



CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES  
— Department for —  
Community Based Services

September 2021

# The Vision

Marta Miranda-Straub, Commissioner

## Support for caring professionals is vital

**S**eptember is recognized as Suicide Prevention Month, and as Recovery Month, and I want to share some insight that might help you or allow you to help someone else through difficult times or on a path to recovery. There are so many resources to help us help one another.

### From the Commissioner

We know that during the COVID-19 pandemic, more people experienced stressful situations such as job loss, isolation, illness or death. We have seen a great increase of suicide risk factors increased during the pandemic, such as anxiety, depression and substance use. As both caring professionals and compassionate human beings, we give our all to change how people view mental illness and how resources are made available.

*Read the story [here](#)*

## Kim Pass of DFS named Superhero



Congratulations to the latest DCBS Superhero winner, Kim Pass, Resource Management Analyst III, of the Division of Family Support Central Office!

*Read the story [here](#)*

Kim Pass

## The Marriage of Authenticity & Resilience

Workshop Series  
on Building Resilience



Trainer:  
DCBS Commissioner  
Marta Miranda-Straub

Register at: [bit.ly/3xTk6Qs](https://bit.ly/3xTk6Qs)

This is a voluntary professional development opportunity. However, this is a cumulative series, so attendance at all four workshops is required.

Primary Audience: Staff engaged in direct client care and those who oversee their work

### Save the Dates (Eastern Time)

Friday, Sept. 17: 2-3 p.m.

Foundation: Understanding the Continuum: From Chronic Stress to Secondary Trauma

Thursday, Oct. 14: 2-3 p.m.

Trauma Mastery: Building Resilient Individuals & Organizations

Thursday, Sept. 30: 2-3 p.m.

Body, Mind, Psyche, Spirit: Tools to Increase Our Resilience Muscle

Thursday, Oct. 28: 2-3 p.m.

Sustaining Resilience: Courageous Conversations & Assertiveness Training Skills



## KECC campaign allows staff to help families in need

Gov. Andy Beshear and Energy and Environment Secretary Rebecca Goodman kicked-off the 2021 Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC) on Aug. 23.

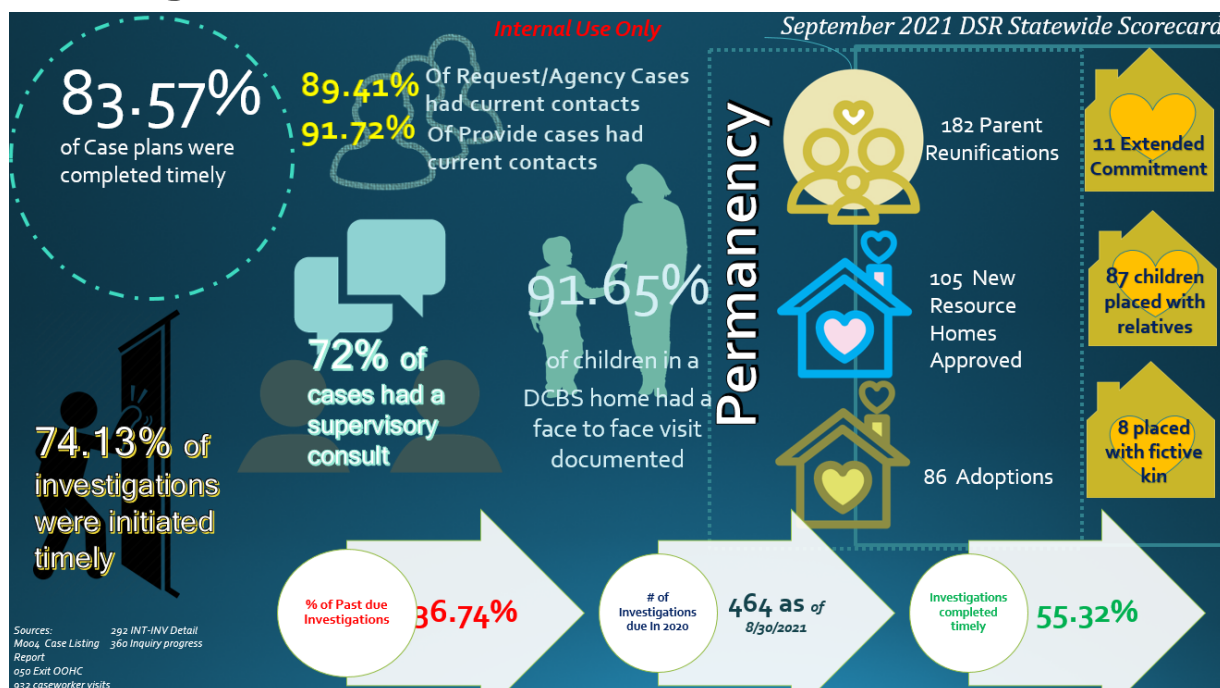
KECC's mission is to improve lives and strengthen Kentucky communities by investing in Basic Needs, Family Stability, Education and Health for every Kentuckian.



