



FCRB Program Status Report State Board Meeting – June 2021

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, Q1	394	256
FY 2021, Q2	423	304
FY 2021, Q3	359	245

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

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
July 2020*	NA	96%	96%	NA	29%	29%
Aug 2020**	-	-	92%	-	-	22%
Sep 2020**	48%	40%	88%	15%	11%	26%
Oct 2020**	52%	43%	95%	19%	9%	28%
Nov 2020	54%	46%	100%	16%	12%	28%
Dec 2020	76%	19%	95%	28%	7%	35%
Jan 2021	51%	27%	78%	22%	4%	26%
Feb 2021	59%	31%	90%	22%	6%	28%
Mar 2021	80%	17%	97%	30%	4%	34%
Apr 2021	66%	24%	100%	26%	5%	31%

(*) July boards were paper only;

(**) Some in person, some paper only so only total participation is noted.

c. Timeliness of FCRB Report Distribution

Per the DIA-DHS MOU, Timeliness of review reports: In 90% of the foster care cases reviewed by a LFCRB, LFCRB review reports will be provided to the juvenile court, DHS caseworker and all interested parties within 15 days of the foster care administrative review pursuant to Iowa Code §237.20(2)(a).

- 4FY'21 to date - 100% each month

Note: This reporting requirement will not be required beginning July 1, 2021 as it has been removed from the MOU with DHS. Because FCRB staff have consistently met this reporting requirement 100% of the time for the past few years, DHS has determined it is no longer necessary to report this data. It will still be tracked internally for monitoring purposes.

2. LFCRB Rationale Statements

Rationale statements are prepared by local program coordinators for new and reappointed local board members. For the current fiscal year to date, the State Board has reviewed and approved:



- New local board members – 24
- Reappointments – 38

3. Resuming In Person FCRB Meetings

- All local boards will resume in-person meetings beginning July 2021.
- Seven boards will have a hybrid model where interested parties may request to participate virtually. Two coordinators were successful in obtaining grant funds for technology to allow for continued virtual participation.

4. FCRB Program Policy and Procedure Revisions - Operational

All revisions in the FCRB program policy manual are operational changes that do not require state board approval. There are no changes to the program policies.

- The most notable change is the implementation of a completely paperless process for sharing confidential information with local board members. 11 of the boards are completely paperless at this time; the remaining boards will make the transition no later than November 30, 2021. Benefits include:
 - More efficient use of staff time;

- Cost-savings to the agency in terms of supplies, copier leases, mail machine leases, postage/shipping, shredding services, and reduced office space needs around the state; and
- Increased security of confidential case file information by eliminating the multiple copies that are shared back and forth between the board members and local offices.

5. Remaining FY21 Program Priorities

Update on the priority projects include:

- **Review of Iowa Code 237.18 – 237.20 to identify potential legislative changes, as well as a review of the Child Advocacy Board Administrative Rules.**
 - Since the March 2021 state board meeting, FCRB staff have had further discussion about changing the scope of foster care review boards. It has been determined that our focus should be on updating the code and working with all local boards to fulfill the current mission and code to review cases of children in foster care placements. Rather than changing the scope, we will continue to focus on a growth plan to expand foster care review to other areas of the state.
 - The FCRB Program Committee met on May 17, 2021 to review the Iowa Code sections for the Child Advocacy Board. The ICAB leadership team provided further proposed edits on May 20, 2021.
- **Revision of the FCRB Pre-Service Training – current training is outdated in terms of applicable laws and changes that have been made to the process. A subcommittee of five staff has been formed to begin this project.**
 - This priority is now completed through the committee work of Shirley Hoefler, Cara Galloway, Meg Campbell, Linda Yates, Ann Empen and Lesa Christianson.
 - FCRB coordinators completed their Training of Facilitators on May 27, 2021.
- **Starting citizen reviews in Jasper and Floyd county; as well as proceeding with exploration of starting pilot citizen review boards in Polk County to review cases of children with the permanency goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA).**
 - Floyd and Jasper - completed in January and February 2021.
 - Polk County
 - The first meeting of the Polk FCRB will be held July 22, 2022.
 - Carrie Phelps is the coordinator for the board.
 - Cindy Goellnitz is the administrative assistant.

- There are five applications for board members that Carrie is processing. Male applicants are still needed for the board.
- Interviews for the facilitator will take place in early June.
- Board training is scheduled to begin late June using the new curriculum.
- DHS, judges, and clerks have all been supportive and accepting of starting a Polk FCRB.

6. FY22 Program Priority

Not all priorities have been established for FY2022 yet; however, the number one focus will be on the development of a new FCRB database. ICAB received a state appropriation of \$350,000 for the FY2022 budget for the sole purpose of upgrading/developing the FCRB data system. The current databases used for the FCRB program are running in a 2003 Microsoft Access database. More information will be provided as we carry out this project.