



From the Commissioner

6-month strategic plan announced

As we herald in the spring season, we welcome the renewal it brings both in nature and in our professional and service efforts. Our agency's renewal depends upon us all, and we are ready for the challenge.

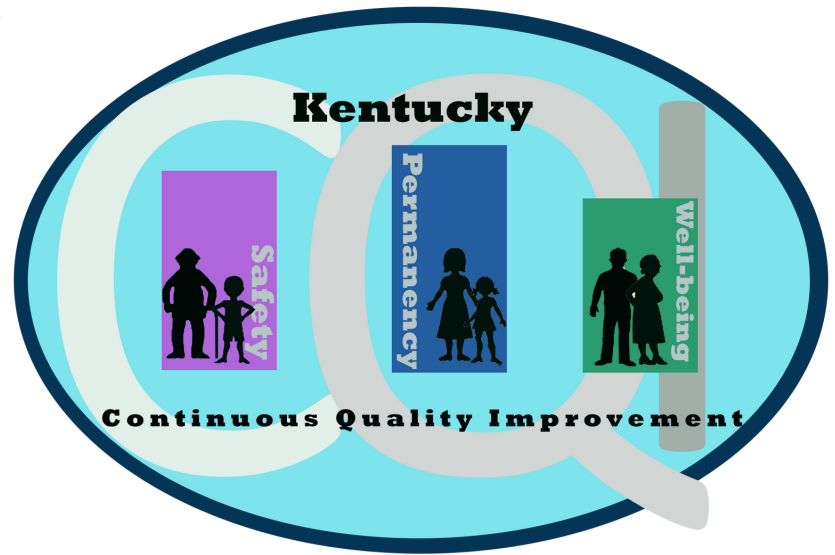
I am happy to share an update of our Building a 21st-Century DCBS effort. The six-month stabilizing strategic plan takes us from crisis to stability. As you know, DCBS staff representing all regions and positions worked together to create this path to guide our work from April to October 2021. Deputy Commissioner Lesa Dennis and I truly appreciate the effort, time and talent that all of our teams have invested in creating our short-term road map. The path is not easy, but it is less jarring when we move forward together, sharing good ideas as well as the work capacity. This spring, our rebuilding begins in earnest. It is important that we continue to be transparent and communicate our process so we can all be on the same page, regardless of whether we participated in the planning or not, so please take the time to read to understand how we got to the six-month stability plan.

Thank you for your commitment and confidence.

Marta

Marta Miranda-Straub, DCBS Commissioner

Read the update [here](#)



CQI regional forums slated for next month

SAVE THE DATES! The CQI Redesign Forums are launching in April and coming to a region near you to provide an overview of the new CQI Process. Please see the dates for your region below. You will hear how your voice informed the planning and development process, and learn about the new Teaming Structure, Feedback Loop, The Cycle of Learning, current regional initiatives, and what to expect moving forward.

If you haven't taken the Web Based Training, please do so, as this will help prepare you. Please connect with your Regional CQI Specialist to learn more. Or email Melinda.Vise@ky.gov to receive a meeting link to your region's forum.

CQI REGIONAL FORUMS		
REGION	DATE	TIME
CUMBERLAND	4/5/2021	9 A.M.-12 P.M.
THE LAKES	4/6/2021	9 A.M.-12 P.M.
SOUTHERN BLUEGRASS	4/13/2021	9 A.M.-12 P.M.
JEFFERSON	4/14/2021	1-4 P.M.
TWO RIVERS	4/21/2021	1-4 P.M.
EASTERN MOUNTAIN	4/22/2021	9 A.M.-12 P.M.
NORTHERN BLUEGRASS	4/22/2021	1-4 P.M.
SALT RIVER TRAIL	4/23/2021	9 A.M.-12 P.M.
NORTHEASTERN	4/26/2021	9 A.M.-12 P.M.



Kimberly George receives Ky River Elder Abuse Awareness Award

Congratulations to Kimberly George for receiving the 2021 Kentucky River Elder Abuse Awareness Award: Social Worker of the Year.

Kimberly is a Social Service Clinician I based in Breathitt County on our Eastern Mountain Service Region Adult Protection Team. She is pictured here receiving the award from Stacie Noble, Associate Director of Aging Services with the Kentucky River Area Development District Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living. We are so proud of you Kimberly!

Report suspected adult abuse, neglect or exploitation at 1-877-KYSAFE1.



Virtual backgrounds available

Staff can find virtual backgrounds branded with the DCBS logo on the CHFS intranet. Log in and visit <https://chfsnet.ky.gov/dCBS>.



Operations/ Implementation/Evaluation

Healthy Back at Work Task Force Update

The Healthy Back at Work task force was formed to begin exploring ways to consolidate space, adapt buildings to our future work plans and to make office space more appealing. The group is made of representatives from DCBS, Secretary's Office, Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM), Office of Administrative Services (OAS), Division of Facilities Management (DFM) and Office of Application Technology (OATS) as coordination between each of these entities is needed to facilitate any office moves.