*Read the story [here](#)*

# DSR monthly scorecard shows strides

The Division of Service Regions' statewide scorecard for September, using August 2021 data, is ready. Kentucky had 182 parent reunifications, 86 adoptions and 87 children placed with relatives, eight children placed with fictive kin, 11 children extended commitment, and 105 new resource homes approved!



Based on the DSR Scorecard in September 2020, we are doing better this time this year in Timely Initiations, F2F Visits documented, the number of investigation due the previous year are lower, the number of parent reunifications, the number of adoption, the number of children placed with relatives, and the number of new

resource homes approved.

However, the number of past due investigations are higher now than this same time in 2020, the number of investigations completed timely are lower, and the number of case plans completed timely are lower than this same time in 2020.

## Brian Baker named DSR Branch Manager

Welcome to Brian Baker in the position of Branch Manager of Safety and Facilities under the Division of Service Regions, effective Sept. 1.

Brian comes to DSR with over 20 years of DCBS experience. He most recently held the role of Safety Administrator in Two Rivers Service Region. Brian also has experience as a Field Quality Specialist (CQI) and with varied roles in CHFS Fiscal Management.

He has served 19 years with the United States Army Reserve, and currently serves as a Captain in the Medical Service Corps. Brian is an avid, and versed, fan of technology and computer and data applications.

Brian enjoys traveling throughout the U.S. and foreign countries with his wife and two high school sons. He also had a dog named Scooby, who very recently passed, but was a beloved member of the Baker family, and Brian wanted him included in this celebration! Brian describes himself as a "foodie" and loves to explore and eat at any of Guy Fieri's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

DSR is fortunate to have Brian in this role and to furthering the work together throughout Team Kentucky! Welcome Brian, as you set course for your new journey at DCBS!



**Brian Baker**

# Kentucky's First Ever Neglect Summit Seeks to Prevent Child Neglect

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky hosted the state's first ever Neglect Summit on Aug. 25 to provide a platform for prevention



## Family Children and Youth

partners, state child welfare leaders, and national experts to come together to explore the prevalence, causation, and potential solutions to address child neglect in the state. The summit included presentations by Clare Anderson, Senior Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall, Dr. David Sanders, Executive Vice President at Casey Family Programs, Dr. Bart Klika and Kelly Crane of Prevent Child Abuse America, and the Department's Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub. Some key takeaways from the presentations by experts included the following.

### DCBS Economic Support

30 yrs. no change/50% reduction over the last 30 yrs.

Income limits are 50% of the federal poverty level

No room to grow  
Flat Block Grants  
Income/Savings Gap  
Disproportionality

8

*[Read the story here](#)*

## Protection and Permanency Updates

- The first Qualified Residential Treatment Provider (QRTF) convening took place on 8/27/21. The convening was a collaborative effort with DCBS, Kentucky Youth Advocates, and Casey Family Programs. Tia Humphrey and Eltuan Dawson, young adults with lived experience in the child welfare system, provided the opening and closing remarks for the convening. The convening allowed the QRTF programs to come together and discuss their success and barriers as a group. The plan is for this convening to take place several times a year and for this to be provider driven and used as a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process for QRTF's going forward.
- Operation United Front (a multi-state effort to combat human trafficking) took place on 8/26/21. During the planning phase of this operation, Kentucky State Police worked with the Child Protection Branch in the Division of Protection and Permanency to request assistance in this effort for the potential recovery of minors. Tara Cecil, branch manager, met with KSP Detective Rugina Lunce to discuss the operation and determine the best way to manage any instances where children were recovered. Sydney Lawson and Chelsea Harrod, child protection specialists, worked in a coordinated afterhours effort during the operation to take and screen calls, coordinate with regional on-call

