



January 2020

The Vision

News and updates from and about the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services
Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner

Guest Columnist: Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander

It's a privilege for me to be working alongside of you – so many for the second time. Having dedicated almost 30 years to this Cabinet in so many roles, I come to this work with a heart of service, and a deep respect for the work you do every day across Kentucky.

One of my primary goals as Acting Secretary is to actively support the work you do that assists and supports everyone we serve to be able to live to their full human potential and to make all our communities stronger and families more stable.

I appreciate the work that has been done that promotes the Culture of Safety. I hope to bring with me some additional concepts from my work in the Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services. The concept of resilience relates to how we bounce back from the inevitable shocks and stresses we all face. We should look at the factors that help any of us recover quickly and well.

In the Office of Resilience and Community Services we promoted the equation “Resilience = Equity + Compassion + Trust.” Without any of those three factors, it is hard for any individual or community to have enough cohesion and support to withstand the trauma of an unexpected shock. I cannot think of another public agency that needs to provide its employees and the people we serve with resilience skills more than DCBS.

Your work is demanding, it is specialized, and it can be heart breaking. Every day, you face issues of secondary trauma. To address this, we will work together to marshal resources in a similar way that resources have been marshalled around the Culture of Safety. It is the right thing to do to support all staff in the Cabinet.



Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander



Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander met with the DCBS leadership team in December to talk about priorities and answer questions.

My philosophy for providing quality public assistance is likely aligned with yours: We need to do everything we can to support our clients to obtain these services in an efficient and dignified manner. Many times, the assistance our team provides is a lifeline for the individuals we serve. Let's collaborate with our partners to make getting these services easier, not harder, for them.

I have the strongest confidence in your leadership team and in all of you. I value your expertise and am committed to helping you boost your technology resources and expand relationships within and outside of our Cabinet to enhance everything you are doing to give families better lives. Thank you for your energy, your efforts, and your enthusiasm in welcoming me back to the Cabinet and serving the communities of our Commonwealth.

Child Care

- DCBS had its monitoring visit with the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to review Kentucky's compliance with the Child Care and Block Grant (CCDBG) November 5-7. DCBS awaits a post-visit conference call and release of the federal findings in 2020.
- The Expanding High-Quality Family Child Care Initiative - The pilot project teams are hard at work effecting their goals and purpose, recruiting new family childcare providers and working with community members to increase awareness about the importance and need for quality early education.
 - The Northern Pilot Project is collaborating with businesses in Northern Kentucky to determine the child care needs of their employees. They have been working with the Chamber to address zoning laws, discuss the importance of family child care in their communities, and distribute resource materials to families in the communities.
 - All project teams have been working diligently on branding and messaging. Pilot projects have been distributing materials in communities to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education and explain the resources available for those who are interested in becoming a Family Child Care Provider.
 - Parent focus groups were held across the state in November to inform future recruitment, informational, and technical assistance efforts.
- As of December. 20, 2019, 53,548 child care staff member background checks have been initiated, with 45,088 background checks being completed through the National Background Check Program.
- Child Care Aware December highlights:
 - Child Care Aware staff met with Elizabeth Mays to begin development of a Strengthening Families online module. This will help support child care professionals as they seek to increase family involvement activities in their programs and move to higher levels of quality.
 - One hundred seventy-three (173) people completed the mandatory six-hour orientation requirement for early care and education professionals in Kentucky.
 - Professional Development coaches processed 290 college scholarships and 134 non-college scholarships.
 - Child Care Aware of Kentucky is currently working on updating their website to improve its utility and navigation by child care providers, parents, and business and community partners. This update should be completed and the website live in January 2020.
- The DCBS Division of Child Care's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Payment Section continues to work closely with child care providers and clients statewide to improve and expand communication measures. A mass mailing was sent to all child care providers about happening within the program, such as:
 - Overhaul of CCAP Provider Billing Basics Training, which is a free refresher training;
 - Implementation of two new CCAP notices: a DCC-117, Enrollment Approval Notice to providers, and a DCC-118, Child Care Certificate Reminder Notice for clients;
 - An update reminder for providers' DCC-94B, Licensed or Certified Provider Agreement Form; and
 - A new email address CCAPProviderPayments@ky.gov for providers' questions and concerns regarding CCAP.
- The Early Childhood Education Training Record Information System (ECE-TRIS) team has successfully transitioned to a document management process to electronically store, index, secure, and share documents related to child care provider training within the system, eliminating the need for any paper record storage. This change will also allow for authorized users to access files and documents any time. Since the official launch of the upload feature for sign-in sheets on November 1, ECE-TRIS has experienced over 700 uploads on the training details page.



