

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In this season of gratitude, I want to wish you and your families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving filled with bright moments and warm memories. As I reflect on the things I am most grateful for this year, our talented and committed staff and the major DCBS team achievements are high among them.

The year-end report at the link below demonstrates how you have “Seized the Moment” this year to support our mission of strengthening families and communities.



Equity, Social and Economic Justice

P-EBT Update

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) cards were issued by DCBS in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education and sent to students enrolled in non-traditional instruction (NTI). Cards were sent in two “rounds,” with the first reaching 541,000 of 651,000 NTI students believed to be eligible for benefits needed during the pandemic. All cards have been mailed as of Nov. 17, and all households should receive them by Nov. 30. Beneficiaries who do not need the assistance are encouraged to destroy the card or make an equivalent donation to their local food pantry.

EKU Training Resource Center assists in Building 21st Century DCBS

Eastern Kentucky University's Training Resource Center is helping Build a 21st Century DCBS in many ways.

Improving Training Records Systems for Foster Parents, Private Childcare Placing Agencies and DCBS Staff

- EKU has completely redesigned the Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Records Information System (FAP TRIS).



From the Commissioner

Thank you for your hard/heart work and for your exemplary service. I wish you joy as you take time to rest and celebrate this holiday season.

With Gratitude, 1,000 thanks, Mil Gracias,

Marta

DCBS Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub

Read the report [here](#)



Legislative Update

DCBS leadership has had increased recent participation in legislative committee meetings ahead of the 2021 General Assembly.

Read entire story [here](#)

The new version was rolled out this fall. This new system allows foster parents to retrieve their own training accounts soon after being entered into TWIST, providing faster access to our web-based training

Read entire story [here](#)



Family and Children

Forums Update Implementation of Family First a Year Later
During November, DCBS partnered with Kentucky Youth Advocates, Administrative Office of the Courts, and Casey Family Programs to provide forums on the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

Read entire story [here](#)



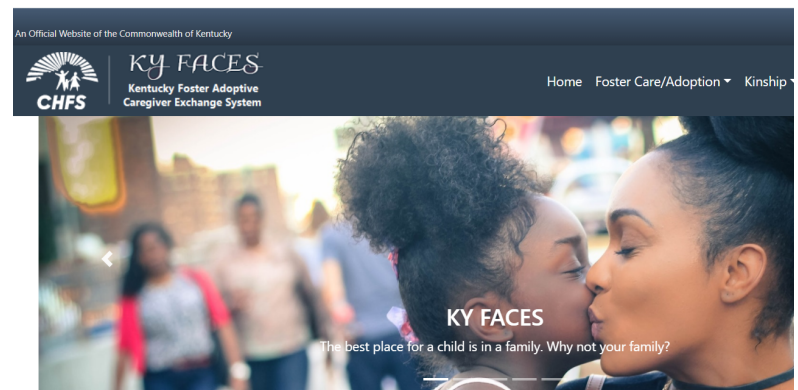
DCBS presenters at the Southern Bluegrass Service Region Family First Prevention Services Act virtual forum were (clockwise): Jessica Brown, Jennifer Topping, April Davis, Vanessa Hunter and Kelli Root

Kentucky Recognizes National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month. Kentucky is participating in the National ALL IN Challenge and is partnering with Head Start to raise awareness surrounding the need for adoptive families, particularly adoptive families for teens. More information about the ALL IN Challenge has been shared in the month of November on social media and the Department's website.

Kentucky currently has 302 children registered with Kentucky Adoption Profile Exchange (KAPE), <https://prd.webapps.chfs.ky.gov/kape/>. These children are available for adoption, but have no identified "forever family."

For information on foster care and adoption,



please visit <https://prd.webapps.chfs.ky.gov/kyfaces>.

Take time to view the Kentucky children awaiting Forever Families through America's Kids Belong: <https://americaskidsbelong.org/videos-akb/>.

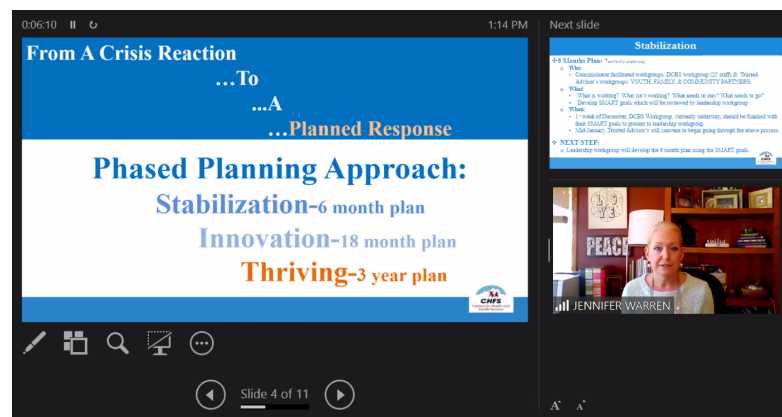
Trauma/Resilience and Engaged Healing



Self-Care Corner - Practice Gratitude this Season

Gratitude is an important part of self-care. Being grateful for what we have helps us see beyond our troubles and appreciate the good things in our lives. This holiday season, as we all cope with effects of COVID-19, it's even more important to initiate self-care through thankfulness in our daily lives.

Read entire story [here](#)



CQI Quarterly Stakeholders Meeting

Jennifer Warren was one of several DCBS presenters at the Nov. 19 CQI Stakeholders meeting. Topics included the five Pillars of Building a 21st Century Cabinet and Improving DCBS continuous quality improvement (CQI) system.