

## New leadership staff announced



### From the Commissioner

I am very excited to announce several key leadership positions within the department. These staff started their new positions on Feb. 1. Each brings years of experience and a wealth of knowledge to her role, particularly as the department moves forward to Building a 21st Century DCBS. We are so fortunate to have leaders with such familiarity of our programs and with the heart for the future of our families. Please join me in congratulating these staff!

*Read entire story [here](#)*



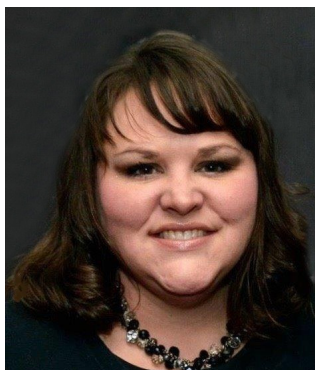
Lesa Dennis



Christa Bell



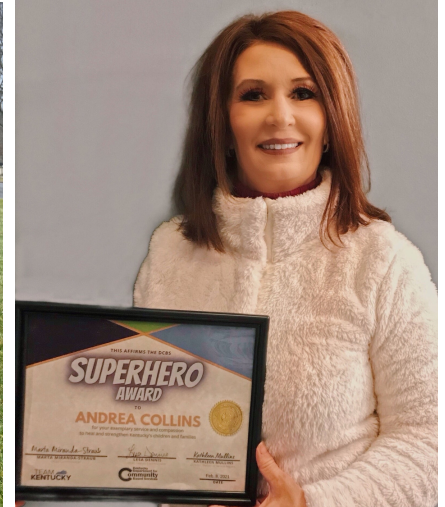
Katy Mullins



Mary Carpenter



Laura Begin



Andrea Collins

## Laura Begin, Andrea Collins Named DCBS Superheroes

Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub has announced new recipients of the DCBS Superhero Award, an honor for DCBS employees who above and beyond their job description in serving families, adults and children. Recent honorees are Laura Begin and Andrea Collins. Congratulations to these DCBS Superhero Award winners!

*Read entire story [here](#)*

## DCBS and AOC partner on QRTP pilot program

DCBS, in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), will pilot Qualified Residential



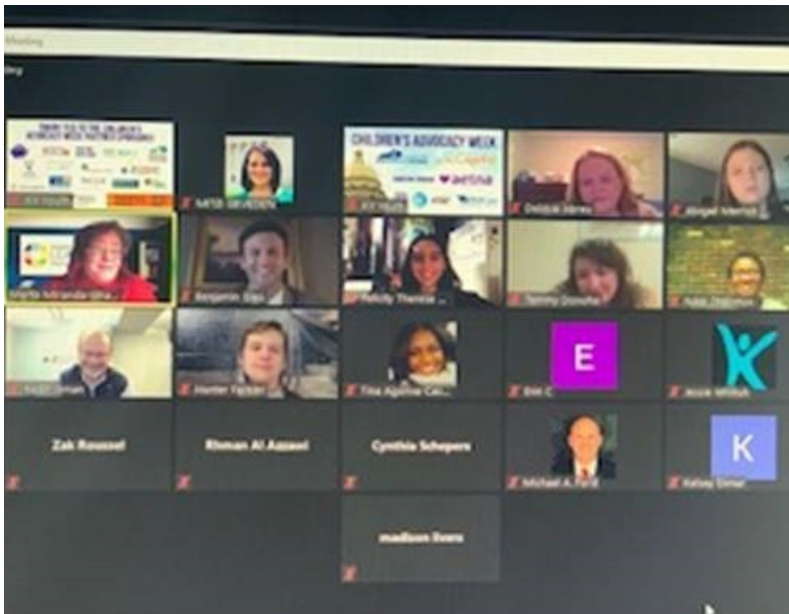
### Family Children and Youth

Treatment Program (QRTP) processes with children from Boone, Gallatin, and Kenton counties throughout the month of February 2021. The QRTP designation relates to a provider's commitment to providing high quality services, as defined by the Family First Prevention Services Act, to children in out-of-home care (OOHC). DCBS will make placements based on the treatment needs of the youth. Statewide implementation of QRTP is scheduled to occur March 1, 2021.

## Ky's use of flexibilities and waivers in COVID response featured in APHSA report

The American Public Human Services Association is spotlighting Kentucky's response to the novel Coronavirus emergency in its recent publication "COVID Response Project: Lessons Learned from State Adaptations and Federal Flexibilities." The study documents the real-time impacts of the pandemic on state human services agencies and captures state perspectives on lessons learned to guide future federal policymaking and state implementation.

