

**The Citizen's Foster Care Review Board, Inc.
2015 Annual Report**



CFCRB Inc.

PO Box 10746
Naples FL 34101

www.CFCRBCollier



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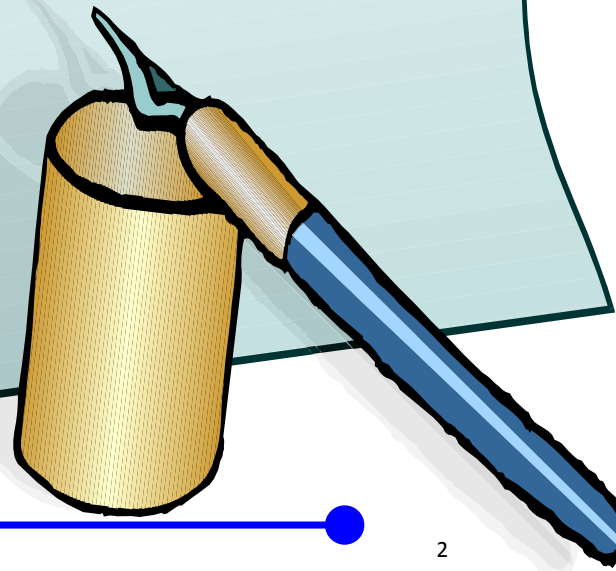
Felix Padron, PsyD

Sgt. Tom Wedlock

Financial Statement

Year Ending 12/31/15

Opening Balance:	\$1,770.27
Deposits:	
Donations	\$8,410.96
Expenses:	
Accounting Fees	\$175.00
Annual Filings	\$ 61.25
Consulting	\$750.00
Insurance (D&O)	\$1,350.00
Meetings	\$583.99
Office Supplies/Printing	\$20.14
PO Box	\$62.00
Postage	\$88.89
Printing	\$450.00
Website Hosting	\$215.00
Total Expenses	\$3,756.27
Closing Balance	\$6,424.96



The Mission of The Citizen's Foster Care Review Board, Inc. is to protect and advance the interests of the abused and neglected children and young adults of Collier County who come under the protection of the Dependency Court by providing well-trained volunteers to oversee their safety, stability and well-being.



Executive Summary 2015

The Citizen's Foster Care Review Board, Inc. (the "CFCRB") of Collier County has served the Dependency Court and Community for the past 23 years by conducting judicial hearings for children and young adults in foster care and out of home placements. Our 30, well-trained, highly dedicated volunteers, acting under the authority of the Dependency Court, continue to protect the interests of abused and neglected children by evaluating the parents' progress towards fulfilling the tasks required for resolution of their cases and the return of the children to their homes, or another permanent placement.

In 2015 we were privileged to serve under the direction of the Unified Family Court (UFC) judges: The Honorable-- Christine Greider, Joseph Foster and Mary Evans. This judicial model, implemented in 2014, provides for improved continuity and oversight. With the assistance of dependency court case manager Judy Groos, CFCRB panels conducted **281** judicial reviews, involving **447** children. We are thankful for the court's continued support and resources.

The benefits of a CFCRB are clear. The negative impact of a dependency proceeding on children and the entire family is undeniable. By avoiding unnecessary delays in the dependency process, panels help to ensure the safety and well-being of these children. Panels of five trained volunteers perform the majority of reviews at 3-6 month intervals and again at about 9 months. The 9 month panel review, which had been eliminated for several years, was restarted again this year. This has allowed for greater familiarity and continuity. In compliance with statutes, at or before 12 months the case goes to the judge for a permanency hearing.

The volunteers comprising the panels are the community voice in dependency proceedings. They bring their experiences, thought processes and intellectual efforts to bear on each hearing, resulting in a comprehensive analysis of each case. All parties to a case have the opportunity to be in attendance and be heard at review. This allows for accurate, precise and complete recommendations that, upon signature from the dependency judge, become an order of the court. An additional benefit is that it frees the judges schedules to allow them to allot more time on their caseload.

Many of the goals outlined in our 2014 report have been met while others remain long term or ongoing. Policies and related organizational materials have been updated to allow for smoother functioning. Also, a means for continued data collection has been implemented. We continue to meet and work collaboratively with Pathways Human Services (PHS-- previously Providence) and other community agencies.

Our primary on-going goal is to provide the best panel judicial review practices to our community and a means of sustaining the CFCRB administrative functions to accomplish this goal. As part of this effort we obtained a grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County for \$1500 to engage the services of a consultant to assist us in developing a Strategic Giving Plan.

To date, many of the administrative functions continue to be performed by the volunteers of the Board of Directors (BOD) and the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee provides seven in-service programs each year, and recruits and trains new panel members and chairs, as well as addressing any operational aspects that may arise (i.e. changes in scripts or policies). The in-services are a critical component in keeping volunteers updated and skillful. Guardians-ad-Litem(GAL) and other stakeholders are invited when appropriate. All efforts are made to recruit Board and panel members that reflect the composition of the community we serve.

