

Lean On Me: Community supporters can give families everyday help

April marks Child Abuse Prevention Month, when DCBS and our partners strengthen public outreach efforts to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Many of you may have already seen lots of this activity in your regions, or you may have participated in events like Wear Blue Day, pinwheel planting or a local prevention rally.

There's something else I invite you to do this month. It's a small act, but its results could make a big difference for our children and our communities. I am asking you to take the Lean On Me Kentucky pledge.

From the Acting Commissioner



[Read more here](#)

Staff have key role in public health

Hello DCBS! When people ask about the work that you do or the field in which you practice, what do you typically say? I'll take a wild guess for one of the top answers: social (service) work? I know, I know, many of you have social work training, so it's no surprise.

Public Health Corner



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dr. Trinidad Jackson, Senior Advisor on Public Health

Now I have another question: have you ever considered yourself a public health worker? Whether you know it or not, we are all key actors in the public health system and our daily professional practices can aid in strengthening or weakening public health outcomes for populations.

[Read more here](#)

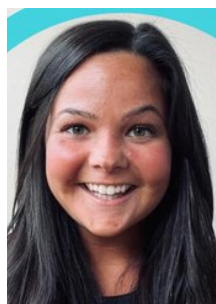
Healing Resources

Louisville and the Commonwealth are hurting. Department leadership encourages all staff to please use available resources to cope with trauma and take care of your mental health and healing.

- **Seven Counties Services 24/7 Crisis and Information Hotline** (press 5 when prompted): 502-589-1100
- **Kentucky Employee Assistance Program** (KEHP members): <https://personnel.ky.gov/Pages/KEAP.aspx>
- **Suicide Crisis and Lifeline:** Phone/Text/Chat: 988; Online chat: <https://988lifeline.org/chat/>
- **LiveHealth Online** (KEHP members): <https://extranet.personnel.ky.gov/Pages/livhealth.aspx>
- **UK Center on Trauma & Children Well@Work:** <https://www.uky.edu/ctac/wellatwork>
- **Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990; Online:** DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov



Sending a DCBS Shout Out to these four Northern Bluegrass Service Region social workers who were recently named the Foster Adoptive Parent Association of Northern Kentucky's Most Appreciated Social Workers. Nominations for this contest were made in March - Social Work Month - by NBSR foster and adoptive families. Congratulations to all four of you!



From left: Taylor Graham, Kenton County Protection and Permanency Team; Kristina Niergarth, Kenton County Recruitment and Certification (R&C) Team; Stephanie Ritter, Boone County R & C Team; and Christy Thompson, Kenton County, R & C Team

Recent DSR Scorecards show progress

The Division of Service Regions has released the February 2023 and March 2023 Scorecards. Here are some of the highlights.

There were a total of 303 children that exited OOHC and in March; 93 of those children were reunified with their parents, 76 were adopted, 76 were placed with relatives, and 17 children chose to extend commitment.

Our R&C Teams approved 142 new resource homes.

In March, statewide we closed 742 ongoing request/agency APS/CPS cases.

