

Virtual “Coffee and Donuts”: One of the highlights of my new position has been these informal conversations with staff across our nine regions. I am learning so much about the regions, their needs and concerns, as well as what it is that they are proud about. Thank you for your honesty and trust. I consider frontline staff the heartbeat of our mission, thank you for all you have done during these challenging times to continue our crucial work to serve the Commonwealth.



From the Commissioner

I want to remind all of you that this is ongoing conversation that we will continue monthly as we together design a 21st-century cabinet, we cannot do this without you.

We have identified 25 folks across the cabinet that represent every region and every position to form our six-month stabilization Building Back Better Together plan based on employee survey results, client/consumer responses, community leaders/constituents and community partners. Your feedback from the virtual Coffee and Donuts is being included in the planning.

[Read entire story here](#)

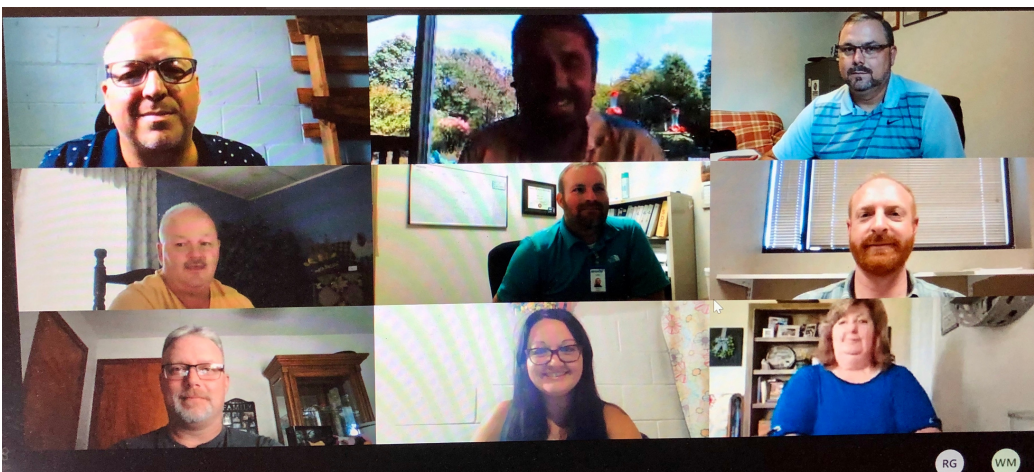


Operations/ Implementation/Evaluation

KECC Campaign is Underway

The 2020 Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC) has begun! Now more than ever, families in every community depend on the gifts of state employees to charities that support health and well-being. DCBS' agency-wide contribution goal for KECC is \$4,500. Staff can give by selecting one or more of KECC's eight charities, by giving the campaign's four causes, or by giving to any charity of their choice.

[Read entire story here](#)



- Our Regional Safety Administrators recently had their quarterly virtual meeting to discuss operational issues. It has been a challenge, but this team has ensured staff safety during the COVID-19 emergency, making sure employees and visitors have PPE. They continue to work toward other facility improvements. Thank you for your incredible service!

Building Back Better Together Survey Results

DCBS thanks the community partners who responded to our Building Back Better Together (BBBT) survey. There were 820 unique responses, including:

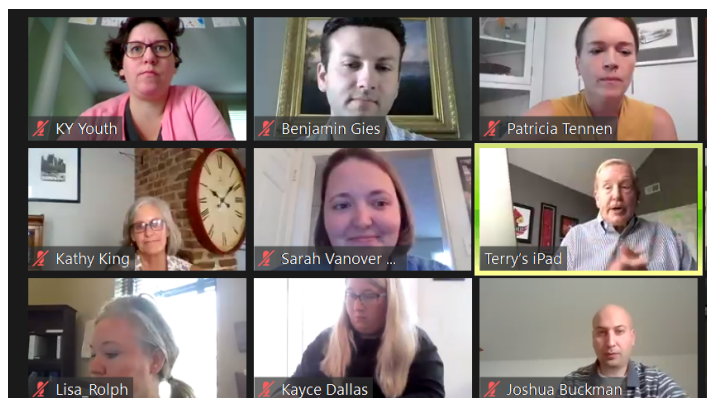
- 483 community partners
- 78 public assistance stakeholders
- 246 foster parents
- 39 relative caregivers
- 126 adoptive parents
- 2 youth in care
- 98 biological parents

Areas of concern responders noted included providing more supports for parents and caregivers and better communication on policy changes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Partners will be invited to join our BBBT workgroups as we move to become a 21st-century DCBS.



