

'It's been an honor to serve with you'

It is with a full and grateful heart that I write my final message to you from the Commissioner's Office.

This month marks my 50-year career as a social worker. I had never worked in government until these final years of service. And though I had fears and preconceived notions about it, getting to work with all of you and leading this agency has been a profound and fulfilling experience and one of the most challenging and greatest honors of my life.

From the Outgoing Commissioner



Marta Miranda-Straub chats with Portia Mabasa, Jennifer Warren, Bobbi Frye and Darlene Staniford at her retirement reception on Jan. 5.

See more reception photos on [Page 2](#); Read the story [here](#)



2022 annual report details department accomplishments



The cover of the DCBS 2022 Annual Report. Read the entire report [here](#).

DCBS leadership is proud to present to staff and partners the DCBS 2022 Annual Report.

This review of our accomplishments reflects the mission and vision of our Department, and it solidly supports Gov. Andy Beshear's goals for the Commonwealth. This report highlights existing programs and services and gives a snapshot of the number of Kentuckians served through our work and partnerships during the 2022 calendar year. It represents our collective work and the efforts of every single staff member of this agency, all of whom contributed to the past year's successes and collaborative strides. Thank you all!



A big DCBS Shout Out goes to the Letcher County Protection and Permanency staff! In recent conversation with department leadership, 47th District Court Judge Kevin Mullins had nothing but praise for these "wonderful staff." Judge Mullins said in his interactions with Letcher DPP, he realizes he gets to work with one of the best offices in the state. Good work, Letcher County! Thank you for your service to southeastern Kentucky families and for representing DCBS so well. *Staff Shout Outs spotlight good work from and good words shared about our DCBS colleagues! Have a Shout Out about one of your coworkers? Email it to DCBSCommissioner@ky.gov.*

Staff bid fond farewell to outgoing Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub

Outgoing Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub was guest of honor at a retirement reception on Jan. 5. She said in her retirement, she will be a mermaid returning to the sea. Her reception featured a mermaid theme and a table-scape charcuterie board! Here are a few scenes from her farewell.



Thank you and best wishes, Commissioner!

November DSR Scorecard shows improvement

The Division of Service Regions has released the November 2022 Scorecard. Here are some of the highlights.

There were a total of 357 children that exited OOHC and in November; 119 of those children were reunified with their parents, 108 were adopted, 75 were placed with relatives, and 16 children chose to extend commitment.

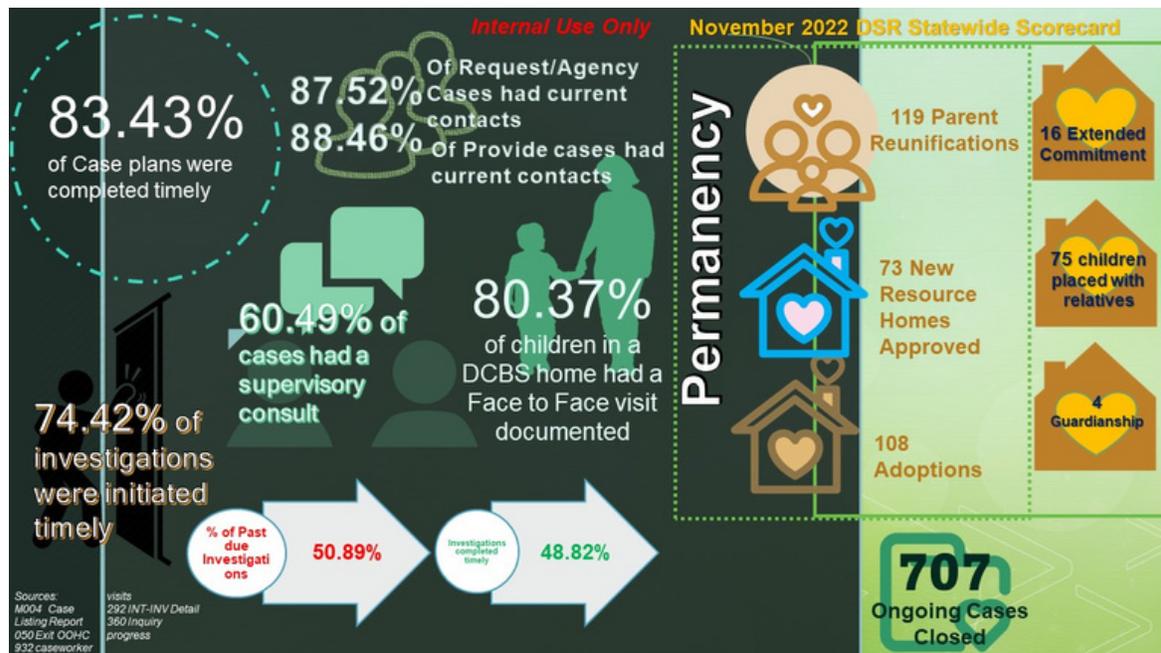
Our R&C Teams approved 73 new resource homes.

In October, statewide we closed 707 ongoing request/agency APS/CPS cases.

