



**Handout #3**  
**FCRB Program Status Report**  
**State Board Meeting – March 10, 2022**

**1. Dashboard and Other Data**

a. Number of Reviews Conducted

	Number of Youth Reviewed *	Number of Review Slots
FY 2018	2,055	1,364
FY 2019	1,876	1,243
FY 2020	1,867	1,289
FY 2021	1,566	1,093
FY 2022, Q1	401 **	292 **
FY 2022, Q2	417	307

(\*) Not a unique number of children as some children have more than one review in a year.

\*\* Corrected from December 2021 report which was missing information or incorrect

b. IP Participation at Reviews

The Dashboard tracks on overall participation by Interested Parties at the reviews held in a given month. Quarterly reports are generated and provided to DHS SWAs and SAMs and available for ICAB staff.

	DHS			All Other Interested Parties		
	Attendance	Written or Recorded	Total	Attendance	Written or Recorded	Total
FY 2022, Q1	73%	21%	94%	24%	6%	30%
FY 2022, Q2	67%	23%	90%	23%	5%	28%

**2. Policies and Procedures**

a) **Local Board Member approval - procedural update**

Effective January 1, 2022, the policy for selection and approval of local foster care review board members includes the following new procedures during the onboarding process:

- a) During monthly supervision meetings between a local coordinator and the supervisor, a review of any FCRB applicants is conducted.
- b) Coordinators provide verbal overview and rationale for recommending the individual to serve on a local board.
- c) Upon review of the applicant record in CAMS, the board directory of membership, and the information provided by the coordinator, the supervisor

makes a determination about whether to approve the applicant and documents the decision in the volunteer's record.

- d) This step needs to be completed before the applicant can be sworn in as a new volunteer.

### **b) Confidentiality Policy - procedural addition**

ICAB needs to add an explanation to the confidentiality policy which is to follow provisions outlined in Iowa Code 237.21. We would like to clarify in the policy manual that local foster care reviews are not subject to Chapter 21, Open Meetings; therefore, since the meetings are closed, recordings of a review is prohibited.

## **3. FY22 Program Priorities - Updates**

### 1) Development of a new FCRB database.

- a) Some testing has been completed on new development added to the Child Advocacy Match System (CAMS).
- b) The FCRB development is scheduled to be available to ICAB staff for user acceptance testing the week of March 8th.
- c) The project is staying within budget and is approximately two weeks behind the initial timeline projected by Five Points.
- d) Looking at a "go live" date in late April.

### 2) Proposed Legislation - Impact on FCRB

- a) Chapter 237, subsections 15-24: Child Advocacy Board
  - i) Policy and procedure manual will need to be updated to reflect:
    - (1) Local board membership is a minimum of five and no more than 7 members.
    - (2) Diversity of the local boards to the extent possible
    - (3) Review notification to include interveners.
  - ii) Pre-Service Training will need to be updated in terms of the local board responsibility for reviewing case permanency plans.
- b) Chapter 232: Juvenile Justice by DHS. Proposed changes that impact local boards:
  - i) Expanded definition of foster care to include relative and fictive kin placements will likely increase the number of children eligible for a review. It is noted that due to the decrease in numbers over the last one plus years, many local boards have decreased the frequency of meetings. This change may require working with boards to determine availability of volunteers to resume longer meeting days or meeting monthly again.

***(1) In looking at the DHS Child Welfare Dashboard, there were a total of 3719 children in relative or fictive kin in FY21. 1925 of***

***those children are from counties that have a local foster care review board.***

- ii) Extending foster care to age 21 means that any 18+ youth who is in voluntary placement in a licensed foster family home or in supervised apartment living arrangement would also be eligible for a foster care review. Currently, once a youth turns 18, the local review board no longer reviews the case.
- iii) Pre-Service training will need to be updated to incorporate 232 changes.

3) Monitor Polk FCRB Pilot.

- a) The number of cases for the Polk board has been limited. It was anticipated that there would be a large number of youth with the legal permanency goal of another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA) for the Polk Board.
- b) Erin Stiles, Polk Co DHS Supervisor, provided a list of an additional 10 children for the board to review; however, many of those children were placed in relative or suitable other (fictive kin) placements and were no longer eligible for a foster care review.
- c) The January 2022 list of children in care provided by the Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS), shows 88 children in Polk County with the goal of adoption. Of those 88 children, 78 have been in foster care for two or more years.
- d) ICAB staff will be meeting with Polk IDHS to discuss expanding the pilot to include adoption cases that have been in the system for two or more years.

4) Citizen Review Panel (CRP)

- a) The CRP meets bi-monthly and their focus is on the role of the guardian ad litem (GAL) and how well GAL responsibilities are carried out for children in the juvenile justice system. This group is comprised of CASA and/or FCRB volunteers from around the state. The CRP fulfills a state mandate under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).
- b) Much of their focus has been on receiving training on the Iowa Code and hearing from individuals who serve as GALs, as well as (judge), and following the legislative process for the DHS bill related to modifying language and duties of the GAL in Iowa Code 232.2, subsection 22.