Read the report at <https://bit.ly/2Zzlnxz>.



## Commissioner connects with youth during advocacy week

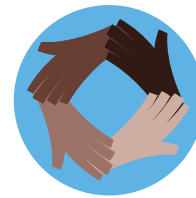
During the Kentucky Youth Advocates' virtual 2021 Children's Advocacy Week earlier this month, Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub had a private forum with the Kosair Charities Face It Youth Ambassadors. This is a group of young leaders from across Kentucky who are committed to helping strengthen policies impacting children who are vulnerable to, or who have experienced abuse and neglect. The youth are trained to understand what advocacy is and how they can take a role in eliminating child abuse and neglect throughout Kentucky.

Watch a recording of the event here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gmg\\_InKRAIU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gmg_InKRAIU).



### COVID Response Project: Lessons Learned from State Adaptations and Federal Flexibilities

January 2021



## Equity, Social and Economic Justice



### Black History Month and the Foster Care Connection

February is Black History Month, and our Foster Care/Adoption Recruitment Team reminds us that African-American children make up more than 18 percent of children in the Kentucky foster care population. Children coming into care experience great loss, they shouldn't have to lose connection to their culture, too. Foster and adoptive parents can help children stay connected to their culture. Is this part of your journey? You can learn more about foster care and adoption at [www.kyfaces.ky.gov](http://www.kyfaces.ky.gov).

Most state employees can receive adoption benefits in form of a reimbursement or stipend to help cover some expenses. Learn more at [www.personnel.ky.gov](http://www.personnel.ky.gov).



## Child Abuse Prevention Month event planning underway with PCAK

As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, our partners at Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAK) are sponsoring Wear Blue Day on April 1. Plan for your office to wear blue, sport pinwheel pins or show pinwheels in their office or in their background. Then gather your team virtually and snap a screenshot. Please send it to [anya.weber@ky.gov](mailto:anya.weber@ky.gov) for sharing on the DCBS social media platforms and showing our partnership with PCAK to show unity and raise awareness.



PCAK has also invited DCBS staff to take a short online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FRY6WRJ>. Responses will help PCAK plan their Child Abuse Prevention Month events and trainings. Staff response to this five-minute survey will help PCAK support DCBS in our common efforts to prevent child abuse.

PCAK is planning several incredible, educational events this year, including a "Fireside Chat" with Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub, several training opportunities and a community scavenger hunt with county DCBS offices playing a major role. Keep updated on their plans by checking their website: <https://www.pcaky.org>.

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## Social Work Month event

March is Social Work Month, and this year's national and state theme is "Social Work is Essential." Our partners at the Eastern Kentucky University Social Work Program are sponsoring an all-day virtual kickoff event on Feb. 26.

Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub will present this year's proclamation to begin the day's events, which include an awards ceremony honoring EKU alumni and workshops on self-care and anti-racism.

Participants have the opportunity to earn up to four social work continuing education units (CEUs)\* at no charge.

Register for the event at <https://socialwork.eku.edu/eku-social-work-day-2021-0>.

## Trauma/ Resilience and Engaged Healing



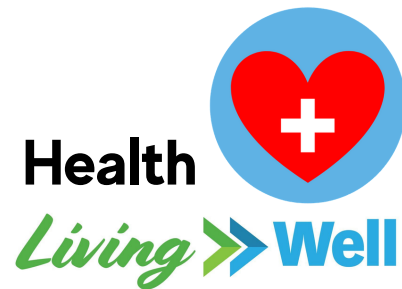
### The Marriage of Authenticity to Resilience Beyond Kale and Pedicures



Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub began her four-part learning series, "Marriage of Authenticity to Resilience" last month with an overview of trauma and our responses. The series continues this month at 2 p.m. on Feb. 18 and through April. This is a cumulative series, so Commissioner Miranda-Straub asks that participants attend all four workshops.

### LivingWell's Daily Habits can improve well-being

Kentucky's LivingWell Program, provided by WebMD ONE, offers staff access to a new tool called Daily Habits, which uses behavioral science to help improve your well-being.



Log into LivingWell and take a short survey to describe up to three plans you'd like to manage - choose from exercise, diet, stress check and others. Then, you'll be reminded to track your daily habits that can help lead to better health.

Learn more about Daily Habits and LivingWell at [www.KEHPLivingwell.com](http://www.KEHPLivingwell.com).

### Virtual DCBS backgrounds available

Staff can find virtual backgrounds branded with the DCBS logo on the CHFS intranet. Log in and visit the DCBS page:

<https://chfsnet.ky.gov/dcbs>.