Read the story [here](#)

**JOIN US FOR A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH
DCBS COMMISSIONER
MARTA MIRANDA-STRAUB**

April 14th 10 A.M. EST

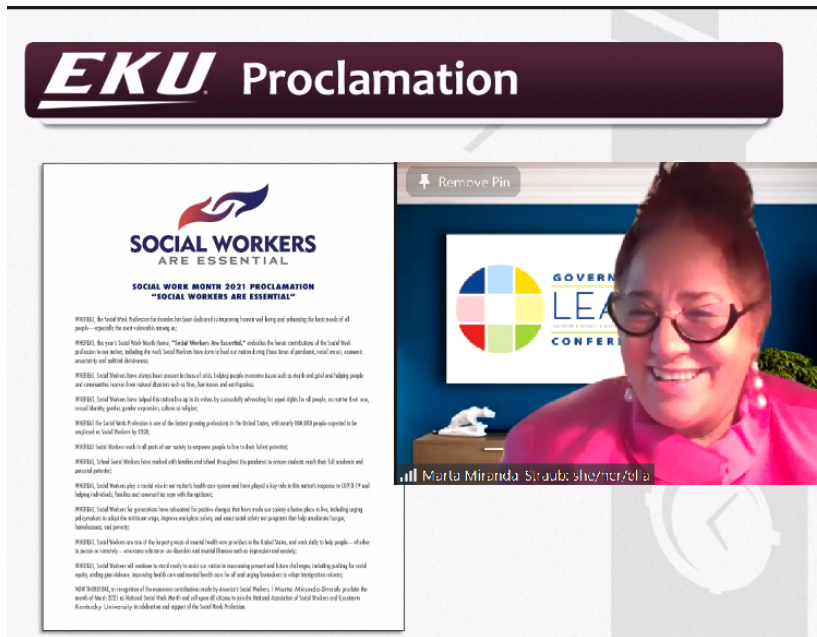
Register now!

Commitment to keeping kids safe is focus of Child Abuse Prevention Month

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 for sharing on the DCBS social media platforms and showing our partnership with PCAK to show unity and raise awareness.

Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub joins PCAK for another virtual "Fireside Chat" at 10 a.m. EDT on Wednesday, April 14. Learn more and register at tinyurl.com/k9zy2ku8.

PCAK is planning several incredible, educational events this year, including 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>.



March is Social Work Month

March is Social Work Month, and this year's national and state theme is "Social Work is Essential."

EKU Social Work Day

Our partners at the Eastern Kentucky University Social Work Program sponsored an all-day virtual kickoff event on Feb. 26, and Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub, a former EKU professor, was primary speaker to begin the day's events. She gave attendees – many were EKU students, faculty and alumni – a rallying call: "We are essential to co-creating a social and political system that will protect all of us." Then she presented a proclamation that recognizes social workers' crucial role in helping vulnerable families. Read the proclamation: <https://bit.ly/3dFuPaE>.

The rest of the day's curriculum included an awards ceremony honoring EKU alumni and workshops on self-care and anti-racism. See a review of the workshops at <https://socialwork.eku.edu/eku-social-work-day-2021-0>

Social Work Survey Responses

To celebrate the service of our social services staff, we asked them several questions about their work. More than 300 employees responded! Read their honest answers for more insight into their dedication and passion for helping vulnerable children, adults and families.

Social work staff: Thank you for your responses, and for your service. You are essential!

[Read the responses here](#)



Family Children and Youth

Protection and Permanency Update

For the first time, direct funding has been allocated for Adult Protective Services agencies. On Feb. 1, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) posted a Federal Register Notice announcing formula grant funding for Adult Protective Services through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021.

[Read the entire story here](#)

DSR Scorecards show gains in child welfare

Our Division of Service Regions creates monthly statewide "Scorecards" to analyze child welfare data. They are for internal use to improve services. A comparison of the February 2020 and February 2021 Scorecards shows significant improvement with higher outcomes for most every area. Here is a snapshot. Great work from our staff!

Case plans completed timely

2020: 85% **2021:** 87%

Cases with consults documented

2020: 88% **2021:** 89%

Investigations past due

2020: 49% **2021:** 32%

Investigations completed timely

2020: 59% **2021:** 67%

Trauma/Resilience and Engaged Healing



Living Well Clinics offer mental health support

For staff experiencing trauma or stress, the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan offers behavioral health support through its Living Well Health Clinics. Free virtual visits are available by phone and video. LivingWell providers can help with traumatic stress, anxiety, social isolation, healthy coping skills and loneliness. Schedule an appointment at www.MyPremiseHealth.com or use the My Premise Health app.