Family and Children



- Division of Child Care Director Sarah Vanover was a panelist on Kentucky Youth Advocates' Sept. 16 forum on child care. She discussed the value of child care and details of the new regulations that will especially help counties that are "child care deserts."

Read more about the regs [here](#)

- Division of Protection and Permanency staff and partners participated in the national Activating Youth Engagement Summit sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Children's Bureau on August 26-27. The team is comprised of DCBS staff, former foster youth, a judge, and a university partner. The goal of the Summit is to assist teams in evaluating current levels of youth engagement and for each state/jurisdiction to create a plan to strengthen authentic youth engagement throughout all areas of our child welfare system.

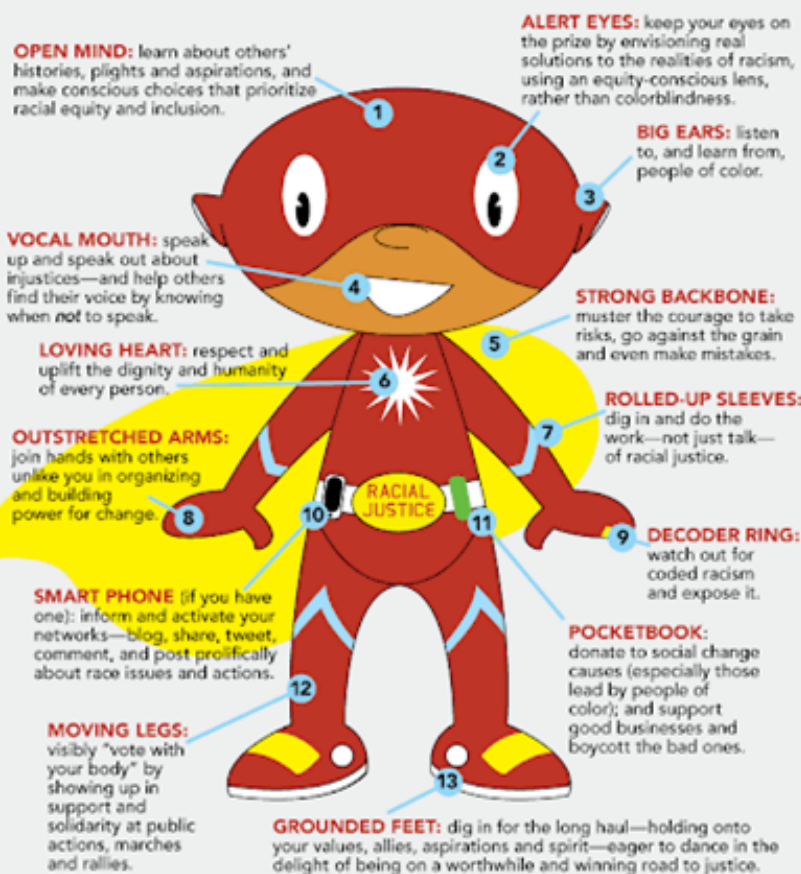
Read more DPP news [here](#)



Equity, Social and Economic Justice

HOW TO BE A RACIAL TRANSFORMER

Here's a sample illustration to remind you of the many possible ways to use your power—your superpowers—as a Racial Transformer.



COLORLINES.com

Trauma/Resilience and Engaged Healing



Self-Care Corner: Dealing with Anxiety

Worrying is normal during a global pandemic. But don't let anxiety overtake your mental outlook. This anxiety can get in the way of enjoying life and being productive. Staywell, the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP)'s wellness program, advises that anxiety is not our fault, and a little can actually be helpful. Find more peace of mind by learning ways to "worry better" and cope. Staywell advised we start with three main tips.

Get the fact sheet [here](#)