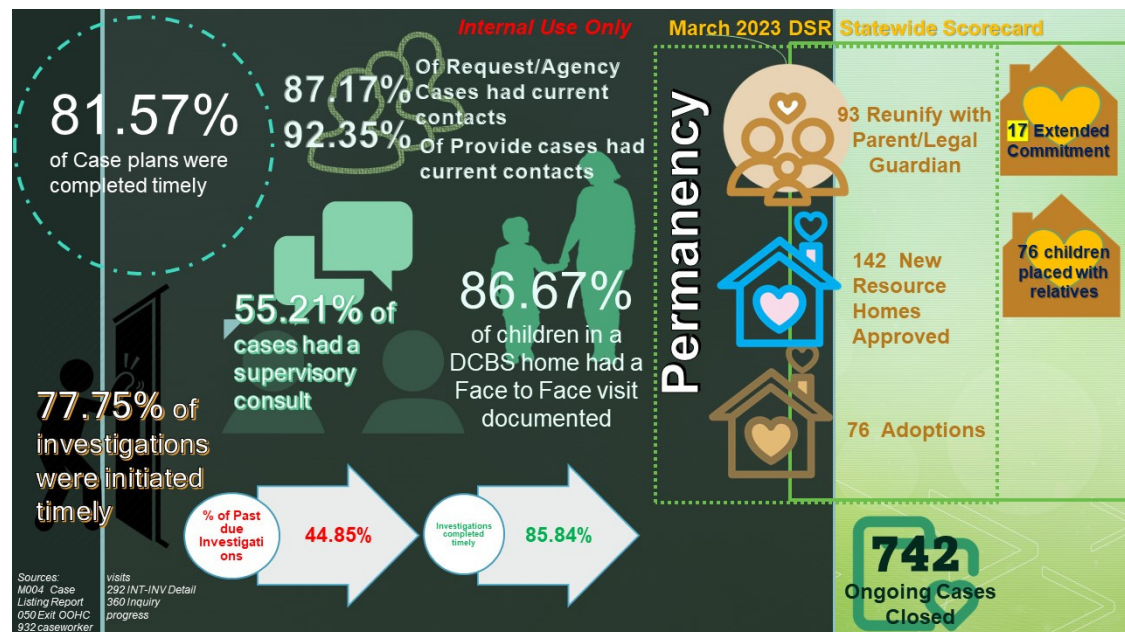
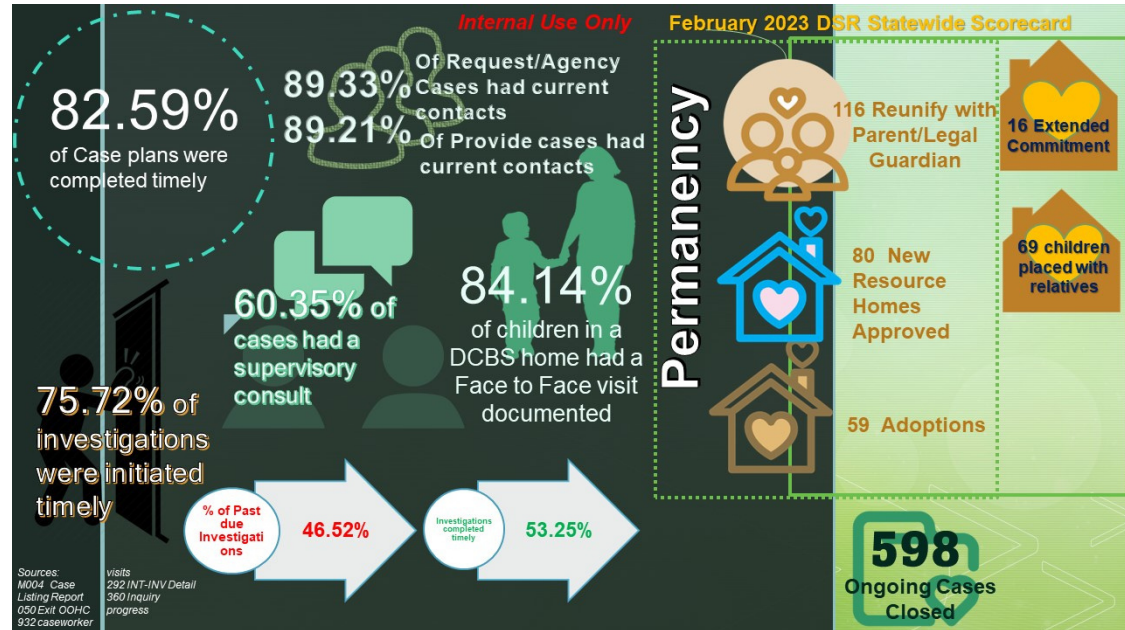
We have made significant improvements in the following outcomes from February to March in serving Kentucky Families, children, and vulnerable adults timely:

- Case plans completed timely
- The number of provide case contacts entered timely
- Investigations initiated timely
- The number of F2F visits documented in TWIST
- The number of cases with a documented consult entered into TWIST timely
- The number of past due investigations
- The number of investigations completed timely

There were some decreases across the state from February to March in the following area:

- The number of request case contacts entered timely.

These scorecards utilize evaluation calculations for the following elements: Timely Initiations, Consults, Case plans,



Timely Completion, Contacts, % Past Due, and Caseworker visits. It references the 050 Enter/Exit Statistic report for reasons in which children exited care; Parent reunification, adoption, etc. The 360 inquiry report was used to look at the total number of new resource homes approved.



Tickets on sale for LEAD conference

The 2023 Governor's Conference on Leadership, Equality, Accessibility and Diversity (LEAD) will be virtual on Sept. 20-21. The theme is "Embracing a Culture of Inclusion." Tickets are \$25 and are on sale now. To buy tickets and get updates on speakers, visit <https://bit.ly/3A5mly5>.

Legislative session brings new laws affecting DCBS clients

The 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly ended on March 30, 2023. This was not “a budget session” as those occur in even-numbered years, but the General Assembly still took on some big issues!

Pieces of legislation that passed the House, Senate, and were signed into law by the Governor included bills on medicinal cannabis, sports betting, juvenile justice, pay raises for state employees, and many bills to assist the individuals and families served by DCBS and our programs – bills that support public assistance recipients transitioning out of programs, close child abuse or neglect reporting loopholes, allow the department to conduct announced home visits when appropriate, strengthen protections for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, increase crime victim compensation awards, restrict locations that registered sex offenders can go, and more.

There were also concerning bills that passed this Session that the department and cabinet will strive to implement in ways that continue to best serve the most vulnerable citizens of our commonwealth.

This summer, legislative task forces and committees will meet to discuss issues they may pursue next Session: a government teleworking task force will examine the advantages and disadvantages of allowing state employees to continue to telework, the cabinet organization task force will continue meeting to discuss changes in cabinet structure, and the newly created Families and Children Committee will hear a variety of



presentations related to our work. Those meetings have not all been scheduled yet, but will be aired by KET at: <https://www.ket.org/legislature/>. You can find who your representatives in government are at the following link: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/findyourlegislator/findyourlegislator.html>.