DCBS met with the federal Administration for Children and Families to review Kentucky's compliance with the Child Care and Block Grant on November 5-7.

Child Care

- In 2020, almost half of the child care centers that participate in Kentucky All STARS Program, the quality rating system, are going to renew their certificates and need rating visits from field staff. The Kentucky All STARS Program has worked to alleviate some workload from the field staff by reassigning the All STARS submissions processes to central office staff. All STARS has also worked with Child Care Aware to provide messaging to child care centers about scheduling their renewals to prevent possible delays in the process.
- DCC continues to dedicate staffing resources to the Preschool Development Grant Round 1 activities as administered by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Round 2 of the grant was not awarded to Kentucky.
- Amendments were filed in early November to 922 KAR 2:090 and 2:100 (licensure and certification requirements for child care facilities and homes) to include requirements on contract substitute child care center employees. These amendments also include a timeframe that is consistent for all employees to complete annual training beyond their first year.
- Amendments to 922 KAR 2:090 and 2:100 (licensure and certification requirements for child care facilities and homes) were filed in October in order to include requirements on contract substitute child care center employees. These amendments also include a timeframe that is consistent for all employees to complete annual training beyond their first year (rather than one facility having a different training deadline for every staff member). These amendments are in the public comment period through January 2020.
- According to the Executive Dashboard for CCAP, over 28,000 children in nearly 16,000 families were enrolled during December 2019. These statistics have remained fairly stable the past year. The majority of households are income-eligible and are enrolled in a licensed type I child-care center. There are over 2,000 approved providers with the vast majority being licensed type I child-care centers (1,930).



Protection and Permanency: Adult Services

- Communication and conference calls continue with the Adult Services Branch staff, i-TWIST team in the Office of Application Technology Services (OATS), and National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS) team to discuss the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 submission of Kentucky data.
- DCBS Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP), Adult Services Branch staff attended the quarterly Elder Justice Task Force Meeting on Dec. 4, 2019.

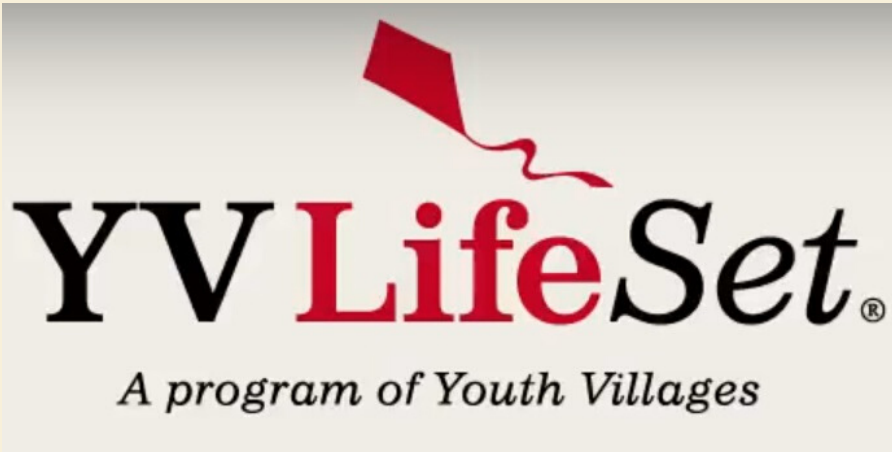
Protection and Permanency: Child Welfare

- The Child Welfare Transformation (CWT) is transitioning from a project management structure into Phase 2, a quality assurance teaming structure to support DCBS' efforts in becoming a more data-informed, outcomes driven, and solution focused agency. The transition consisted of a restructuring of the original eight CWT workgroups, an early review of data related to the CWT strategies, and engagement of the Capacity Building Center for States to redesign DCBS' Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Six Child Welfare Quality Assurance (QA) teams have been identified: Workforce Supports, Fiscal Modernization, Supports for Out of Home Care, Judicial Engagement, Prevention Supports, and Permanency. These QA teams will be responsible for the ongoing progress of the CWT strategies by reviewing performance/activities, receiving inputs from stakeholders and community partners, and modifying or developing new strategies as informed by the data. Additionally, the QA teams support the overall strategies in DCBS' PIP and the five-year Child and Family Services Plan required under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. Each QA team has held its first meeting and will be reconvening in January 2020, with the exception of the Judicial Engagement team, which will meet in March 2020.