Our panels continue to operate seamlessly. Through the efforts of Judge Greider, we are now conducting reviews in an official court room and have a bailiff assigned at all reviews allowing for a more professional atmosphere. Our turnover rate is negligible and attendance at reviews by case agencies, guardians-ad litem and attorneys remains high. Three exceptions to our recommendations were filed and heard by the judge in 2015. All of these were denied and the panels recommendations were upheld.

The 2015 annual report highlights the activities of the CFCRB and reflects the data collected during our reviews. Positive changes and areas of concern including barriers to permanency are identified. The report also provides information over many years so that trends can easily be identified. The information gathered becomes an important guide to CFCRB in identifying trends and changes within our community. This awareness allows us to target our educational programs to relevant issues thus enhancing the quality of the judicial review process. Other stakeholders and community organizations report that this information is also a helpful tool for them in evaluating their programs. Our desire and challenge remains to work collaboratively with others in order to effect positive change and attain our goals.



Barriers to Permanency and Concerns

Attached to this report are the data that we collected in 2015. Our observations and analysis are noted on each graph. There are several “stand-out” observations. Substance abuse and domestic violence remain the primary reasons for court involvement. Of particular note is the 60% increase in domestic violence in the African-American group.

Some of the changes we observed may be the result of the new Safety Decision Making Methodology model implemented in 2014 by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The goal of this model is to keep children who are or can be made safe at home, out of dependency court, by providing community based services to the family. If that fails, the case becomes judicial. As a consequence, cases coming before the court tend to be in a higher risk category and slow moving, requiring extensive services and more time before closure. The areas that changed and may have been influenced by this policy are summarized below:

- The number of months in care increased. Our data is based on the cases that remain open at year’s end. However, by comparing this over many years, trends are observed. This year children in care from 0-12 months decreased by 37% with an increase of 30% at 13-24 months and 9% at 25-26.
- The percent of children removed (sheltered) increased across all racial groups (10-20%). High risk, difficult cases, with multiple parental issues are more likely to require removal of the children.
- Placement of children in licensed foster care increased by 10%. Fewer children were placed with relatives or protective supervision.

While it would appear that keeping children safe with their families is a desirable outcome, it is difficult to say whether our data represents a positive or negative trend without concomitant data from the community based agency (PHS).

The turnover rate of case managers at PHS remains high and contributes to lack of continuity and confusion by all parties. The new social studies reports have been helpful in providing us with more comprehensive family data in preparation for reviews.

Unfortunately the critical lack of foster homes in Collier County continues. Many children are still placed in outlying counties, however, we have seen improvement in the access of services for these children.

The data on the guardians-ad-litem (GAL) assigned to children and reports submitted remains high. We have seen a high incidence of staff turnover (attorneys) in the GAL program this year. This may have contributed to the increase in reports not being submitted within the required 72 hours prior to judicial review.

Many of the goals for 2015 have been met. We hope to build on the positive trends seen in the past year and will continue to work with all stakeholders to implement solutions and promote positive outcomes for children and families.

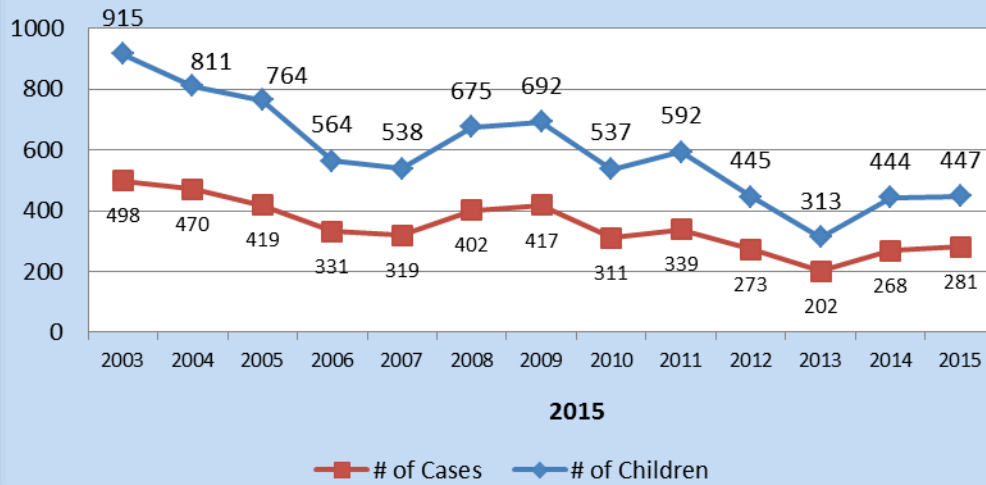
Goals for 2016

- Provide ongoing, relevant data collection
- Work collaboratively with other stakeholders in improving the child welfare system
- Continue to attempt to recruit volunteers that reflect the multicultural composition of Collier County
- Increase coordination efforts with the Foster Care Review board in Miami/Dade County to ensure consistency of operating procedures, data collection and analysis.
- Implement a long range strategic plan for sustaining the functions of CFCRB
- Engage the services of a part time program manager

Our vision:

