowledge that I do; as I think we all do when a FSW cannot answer the questions or when a child is late for the review. Just as when a board does not have a quorum and we have to re-schedule it.

FCRB's are an integral part of the foster care system as you function as the eyes and ears of the court. Like I explain to our staff here at court, building relationships takes time, effort, and a lot of patience. Amy Warner, UC Berkley, conducted a 40 year longitudinal study and followed 400 babies into their adulthood. She found that 2 protective factors were most important in helping youth meet their fullest potential. The first was meaningful relationships and the second was spiritual beliefs.

Meaningful relationships is what the FCRB and DCS should be developing to work in the best interests of children. As with most relationships they can be hard and hurtful but they can also be powerful and supportive. I prefer powerful and supportive. To get there we have to believe the relationship is worth the time and investment. Our youth are worth that time and investment.

I look around at FCRB's and see such dedicated Volunteers and staff as well as dedicated and sometimes overwhelmed staff at DCS, who really want what is best for kids and their families. We can just tend to see things a little differently sometimes. Make no doubt, we have a strong meaningful relationship between the FCRB's and DCS and it is working. We can make it stronger if we remember all relationships have a give and take, then we can take steps towards that goal together; Permanency for our youth!

In closing, no way can anyone thank you Board Members enough for your sacrifices, but I must start by saying, Thank You! Thank you for your time, energy, frustrations, joy, and most of all, thank you for building relationships with our youth, families, court staff and DCS.

Raymond A. Jenkins Jr., MSW Chief Probation Officer

To access one of the links below right click on the link and look for the option "open Hyperlink"

<http://www.tncourts.gov/node/3229465> This is a Direct link to all of the online training modules provided by the AOC.

<http://www.tn.gov/dcs/topic/policies-procedures> This link has all of the policies for DCS. The dropdown box will allow you to select individual sections such as foster care, Education, and Health

<https://www.tncourts.gov/rules/rules-juvenile-procedure/403> This is a link to the local rules of Juvenile procedure for FCRB.

Lastly, I want to remind you that there is an education manual available that goes into great depth on how to fill out and make recommendations based on the educational section of the decree.

**LEADING THE WAY to
PREVENT Problems,
PROMOTE Positive Po-
tential and PURSUE
Fairness and Hope**

<http://juvenilecourt.nashville.gov/>

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