Protection and Permanency: Child Welfare

- The Capacity Building Center for States and DCBS leads participated in a kick-off meeting on December 19 to focus on redesigning CQI practice of DCBS' child welfare programming, including linkage to or applicability within adult services, family support, and child care programming. The statewide CQI plan is undergoing significant modifications to include ongoing stakeholder engagement, a framework for structured communication throughout all levels of the agency, and a redesign of the local CQI teams. A key feature of the CQI redesign is the opportunity for the current regional CQI specialists to attend a CQI academy through the Capacity Building Center for States, in an effort to enhance consistency and provide supports to the field. The CQI planning team is assessing the current capacity and infrastructure of DCBS' existing CQI process to build from past design largely resulting from DCBS past accreditation. The purpose of the December 19 meeting was to establish a project lead and liaison for DCBS, identify leads for subcommittees, discuss roles and responsibilities, decide meeting cadence, finalize the scope of work, and establish a timeline for an end date. Next meeting dates:
 - January 7, 2020 - a preparation/planning call to build the agenda for the upcoming core team meeting; and
 - January 23, 2020 - core team meeting.
- The Culture of Safety implementation continues with intensive focus on the child fatality/near fatality internal review process. The new System Safety Review Team held the first multi-disciplinary team meeting to select cases that would have a comprehensive analysis. The DPP system safety review team continues to partner with Collaborative Safety for technical assistance as this new process begins.
- DCBS staff continue to meet weekly with OATS to automate the Safety Check and Review in i-TWIST, which will streamline the workflow of assessing relative and fictive kin caregivers, and assist with more accurate data collection related to these caregivers and the differing placement arrangements and benefits/services accessed by the households.
- At the end of November 2019, DCBS had issued approximately \$30 million in foster care per diems/foster care maintenance since the application of the D.O. v. Glisson ruling to other like cases, beginning in February 2018.
- The DCBS Out-of-Home Care Branch is working with University of Kentucky-Training Resource Center to develop a statewide consistent brand and message for foster care.
- Just In Time Training is a new training platform that can be used for all out-of-home caregivers, DCBS staff, and is moving forward in implementation with the assistance of the University of South Florida (USF). Staff from USF are coming to Kentucky on January 8th to plan and develop the Kentucky Just in Time site.
- A Respite Provider Tracking System is in development with Training Record Information System (TRIS) with a projected launch anticipated early in 2020. This will allow for tracking of current respite providers and create a structure for recruitment. The new system is ready for testing. DPP and Eastern Kentucky University-University Training Consortium (EKU) plan to hold focus groups to gain feedback to ensure proper functionality. ECU presented a demo of the stacking system to DCBS Recruitment and Certification Supervisors and regional staff at the statewide meeting on November 20.
- The DPP Child Protection Branch held trainings for regional central intake in the month of November and drafted Standards of Practice (SOP) language for safety/risk consultations that will replace the previous utilization reviews during which a child's removal or maintenance in the child's home of origin is decided.
- The DPP Child Protection Branch began the development of a new "safety plan" and drafted changes to the prevention plan. Work is being coordinated with the Adult Services Branch to ensure applicability and use of the plans to both child and adult maltreatment cases.
- The DCBS Service Regions are currently in the process of developing their statewide recruitment plans for targeted recruitment of foster homes with the assistance of the Diligent Recruitment Specialist from DPP. Diligent recruitment ensures DCBS has capacity to best match the placement needs of foster children. To guide the plans' development, DPP provided each Recruitment and Certification team with county and regional data and maps.