- *that the children in the dependency system have the most meaningful possible outcomes*
- *that the Court reaches timely resolutions in dependency cases*
- *that every child and young adult lives in a safe, secure, healthy and permanent home*
- *that families are reunified whenever possible*

of Judicial Reviews/# of Children

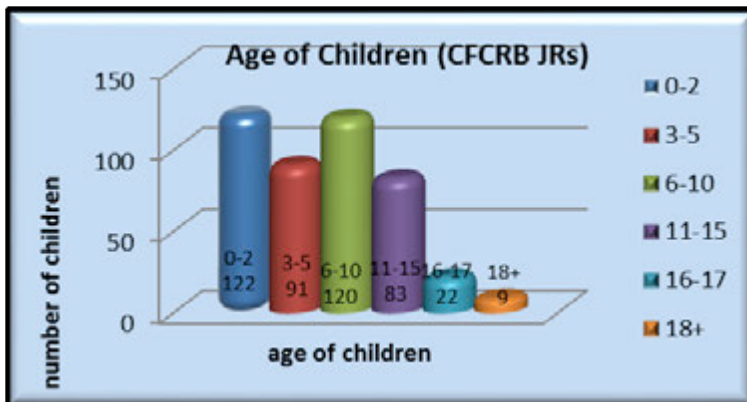


CFCRB

281 Judicial Reviews were conducted by the CFCRB involving **447** children.

Of these, **195** Judicial Reviews were non-duplicated during the year.

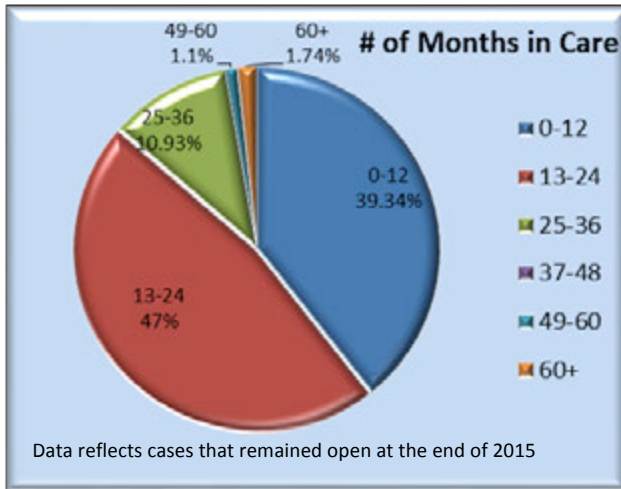
Observations: The number of judicial reviews conducted by the panels in 2015 increased by 5% to 281. Of these, 86 cases were heard more than once by the panels as opposed to 25 times in 2014. This difference is attributed to a change in policy where panels are again hearing a case for the first time at 3-6 months and a second time at about 9 months. At or before 12 months the case goes to the Unified Family Court Judge for a permanency hearing. We expect this trend to continue.



Observation: The numbers have remained consistent over a 10 year period.

Children from ages 0-5 (48%) continue to be the largest grouping by age followed by the 6-10 year group (27%).

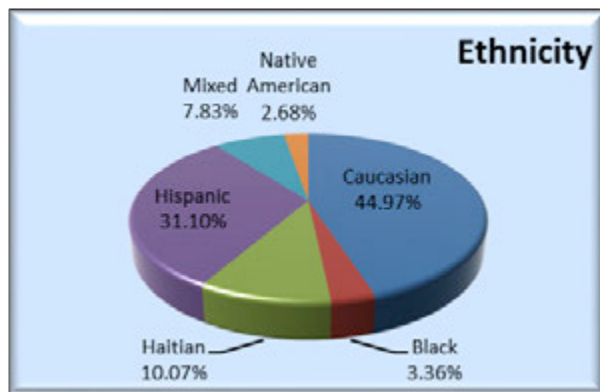
# of Children	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Age 0-2	122 27.29%	134 30.18%	85 27.16%	117 26.29%	166 28.04%	158 29.42%	211 30.49%	180 26.67%	155 28.81%	183 32.45%	185 24.21%	182 22.44%
Age 3-5	91 20.36%	82 18.47%	75 23.97%	114 25.62%	143 24.16%	138 25.70%	185 26.73%	157 23.26%	112 20.82%	111 19.68%	154 20.16%	165 20.35%
Age 6-10	120 26.85%	118 26.58%	85 27.16%	115 25.84%	153 25.84%	135 25.14%	150 21.68%	155 22.96%	127 23.61%	114 20.21%	199 26.05%	214 26.39%
Age 11-15	83 18.57%	79 17.79%	37 11.82%	68 15.28%	110 18.58%	78 14.53%	98 14.16%	126 18.67%	105 19.52%	111 19.68%	164 21.47%	172 21.21%
Age 16-17	22 4.92%	31 6.99%	31 9.90%	31 6.97%	20 3.38%	28 5.21%	48 6.94%	57 8.44%	39 7.25%	45 7.99%	62 8.12%	78 9.62%
Age 18+	9 2.01%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total for Year	447	444	313	445	592	537	692	675	538	564	764	811



Observation: A significant change in the 0-12 months time frame was seen this year resulting in an increase in the number of months in care. There was a 37% decrease of children in care from 0-12 months with an increase of 30% at 13-24 months. A 9% increase at 25-36 months. This is the first time in 5 years that an increase in the length of time in care was seen.