staff to provide support in ensuring timely assessments, and to assist in providing information for service referrals. By the end of the operations, 46 arrests were made, 21 adult victims were rescued, and 2 minor victims were rescued. Det. Lunce expressed gratitude for the streamlined assistance and continued partnership during the press conference held on 9/01/21. For more information: LEX18 coverage: Gov. Beshear on effort to combat human trafficking ([facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com))

- APS Branch Specialist Cliff Bryant was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Andy Beshear. Cliff was nominated for the appointment by the Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council. Cliff was nominated for his dedication and work with Kentucky's Local Coordinating Councils on Elder Abuse in continuing to connect the councils and promoting elder abuse awareness and prevention efforts throughout the state.



**Cliff Bryant**



# CQI September Update

Stakeholder Engagement is a targeted effort and top priority in DCBS. We want to hear from our staff, youth, community partners, and families! We know we are stronger together; and, having voice allows opportunity for being heard. Thank you, Kentucky, for the opportunity to serve and share together in this capacity.

In an effort to strengthen youth engagement with CQI, the Voices of the Commonwealth (VOC) has added in Youth CQI meeting facilitation and participation to the VOC members' job description. This is a tremendous partnership between DCBS and VOC supporting shared vision of youth inclusion to inform decision-making. Additionally, the Field Quality Branch continues working hard to offer Youth CQI events throughout the Commonwealth to further welcome this collaboration. Youth involvement and voice is a vital piece to the CQI Redesign puzzle that DCBS is excited to progressively put together!

Additionally, in partnership with the Adoption Support of Kentucky and the University of Kentucky, resource families from across the state participated in their semi-annual statewide meeting to also learn more about the CQI process and the Redesign. The DSR Field Quality Branch presented on the CQI process and heard from foster and adoptive families on ways to improve processes and what they felt was needed change or enhancement from their very vital perspective of caring for Kentucky's most vulnerable. Another great example of inviting conversations to improve partnerships throughout DCBS.

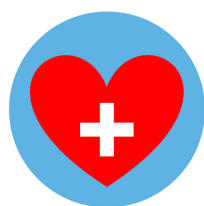
As part of our CQI Redesign, DCBS continues to evaluate and monitor our CQI implementation thus far — CQing our Own CQI! For the months of April, May and June 2021 Service Regions held a total of 620 local and regional CQI meetings!



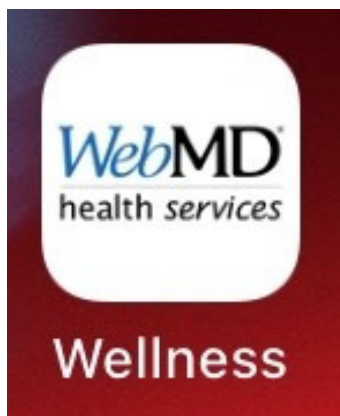
This illustrates the commitment and work that staff do every day in sharing best practices, identifying strengths and barriers, and implementing action plans/steps for identified areas of improvement.

Earlier this year, each region identified stakeholder meetings attended that provide an opportunity to engage with partners in looking at service provision, sharing data and outcomes, and building partnerships to enhance resources for families and children. Each CQI Specialist has created a virtual Microsoft TEAMS Channel to warehouse meeting minutes and assist with monitoring purposes. This assists in tracking and analyzing how many, and what type of stakeholders DCBS engages with on a monthly basis. The list of stakeholders keeps growing; and to date we have identified over 300 stakeholder meetings that occur within regions!

*Living* >> **Well**



**Health**



## WAYS app puts wellness at your side - wherever you are

The Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP) members can tune into greater well-being through the LivingWell portal, no matter where they are!

With the Wellness At Your Side (WAYS) WebMD app, staff can access LivingWell resources from their phones while they are on the go. Available for both iOS and Android devices, it can be downloaded for free through the App Store, Google Play and iTunes.

The Health Assessment, wellness challenges, rewards summaries, Daily Habits and more are all available via the app. Learn more [here](#).