Protection and Permanency: Child Welfare

- DCBS submitted a Request for Application (RFA) for the Youth Villages program, YV Lifeset, on October 15, to be implemented in Kentucky. The purpose of the program is to achieve better life outcomes for transition age youth in out of home care. Kentucky received notice of the award on December 20, after oral presentation on December 4. The program will enhance the impact of services being offered to older youth in Kentucky. The grant funds can be used to support research, evaluation, and technical assistance.
- 
- On April 1, 2019, DCBS received federal approval for the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) addressing findings from the federal Child and Family Services Review that took place in July 2016. DCBS is measuring its progress with the PIP through various activities and the monitoring of child welfare data and case reviews.
 - The trend report for the first six months of case reviews (i.e., baseline) has been completed and provided to leadership.
 - The PIP Safety Workgroup is waiting for contract procurement in order to move forward with the implementation of Structured Decision Making, a new safety model supporting frontline staff's decision-making about a child's safety and risk at key points during the life of a child welfare care.
 - DCBS will be working with Capacity Building Center for States on a threshold screening analysis. The threshold screening analysis allows jurisdictions to determine if they are screening in and out the right reports of abuse and neglect.
 - The PIP Permanency workgroup has revised the template that is utilized during the regional permanency calls. Permanency Calls with the regions were held in October and will be held again in January. Starting January 2020, the calls will be every other month, and the regions will submit their completed template to DPP for the months that a call is not held. The regions will also submit their template to DPP in December of 2019. The group has also developed a template for the regions to follow during their meetings with the court system to review permanency data.
 - The Capacity Building Center for States is collaborating with the PIP Permanency Workgroup in January 2020 to facilitate the business process mapping of placement disruptions for two pilot regions, to identify barriers, strategies, and trends for future planning related to placement stability practices statewide.
 - As of December 23, there were 23 children decertified in their psychiatric placement settings, which is consistent with the past two months. The Clinical Services Branch completed 54 consult calls with field staff, which is 25 more than the month prior. There are 12 youth placed out of state for treatment purposes, which is two less than the month prior, and four of those youth are decertified, which is one less than the month prior. DCBS also maintains and monitors a psychotropic medication dashboard that tracks all Medicaid claims prescribed to foster children. In addition, this branch and Dr. Lohr, DCBS' medical director, host bi-monthly meetings with clinical associates in DCBS Division of Service Regions (DSR) to enhance their clinical capacities and share best practices.
 - Chapter 13 SOP revisions, which will be issued for field review soon, include guidance and instructions regarding adoption subsidy negotiation and private foster care rates. This will allow for consistent practice statewide. The forthcoming revisions were discussed during the November statewide recruitment and certification supervisors meeting.

Protection and Permanency: Child Welfare

- The DPP Adoption Branch worked with Thursday's Child to coordinate a Christmas party for children registered with KAPE in Lexington at Gatti Town. This was held on December 12, 2019. Children registered with KAPE received gifts or a gift card totaling \$100.
- Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA) -
 - In December, Kentucky along with representatives from other states, met with Congressional staff from the Senate Finance Committee and House Committee on Ways and Means in Washington, D.C. Challenges to implementation of FFPSA were discussed along with proposed solutions.
 - The Family First Transition Act became law on December 20, 2019, and will provide vital support for Kentucky as we continue implementation of FFPSA.
 - The successful implementation of Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) remains a challenge for Kentucky. This challenge was not addressed through the Transition Act legislation. Discussions with Congressional staff continue in efforts to achieve a resolution.
- This month, Kentucky was asked to speak to other states at the Region IV meeting with the Children's Bureau. Kentucky is the only state from Region IV that has not delayed implementation of FFPSA. Kentucky was recognized as a leader paving the way for other states.
- October began the implementation of FFPSA in Kentucky. Beginning, October 1, enhanced systems and processes were deployed to begin identification of target populations and Evidence Based Practices (EBP) for prevention services offered to families in accordance with the Act.
- Despite no new infusion of funding, DCBS has worked diligently to expand in home prevention services within its control in 2019. A new appropriation will be necessary to expand to the degree needed for families. DCBS has drafted a biennium budget increase request that will be presented to the General Assembly.
- DCBS, along with its consultants, continues to work with current contracted prevention service providers to optimize claiming under title IV-E prevention services.
- A Request for Information (RFI) will be issued in the upcoming weeks to gauge the availability of EBPs and readiness of our provider network to serve families throughout Kentucky.
- DCBS submitted its Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan to the Children's Bureau in August. Feedback was received from the Children's Bureau, and DCBS is awaiting approval of its resubmitted plan.
- Due to the delay in review and rating of EBPs by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, DCBS has taken advantage of the option for states to complete their own independent systematic review of programs and submit to the Children's Bureau for approval of transitional payments. Those EBPs include the Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team (START), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and Homebuilders and were submitted as part of the prevention plan to the Children's Bureau.
- The DCBS-DPP Out-of-Home Care Branch and Private Child Care (PCC) liaisons continue to work with child-caring facility providers regarding Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) readiness. A monitoring tool was developed in order to provide guidance to the facilities and measure compliance with FFPSA. DCBS is also working with John Lyons and Chapin Hall to develop an algorithm that will be used for QRTP assessments.
- The DPP Prevention Branch:
 - Is preparing contract changes for in-home service providers for the remainder of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 20 and for SFYs 21 and 22 in support of the state's early implementation of FFPSA.