An explanation for this change may be the new FL Safety Methodology model now in effect. The goal is to keep children who are or can be made safe at home and out of dependency court by providing community based services to the family. If that fails, the case becomes judicial. As a consequence, cases coming before the court tend to be more severe and slow moving, requiring extensive services and time before closure.

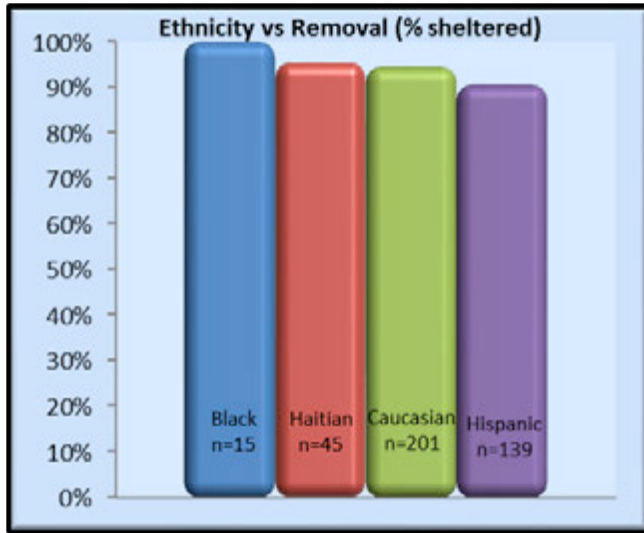
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
0-12 Months	72 39.34%	242 76.58%	135 63.08%	101 51.53%	123 46.24%	65 30.37%	140 49.12%	163 51.1%	132 48.48%	65 36.52%	149 35.48%	147 27.22%
13-24 Months	86 47%	54 17.1%	49 22.90%	57 29.08%	88 33.08%	101 47.20%	70 24.56%	84 26.33%	79 28.42%	58 32.58%	122 29.05%	180 33.33%
25-36 Months	20 10.93%	6 1.9%	17 7.94%	18 9.18%	29 10.90%	20 9.35%	31 10.88%	29 9.10%	24 8.63%	20 11.24%	54 12.86%	110 20.37%
37-48 Months	0 0%	3 1.0%	2 .93%	4 2.04%	9 3.38%	11 5.14%	17 5.96%	11 3.45%	18 6.47%	12 6.74%	17 4.05%	47 8.7%
49-60 Months	2 1.1%	5 1.6%	3 1.40%	1 .5%	7 2.63%	6 2.81%	4 1.40%	16 5.02%	5 1.80%	7 3.93%	17 4.05%	23 4.26%
60+ Months	3 1.7%	6 1.9%	8 3.74%	15 7.65%	10 3.76%	11 5.14%	23 8.07%	16 5.02%	20 7.19%	16 8.99%	61 14.52%	33 6.11%



OBSERVATION: The largest ethnic group was white (45%) followed by Hispanic (31%). There was very little change from 2014.

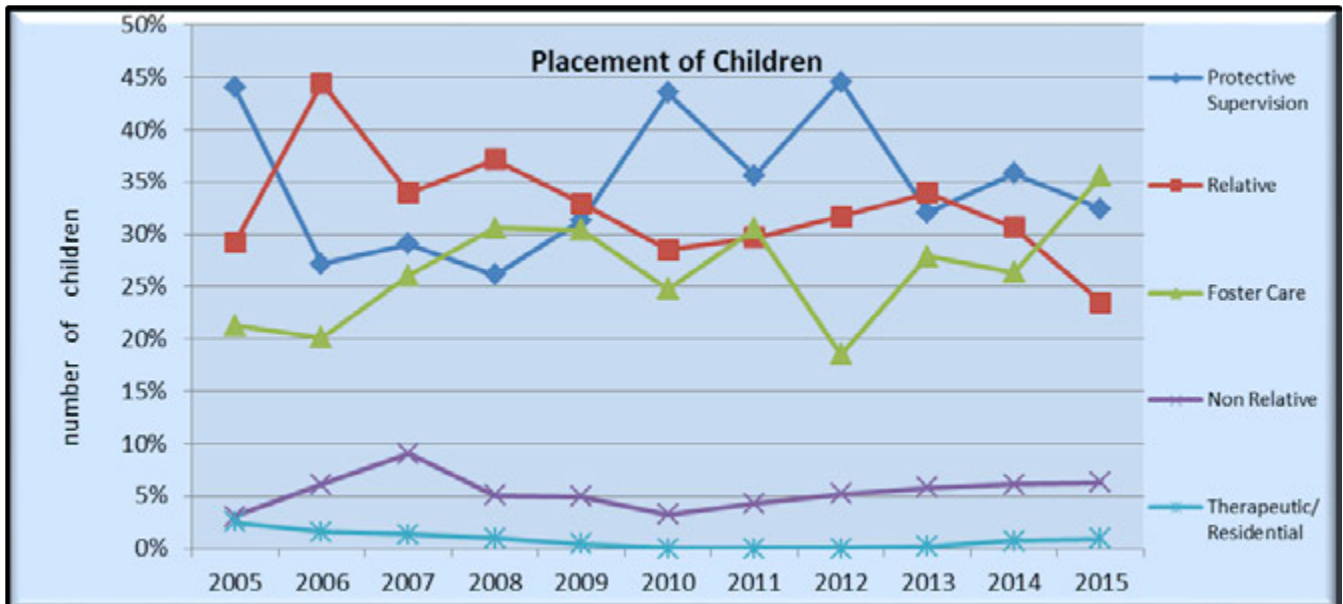
When comparing these numbers with those in the Collier County schools, the percentage of white children in the schools is lower than that seen in the court, whereas in the Hispanic population the percentage in the schools exceeds that seen in the court.

