

Public invited to discuss improving foster care at August town halls

By Tessa R. Howard
Communications Specialist
Administrative Office of the Courts

The public is invited to virtual town hall meetings this month hosted by Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to discuss ways to improve outcomes for Kentucky families and children in the foster care system. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend the regional meeting on August 1st. Registration is required.

The town halls will focus on how children and families who have experienced out-of-home care can contribute to bettering the child welfare system. The discussions will be geared toward encouraging community partners and stakeholders to promote child and family well-being, equity, and positive outcomes by engaging with families and children who have been in the system. Due to confidentiality, specific cases will not be discussed.

The town hall topic is an offshoot of a Kentucky Youth Advocates report – Building the Voices of Lived Experience: Lessons Learned from Navigating the System – Kentucky Youth Advocates – from last summer about what children and families learned while in the foster care system and what they wished



they had known earlier. The report is part of a larger initiative to support communication for children and families and professionals in child welfare.

Discussion points at the town halls will include:

oWhat are the possible solutions to better develop the inclusion and validation of lived experts in system improvement?
oWhat supports exist so children and families involved with the child welfare system can have their voices and concerns heard?

oWhat impact can this engagement have for children currently in foster care?

Findings from the meetings will be reported to the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board and will be included in the CFCRB's annual recommendations to the Supreme Court, governor, and legislature. Regional meetings are among

the reforms called for in House Bill 1, the adoption and foster care legislation passed in 2018 to improve outcomes for children in out-of-home care.

TOWN HALL SCHEDULE

Registrants will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom meeting link one week before their town hall. For more information, email cfcrb@kycourts.net.

Aug. 1, 2024

11 a.m.-noon CT/noon- 1 p.m. ET

Registration required at <https://kcoj.info/Aug1CFCRB>.

For residents in these counties: Allen, Ballard, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, LaRue, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Meade, Metcalfe, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren,

CFCRBs review each child's case in foster care at least once every six months, as required by statute. In its 2023 fiscal year, volunteers reviewed 20,142 cases involving 11,905 children in out-of-home care. View the latest CFCRB annual report at kcoj.info/CFCRB2023.

and Webster.

Citizen Foster Care Review Board

The Kentucky General Assembly created the state CFCRB in 1982 to decrease children's time in out-of-home care. More than 700 volunteers across the state serve as members of the Kentucky CFCRB.

Thousands of Kentucky children enter foster care each year due to dependency, neglect and abuse. CFCRB volunteers play an important role in protecting children by reviewing the case of each child in the custody of the Department for Community Based Services in the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

CFCRBs review each child's case in foster care at least once every six months, as required by statute. In its 2023 fiscal year, volunteers reviewed 20,142 cases involving 11,905 children in out-of-home care. View the latest CFCRB annual report at kcoj.info/CFCRB2023.

Summer Internships in Congressman Comer's Tompkinsville Office

Office of Congressman James Comer

Congressman James Comer (R-Ky.) recognized local students Ember Bowman, Hollie Harlan, and Laura Linkous for recently completing summer internships in his Tompkinsville, Kentucky office. During the internship, Ember, Hollie, and Laura were dedicated to helping staff with constituent casework, responding to constituent inquiries, and providing general office assistance for Kentucky's First Congressional District.

"In my Tompkinsville office this summer, Ember, Hollie, and Laura were a critical part of the team, and I want to thank them for their dedicated service to Kentucky's First Congressional District. So many Kentuckians call into my office seeking help from the federal government and these students assisted my staff each day to address and resolve their issues. I can't thank them enough for their work, and I know all three have a bright future ahead of them," said Congressman Comer.

Ember Bowman, a Monroe County native, is pursuing her undergraduate degree from Eastern Kentucky University in Political Science.

"This internship placed me in an environment where I was able to deal firsthand with constituents in the District, which in turn gave me a better understanding of issues that are affecting my district and how these concerns are addressed," said Ms. Bowman.

Hollie Harlan, a Monroe County native, is pursuing her undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky in Accounting and Finance.

"I have learned a lot this summer, including more about casework and the importance it has to the 1st Congressional District. I have enjoyed communicating with people from all walks of life and helping them with any issues they may have," said Ms. Harlan.

Laura Linkous, a Metcalfe County native, is pursuing her undergraduate degree from Centre College in Mathematics and Data Science.

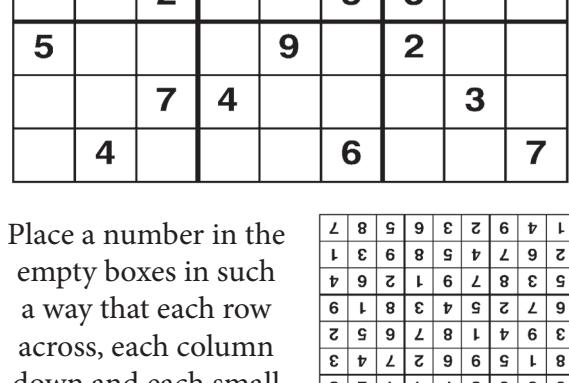
"I have been given many opportunities through my internship with Congressman Comer's District Office. Having the opportunity to learn how Casework helps our constituents has been very rewarding," said Ms. Linkous.

In the District office, interns may be asked to do a variety of things, including day-to-day office work such as answering phones, writing letters, and assisting with media clips. In addition, interns may be assigned to assist in various constituent case work or work on District-based projects of importance.

To learn about or sign up for an internship go to <https://comer.house.gov/internships>.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all the numbers from one to nine.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