The DPP Adoption Branch helped host a Christmas party for children registered with KAPE in Lexington at Gatti Town on December 12, 2019.

Protection and Permanency: Child Welfare

- The DPP Prevention Branch:
 - Is meeting with OATS staff bi-weekly to create a provider portal that will be used for prevention providers invoicing and will assist DCBS in tracking services eligible for Title IV-E claiming and reimbursement under FFPSA.
 - Continues to facilitate an Evidence Based Practice (EBP) workgroup, which is charged with developing EBP fidelity monitoring processes per the state's proposed prevention plan.
 - Has submitted agency budgets to add additional funding to impact Family Preservation waiting lists in select areas of the state and to expand Kentucky Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents (K-STEP) region wide in the Northeastern Service Region.
- Multiple Service Regions as well as KVC, a contracted service provider, continue to provide support to Jefferson County in the form of completing past due investigations.
- The Multidisciplinary Enhancement Program (MEP)-Centralized Intake Pilot Project went into effect October 1, 2019. Three Children's Advocacy Centers are participating: Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center (Boone County), Lotus Children's Advocacy Center (Graves County), and Hope's Place Children's Advocacy Center (Boyd County). The goal of the Pilot Program is to enable CACs to engage children and families with critical services at an earlier point in the investigation timeline.
- There will be System of Care V Grant Kick-Off events held in early February in the Cumberland and Two Rivers Service Regions. The grant aims to improve behavioral health outcomes for youth up to age 21, who have child welfare involvement and meet certain behavioral health criteria.
- The DSR Permanency Branch continues to provide child-focused recruitment for children in out-of-home care. Since the branch's inception, 1,385 children have been served. The Permanency Branch has successfully matched 621 children with permanent homes, and 349 have been adopted. Due to the good use of the model components, several Kentucky recruiters were asked to participate in the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA) Sizzle Reel for the 2020 Wendy Wonderful Kids Summit. The DTFA completed site visits in Kentucky, and all site visits went well with several strengths identified within the Permanency Branch.
- Emergency and ordinary amendments to 922 KAR 1:320, Service appeals, were filed on July 1, 2019, with the emergency administrative regulation taking effect immediately. The amendment to this administrative regulation aligns appeals and complaint procedures with 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 073 and 033, House Bills 2 and 158 from the 2019 Regular Session respectively, and makes other technical corrections in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A. The amendment incorporates the new service array for relative and fictive kin caregivers, new service and notice provision to foster parents, and the foster youth bill of rights. Public comments requesting minor clarifications were received during the public comment period and an Amended After Comments version of the administrative regulation was filed on October 15, 2019. The administrative regulation passed its final legislative review on December 9, 2019, and went into effect that day.
- Emergency and ordinary amendments to 922 KAR 1:330, Child protective services, were filed on August 14, 2019, with the emergency administrative regulation taking effect immediately. The amendment to this administrative regulation adds to the definition of "caretaker" consistent with recently passed legislation to include a person in a position of authority or special trust. The amendment changes this administrative regulation by including and defining the term "no finding" as a possible outcome for an investigation regarding an allegation that has been found to be erroneous or false. Additionally, the proposed ordinary administrative regulation amends the screening acceptance criteria to provide greater clarity. Public comments were received during the public comment period and an Amended After Comments version of the administrative regulation was filed on December 9, 2019. The administrative regulation will undergo legislative reviews in January and February.
- As of December 1, 2019, there were 9,847 children in the cabinet's custody as reflected on the Statewide Foster Care FACTS sheet or 126 more children than reflected on the September 1, 2019, sheet. Since the start of the 2019-2020 school year, each month has realized a slight increase in the population. DCBS continues to delve into the contributing factors and plan interventions accordingly, including a data dashboard. Some decrease is expected due to children returning home near the holidays. While not the only driver, there is some concern a slight increase will be realized due to the new relative/fictive kin service array, which was more fully in effect in July 2019.