% of Cases by Ethnicity					
For comparison purposes, the percentage numbers of current Collier County Schools were used.					
	Current Collier County Schools	2015	2014	2013	2012
Caucasian/White	n=201 35.44%	44.97%	42.34%	43.5%	46.5%
Hispanic	n=139 48.99%	31.10%	30.86%	26.5%	26.1%
Haitian	n=45 Not reported separately	10.07%	11.94%	11.8%	9.6%
Black/Afro American	n=15 11.57%	3.36%	3.38%	5.1%	6.7%
Mixed	n=35 1.96%	7.83%	10.59%	8.9%	9.9%
Other	n=12 2.03%	2.68%	9%		

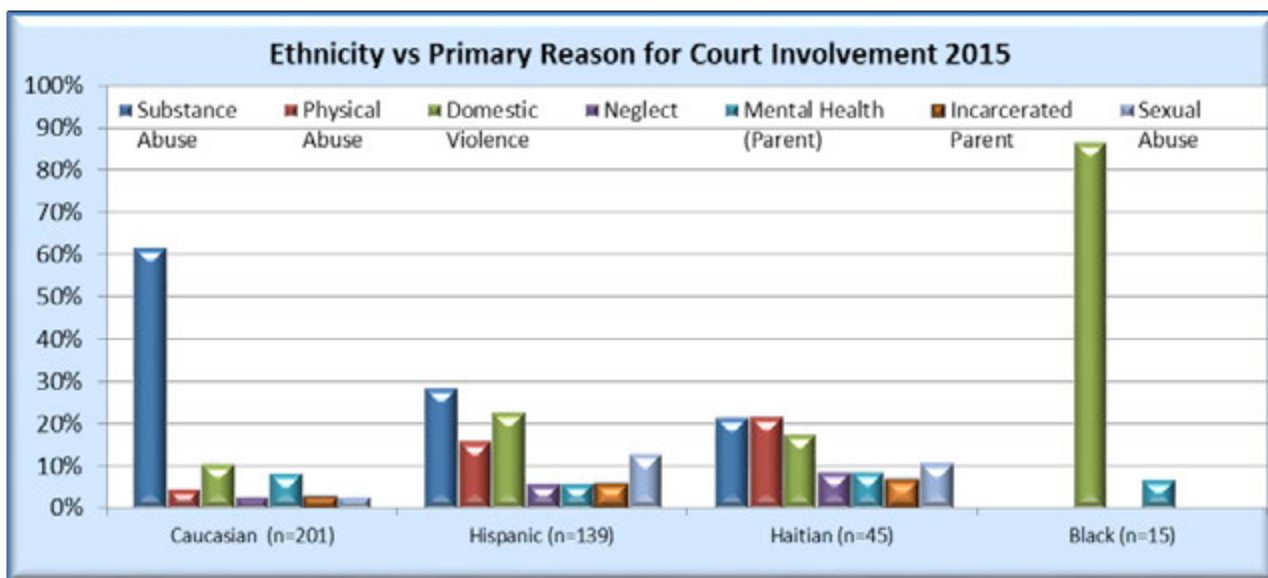
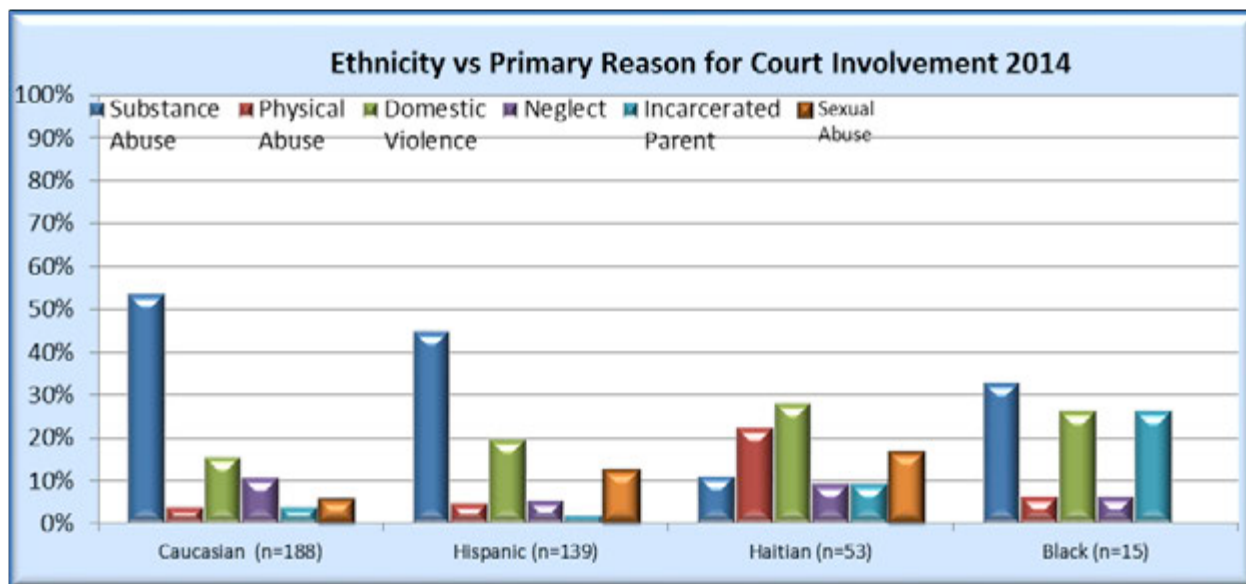