-DCBS Legislative Liaison Laura Begin

Division of Child Care Update

Great news from the Division of Child Care! Calvonita Radford, Quality Enhancement Branch Manager, has fiercely battled breast cancer over the past year (chemo, double mastectomy and reconstruction). She took her last chemotherapy infusion earlier this month! Her colleagues in the DCC central office celebrated her. Stay strong, Calvonita! You are a Warrior in Pink!



Calvonita Radford, in royal blue, is celebrated by coworkers for ending chemotherapy.

Director Andrea Day joins podcast

DCC Director Andrea Day recently joined the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Spotlight Podcast to discuss the Kentucky Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership. Tune in to hear how employees and employers can get involved. Find the podcast on the Chamber's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nkychamberofcommerce>.

NKY@Work
Hosted by Nancy Spivey

04.17.23
Andrea Day

TEAM KENTUCKY

Title Sponsor: Chamber of Commerce
Digital Sponsor: CVG
Episode Sponsor: ckreu, HOKAN

DCBS marks Child Abuse Prevention Month

DCS leadership and staff marked Child Abuse Prevention Month at several events and by wearing blue together. Here are some images of pinwheel plantings, community fairs and wear blue days from our committed staff across the state.



Staff show commitment to prevention



TRSR SRA gets a pie in the face after staff complete past dues

Two Rivers Service Region Administrator Michelle Baize recently got a pie in the face! It was an incentive for her staff in working on their past due completions.

In January, Michelle and her team started talking about a plan to get past due cases completed.

At that time, there were about 1,064 past dues across the region. For staff with 20+ past dues, many of their past dues were reassigned to staff throughout the region. The total ended up being 466 past due investigations that were reassigned. Each staff that was in a position to help received three investigations to complete. A deadline of April 16 was set to get these completed.

As of April 17, TRSR has completed 442 of the original 466! In addition to the 442, the interims took on some additional cases that were not on the original list of 466 and completed an additional 97, so the grand total of investigations that staff has been able to complete in the last eight weeks is 532! Each week, regional leadership gave out some type of incentive or prize for getting cases completed. And for such an awesome accomplishment, Michelle took the pie in the face. She said, "With these cases being completed and staffing improving we can start to get back to providing that quality casework we are capable of! I am



SRA Michelle Baize after her pie in the face!

very proud to be a part of this region and can't wait to see what we can accomplish next!" Watch the pie-ing at <https://bit.ly/3L8zgLH>.

Sign up for Steps Challenge through April 25

The Quarter Two LivingWell Invitational Team Steps Challenge is here! Kentucky Employees Health Plan members can register through April 25. Round 1 begins April 26. There are five weekly rounds, and the final round ends May 30. Register at <https://bit.ly/3zECXly>.

For this challenge, participants will be part of a five-person team that competes against a new team each week for five consecutive weeks. The team that walks the most steps each week wins.

Team matchups are based on performance, for more fair competition. Weekly rounds start each Wednesday. Be sure to enter your steps for each round by the following Wednesday to count towards the previous round. You can sync your fitness device or enter your steps manually.



Participants can earn up to \$25 in LivingWell Engagement rewards by logging steps weekly. When you log at least five days of steps in a weekly round, you will earn \$5.

Learn more about the Steps Challenge from the fact sheet at <https://bit.ly/3KHK2bz>, or from the video at <https://vimeo.com/798837501>.

You can also register for the informative 30-minute sessions in the Invitational Team Steps Challenge webinar series. These sessions will share walking, exploring the outdoors, and safety tips.



Register for the series and learn more at <https://bit.ly/3KGauST>. Sessions times are as follows:

- 11-11:30 a.m. EDT May 11
- 3-3:30 p.m. EDT May 18
- 11-11:30 a.m. EDT May 24

New app gives KEHP members access to all insurance benefits

The Personnel Cabinet and the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP) are now offering MyBENEFITS through Castlight, a new app that can help you navigate your health, dental, vision and life insurance benefits all in one place.

Members can use Castlight to search for in-network providers, get a digital health insurance ID card, view claims and balances, and more. Scan this QR Code to get started with Castlight.



Leadership retreat highlights connections, commitment to racial equity and prevention

Our leadership team gathered at Natural Bridge Kentucky State Park recently to reconnect and recount accomplishments, discuss prevention, equity and diversity; and to make progress on active planning to build a 21st century DCBS through continued implementation of the DCBS Strategic Plan. Acting Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Chief of Staff Shannon Hall, Senior Advisor on Public Health Dr. Trinidad Jackson and event facilitator and Executive Advisor Jennifer Warren led workgroups on long- and short-term goals. Acting Commissioner Dennis reminded the group to always seek connections with each other in our work. Plans were developed for regional and division level retreats.