Protection and Permanency: Child Welfare

- Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) - START received the Innovation Now Award from the Addiction Policy Forum recognizing innovative programs addressing addiction prevention, treatment and recovery. START Director Erin Smead and Family Mentor Raven Workman presented on START to the Committee On Health, Welfare And Family Services on December 9, 2019. All START sites participated in a training on Casey's Law. Family First Prevention Services implementation is moving forward for START sites and providers.



START Family Mentor Raven Workman presented to the Committee on Health, Welfare And Family Services in December.

Family Support

- DCBS Division of Family Support (DFS) completed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training Program (E&T) training pilots in Floyd and Warren Counties. A summary of the pilots was provided in presentation on December 27, 2019.
- DFS added a new SNAP E&T partner, We Know IT, to provide computer skills training to clients.
- DFS and DSR continue to work with Conduent and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service regarding the SNAP waiver and call services contracted staff for Jefferson County. A pause on hiring of additional Conduent staff has been instituted until the project to date and associated waiver can be more fully assessed.
- DFS is working with the Community Action of Southern Kentucky to create a quality improvement plan as a result of recent monitoring containing numerous findings.
- DFS participated in the SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) National Conference.
- 921 KAR 3:050, Claims and additional administrative provisions, is being amended to create a new form for secondary claim notices, as the hearing rights contained on the first form should not continue to be given on follow up notices. This amendment was filed in October and is in the public comment period through January 2020.
- DCBS has identified 28 counties that may qualify for SNAP Able-Bodied Adults with Dependents (ABAWD) waivers, eliminating participation or work requirements for the population to qualify for SNAP. DFS is consulting with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service regarding application to effect these waivers on April 1, 2020, coinciding with the effective date of the new federal rule governing the waivers.
- Emergency and ordinary amendments to 921 KAR 2:015 were prepared to pass on the federal cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the standard of need for individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income, effective January 2020. The amendment also contains language allowing the federal COLA to pass through Kentucky without further regulatory amendment. To be effective in January, these amendments were anticipated to be filed on December 30, 2019.
- The DSR Case Review Unit has been on special assignment since October 8, 2019, assisting the Service Regions with Support Service document processing as well as FFM document processing. Five case reviewers are currently participating in the Conduent Project in Jefferson County by completing daily case reviews of Conduent staff to assist with training needs.



Family Support

- The DSR Claims Unit has decreased statewide claims tasks backlog from approximately 4,000 at the time the unit was created, to 993 backlog tasks remaining.
- The positive error rate for SNAP has fallen for the months of May through July, with July being the lowest at 2.49%. At present, the state has an overall positive SNAP error rate of 7.29% for the federal fiscal year. DCBS needs to achieve a rate lower than 6% for the year to avoid federal sanction and financial penalty. DCBS is making a concerted effort to review staffing capacities and address communications, policies, training, and technology influencing error rates across family support and Medicaid programming.
- The positive error rate for SNAP has fallen for the months of May through July, with July being the lowest at 2.49%. At present, the state has an overall positive SNAP error rate of 7.29% for the federal fiscal year. DCBS needs to achieve a rate lower than 6% for the year to avoid federal sanction and financial penalty. DCBS is making a concerted effort to review staffing capacities and address communications, policies, training, and technology influencing error rates across family support and Medicaid programming.