Percent of Children Sheltered	2015 (%)	2014 (%)	2013 (%)	2012 (%)	2011 (%)
Black	100	80	88	77	83
Haitian	96	89	86	98	87
Caucasian	95	85	88	77	78
Hispanic	91	81	86	73	62

OBSERVATION: There was an increase in percent of children sheltered from their families across all racial groups. This trend may be due to the new Safety Methodology model utilized by DCF. Difficult cases, with multiple parental issues may require removal of the children. As in other years, there does not appear to be any disparity by ethnicity in the percent of children sheltered by the court. Data reflected in chart does not include Mixed, Native American and Other groups.



Observation: Placement in Licensed Foster Care increased from 26% to 36% of cases. Relative Care decreased from 31% to 23%. The combined total of out of home placements was 66% with 32% in protective supervision (in home). The increase in foster care placement is reflective of the severity of cases coming into the dependency court, as well as a lack of appropriate safety managers identified in the family unit to keep children safe at home.

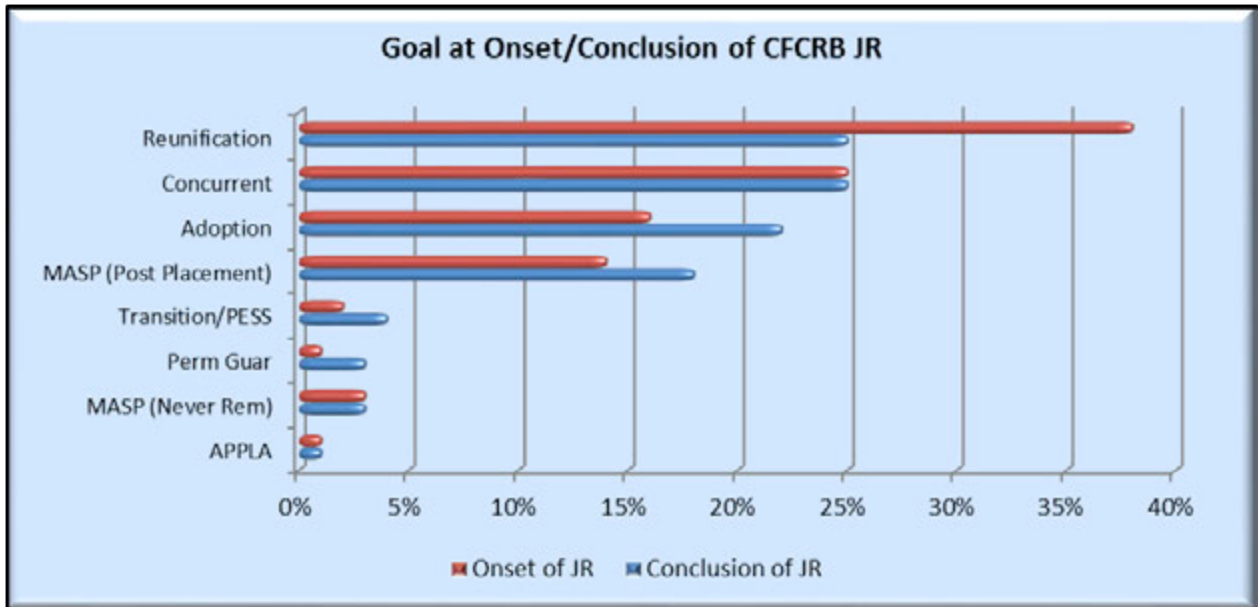


	Substance Abuse		Physical Abuse		DV		Neglect		Mental Health (parents)		Incar. Parent		Sexual Abuse	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Caucasian	62%	54%	5%	4%	11%	16%	3%	11%	8%	.5%	3%	4%	3%	6%
Hispanic	29%	45%	16%	5%	23%	20%	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	2%	13%	13%
Haitian	22%	11%	22%	23%	18%	28%	9%	9%	9%	2%	7%	9%	11%	17%
Black	0%	33%	0%	7%	87%	27%	0%	7%	7%	1%	0%	27%	0%	0%

In order to highlight the changes observed from 2014, both charts are shown. Only the primary reasons for court involvement are listed. Often these are combined with other reasons. Not shown are: Abandonment, Child Behavior and Deceased Parent.