We have made some amazing improvements from October to November in serving Kentucky Families, children, and vulnerable adults timely.

Statewide there have been improvements in the following areas:

- The number of past due investigations
- The number of investigations initiated timely
- The number of investigations completed timely



Areas in which we could improve services to Kentucky families and children:

- The number of cases with a documented supervisory consult
- The number of F2F visits to children completed and documented
- The number of case plans completed timely
- The number of contacts documented

This scorecard utilizes evaluation calculations for the following elements: Timely Initiations, Consults, Case plans, Timely Completion, Contacts, % Past Due, and Caseworker visits. It references the 050 Enter/Exit Statistic report for reasons in which children exited care; Parent reunification, adoption, etc. The 360-inquiry report was used to look at the total number of new resource homes approved.

DSR Update: DCBS invited to share CQI plan nationally

Field Quality:

The CQI FAQ Youth Engagement brochure was created by the Field Quality Branch along with feedback from VOC youth. This document is being shared with youth at various CQI and youth-related events. It will soon be available on the KY RISE website. The brochure gives an overview of CQI, the role of youth, how youth receive feedback and can engage with DCBS, and an overview of VOC. A newsletter that encompasses CQI issues is now produced quarterly as well and goes to the service regions in DBCS as well as the CQI Collaborative partners which encompasses representation from all CHFS divisions. This is a snapshot of CQI issues vetted up and resolutions intended to



strengthen and highlight the feedback loop of the CQI process. Kentucky is in the monitoring and evaluation phase of the statewide CQI Redesign Center and has been invited to share our state CQI Implementation Evaluation Plan with partner states through the Capacity Building Center for States. A CQI Engagement Survey is sent out to DCBS twice a year to collect information on the process and has

yielded results of increased engagement, understanding, and inclusion in the CQI process.

Safety and Facilities:

The Safety and Facilities Branch has continued to support the safety of all DCBS employees and those served in our offices and by our staff on a continual basis. The branch processed 629 critical incidents reports as formally reported by the service regions this calendar year, 2022. Improvements to the Critical Incident Reporting System made highlighted real-time reporting capability for staff and immediate alerts to local Safety Administrators.

Read the story [here](#)

Ky elder abuse services 6th nationwide

Hospital Security

States with the Best and Worst Elder-Abuse Protections

Do you know where your state ranks regarding its elder-abuse protections? This new report breaks it down.



In a recent report on best and worst state elder abuse services, Kentucky has ranked sixth nationally.

According to WalletHub, a personal-finance website, the elderly population is especially vulnerable during times of high inflation. WalletHub's report on 2022's States with the Best Elder-Abuse Protections compares 50 states and the District of Columbia across 16 key metrics, including elder-abuse, gross-neglect and exploitation complaints, financial elderly-abuse laws, and quality of nursing homes. Kentucky is considered among the top 10 states, ranking sixth.

This report reflects positively on the work of our Adult Protective Services staff. Great job to these staff and their partners! Read the report and see the rankings [here](#).

John Lewis named director of START

John Lewis has been appointed to the position of Director of START - Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team - effective Dec. 1, 2022.

John was with CHFS and DCBS for about 13 years prior to accepting this new role with the University of Kentucky.



John Lewis

John earned a bachelor's of social work from Morehead State University as a PCWCP graduate. He is currently enrolled in the MSW Program through UK and will graduate in May 2023.

John spent five years as a front-line social worker, including two and a half years as a START worker. John then transitioned to supervision in January 2015 for an ongoing team in Boyd County. In 2017, he briefly supervised an investigative team before finally supervising the START team in Boyd County from August 2017 through March 2022.

From March 2022 through November of 2022, John served as Acting Lead SRAA in the Northeastern Service Region.

[Read the story here](#)

Legislative session begins

The 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly convened on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Odd-numbered sessions are deemed to be a "short session" because they consist of no more than 30 legislative days compared to the 60 legislative days in even-numbered "long session" years, but Session is still scheduled to stretch through March 30 this year.

After convening for one week at the beginning of Session, the General Assembly took a four-week break and will resume legislative action on Feb. 7. Being a typical odd-numbered year, this is not a budget session. There are many new lawmakers in the General Assembly, and this short session provides an opportunity for them to learn the ropes ahead of next year's budget and long session.

Information concerning the legislative process, who your legislator is, and access to proposed legislation can all be found on the Legislative Research Commission's website at <https://legislature.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>. You can tune into KET's legislative coverage on your KET channel on television or at <https://www.ket.org/legislature/>.

7 PCWCP students graduate

Congratulations to the seven fall term Public Child Welfare Certification Program graduates! They represent four of the PCWCP program's 11 participating universities: Brescia University - 1; Eastern Kentucky University - 1; Northern Kentucky University - 2; University of Kentucky - 3.

Administered through Eastern Kentucky University, PCWCP is a university-public agency partnership designed to recruit, prepare and retain Kentucky public child welfare workers. Learn more about PCWCP on the program's recently updated website: <http://pcwcp.eku.edu>.