Miscellaneous\Operations

- Centralized Intake continues to move toward a statewide platform and has made strides with DCBS Service Regions coming on board to the new system. Most recently, Jefferson Service Region was added to the platform, making a total of six service regions on the statewide system. In 2020, DCBS will continue with onboarding the three remaining regions as well as onboarding Centerstone, contract agency that handles the reporting hotline when DCBS is closed. The new system has significantly reduced wait times for customers calling to report abuse, neglect, or dependency.
- DSR is working with i-TWIST to provide an online staff directory that will assist in automating caseloads and identifying staff not at full capacity (i.e., having 10 or less cases). These reports will assist with monitoring workload and staff capacities for leadership decision-making, allocation of resources, and agency accountability, including statutorily mandated reporting.
- A new building walk-through checklist was developed in collaboration with the Division of Facilities Management to help better monitor building deficiencies and promote a safer work environment.
- In December 2019, Safety Administrators participated in a four-hour Occupational Safety Hazard training for better monitoring of OSHA logs and bookkeeping.
- The DSR Field Development and Support Branch continues to send rapid response workers across the state to provide support to counties with high caseloads/staff vacancies. Since the branch began, the branch has completed over 550 Assessment and Documentation Tools (ADTs), in addition to numerous families supported through home visits, contacts, and case planning. The branch recently completed a six-week assignment in Jefferson County and completed over 220 ADTs.
- DCBS is working with the Department for Public Health and Division of Emergency Management in the development of operations manuals in the event the state's Emergency Repatriation Plan is activated.
- The final legislative Public Assistance Reform Task Force meeting was held on November 18, 2019. The Task Force issued their recommendations, which may result in the filing of resolutions to further research options relating to public assistance. The Division of Family Support presented to this task force at almost every meeting and Deputy Commissioner Caywood served as a member of the task force.
- The last 2019 interim legislative meeting of the Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee was held on November 20, 2019. The Division of Protection and Permanency and the Commissioner's Office presented to this committee at almost every meeting.

Miscellaneous\Operations

- The Division of Protection and Permanency and the Commissioner's Office presented to the Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and Family Services on the DCBS programs START and KSTEP on December 9, 2019. The presentation was titled, "A Family First Child Welfare System," and featured a START Family Mentor and Social Service Specialist speaking on their experiences with the programs as well as program staff presenting on program histories and results.
- On December 9, 2019, DCBS collaborated with the Bounce Coalition to screen the film "Resilience" and hold a panel discussion. House Health and Family Services Committee Chairwoman



DCBS Medical Director Dr. David Lohr, left, joined House Health and Family Services Committee Chairwoman Representative Kim Moser, Vice President of Uspiritus/Co-Chair of Bounce Coalition Dr. David Finke and child psychologist Dr. Joe Bargione on the expert panel to discuss the film "Resilience" and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), recovery and resiliency.

Representative Kim Moser participated in the panel discussion and a number of other legislators were present for the film screening and discussion around Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) scores, recovery, and resiliency.

- Regular Session 2020 began on January 7, 2020. Many representatives from DCBS attended the cabinet bill review database training, and the department legislative liaison met with all division legislative points of contact in preparation for Session. DCBS legislative proposals for Regular Session 2020 have been included in cabinet proposals, but are currently pending. The department legislative liaison has coordinated the review of 10 prefiled bills affecting the department so far. Prefiled legislation may be found at the following link:
https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/20rs/prefiled/prefiled_bills.html
- The department submitted certification letters for 16 administrative regulations that would have otherwise expired on March 1, 2020. This submittal resets the expiration deadline for administrative regulations that need no amending another seven years and starts an 18-month clock to amend administrative regulations for which an amendment is necessary. The department regulation coordinator will continue to monitor the expiration date of administrative regulations and submit certification letters as needed.

Self-Care Corner

Kentucky Employees' Health Plan members, make 2020 a year for self-care and good health! Don't forget to register for the new state wellness program, StayWell, which replaces the Humana Go365 program. KEHP has partnered with StayWell, a new well-being and incentive program, to provide members with an online platform and mobile app experience. StayWell's program is proven to inspire healthier habits, minds and bodies. Participating employees can earn financial incentives for completion of an online health assessment and other fun and interactive challenges through the year.

Getting started is easy. Just go to KEHPlivingwell.com and follow steps for sign-up. Download the My StayWell app on your phone. Need help? Click here for instructions and more details: <https://bit.ly/2FIGfbB>. Or email KEHPlivingwell@staywell.com, or call 866-746-1316 with your questions.



Self-care is vital for human service pros like us in DCBS. Our social media channels offer a simple tip each day this month to help anyone who helps others. Follow along!

Facebook: @kydcbs
Instagram: @ky.dcbs
Twitter: @KyDCBS