Observations and Trends: The primary reasons for court involvement by ethnic groupings :

- Caucasian—Substance abuse remains the primary reason at 62% of cases with decreases in neglect and domestic violence.
- Hispanic—Substance abuse decreased to 29% (16% drop) but remains the primary reason with an increase in physical abuse.
- Haitian—Substance abuse and physical abuse remain the primary reasons at 22% with an increase in substance abuse (11%) and decrease in domestic violence (10%).
- Black—Domestic violence increased dramatically to 87% of cases, mental health 7% with 0% in the other categories.
- Mixed/other—No data is reported for this group (n=47)

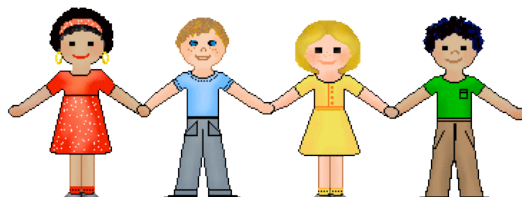


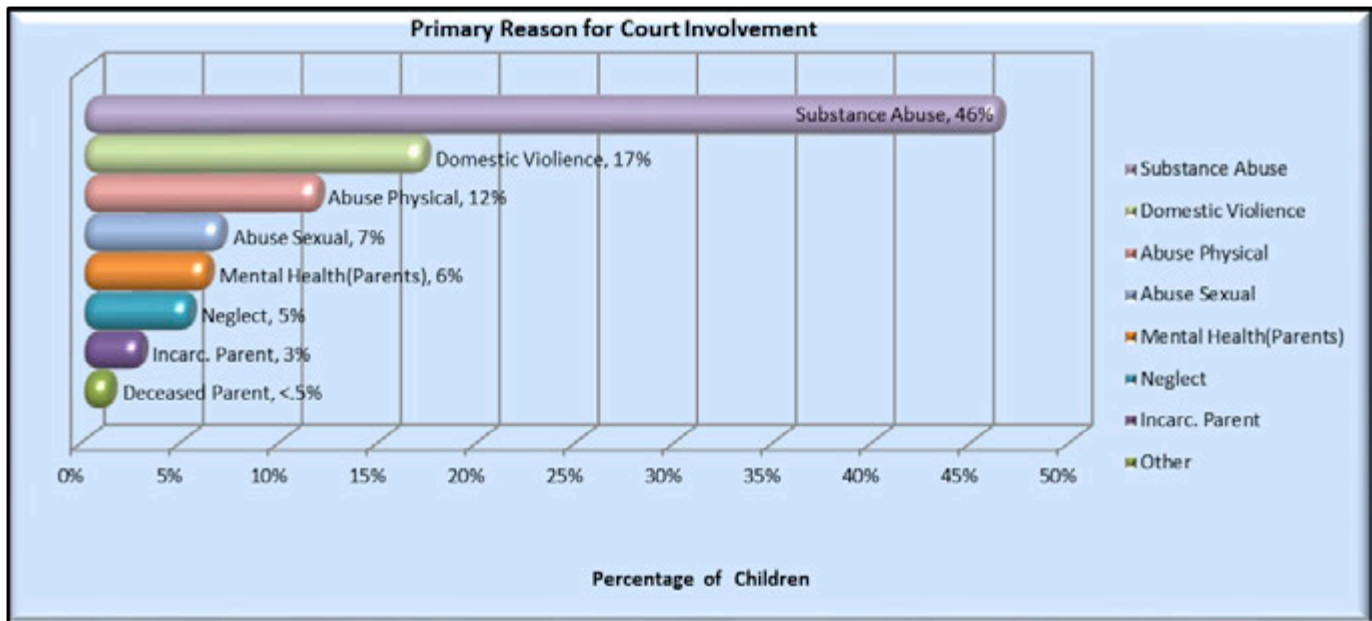
Goal does not reflect the final outcome of case, but rather the recommended goal of CRCRB Panel

Observation and Trend:

The most frequent goal recommended by the panel at end of reviews was reunification (25%) and concurrent (25%). Adoption saw a slight increase from 18% to 22%, and maintain and strengthen where children were never removed (in home placement) decreased by 10%. There was an increase of 8% in cases where children had been removed and then placed back with their parents (post placement). The decrease in the MASP goal, coupled with the increase in length of time in care, again may be due to the Safety Methodology model.

	MASP (Never Removed)	MASP (Post Placement)	MASP (combined)	Adoption	Concurrent	Reunification	Perm Guard.	APPLA	Trans IL/ PSS
2015	12 3%	81 18%	93 21%	99 22%	110 25%	110 25%	12 3%	4 .9%	19 4%
2014	58 13%	45 10%	103 23%	78 18%	134 30%	114 26%	5 1%	7 2%	3 .5%
2013	38 12%	51 16%	89 28%	91 29%	64 20%	42 13%	10 3%	10 3%	
2012	91 20%	90 20%	181 40%	82 18%	77 17%	76 17%	13 3%	10 2%	
2011	N/A	N/A	183 31%	134 23%	126 21%	95 16%	25 4%	15 3%	
2010	N/A	N/A	169 31.47%	93 17.32%	128 23.84%	79 14.71%	22 4.10%	8 1.49%	
2009	N/A	N/A	151 21.82%	116 16.76%	156 22.54%	133 19.22%	27 3.90%	23 3.32%	
2008	N/A	N/A	145 21.48%	90 13.33	130 19.26%	147 21.78	20 2.96	43 6.37%	



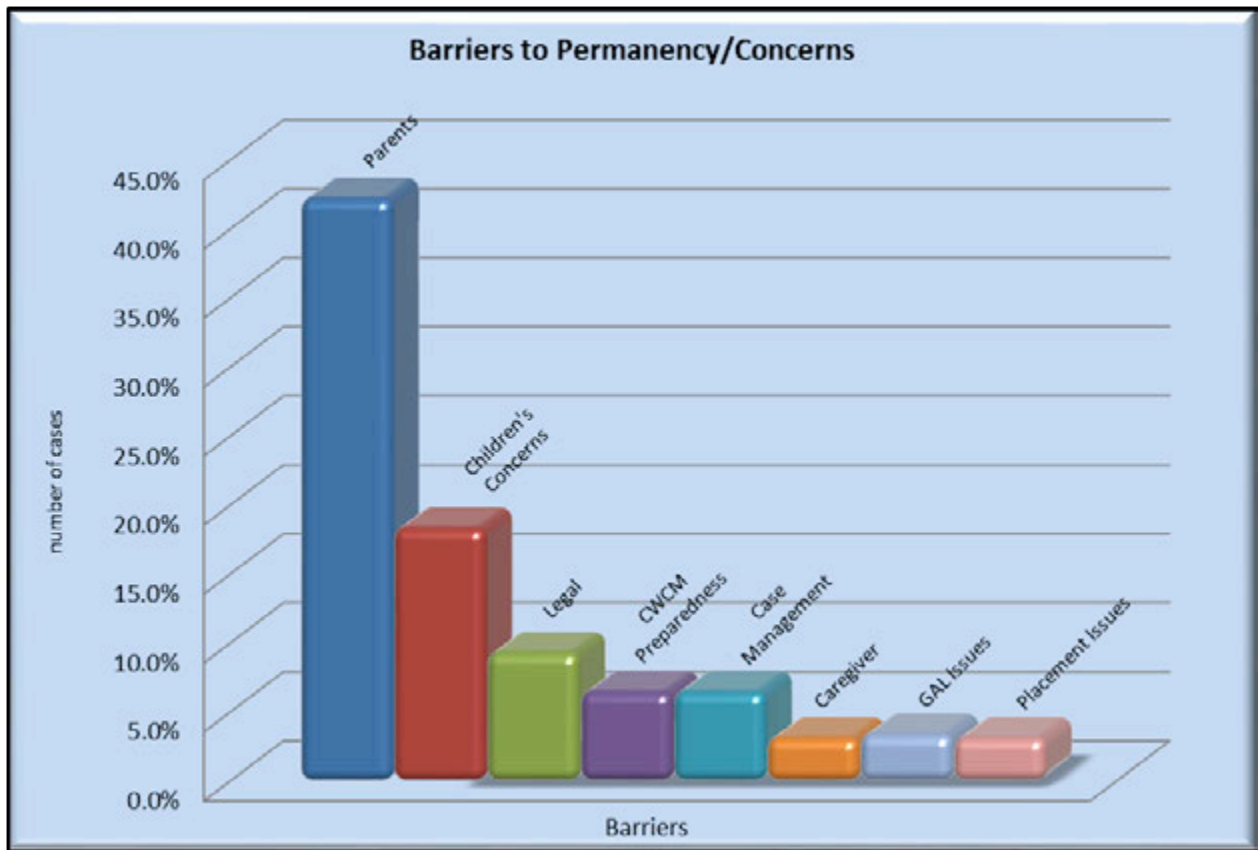


Observation: Substance abuse remains the most recurrent reason for court involvement and has not changed in three years. (46%) Physical abuse cases increased by 4%.

Trend: DV and Sexual Abuse cases remain a cause for community concern.

	Substance Abuse	Abandonment	Abuse Physical	Abuse-Sexual	Child Behavior	Deceased Parent	Domestic Violence	Incarcerated Parent	Mental Health Parents	Neglect	Other	Comb.
2015	207 46%	5 1%	53 12%	31 7%	0	3 1%	77 17%	13 3%	28 6%	24 5%	7 1%	0
2014	205 46%	3 1%	34 8%	38 9%	2 <.5%	0	86 19%	20 5%	16 4%	36 8%	4 1%	0
2013	147 47%	14 4%	32 10%	10 3%	1 <.5%	1 <.5%	31 10%	20 6%	20 6%	31 10%	1 <.5%	5 2%
2012	170 38.2%	7 1.6%	62 13.9%	16 3.6%	1 .22%	2 .45%	66 14.83%	16 3.6%	24 5.4%	71 16%	6 1.35%	4 .9%
2011	228 38.5%	8 1.4%	95 16.0%	21 3.5%	1 .2%	6 1.0%	72 12.2%	25 4.2%	38 6.42%	82 13.9%	15 2.5%	1 .2%
2010	237 44.13%	10 1.9%	59 10.99%	18 3.35%	1 .19%	2 .37%	49 9.12%	26 4.84%	44 8.19%	76 14.15%	11 2.05%	4 .74%
2009	286 41.33%	11 1.6%	71 10.26%	31 4.48%	0 0.0%	2 .29%	81 11.7%	35 5.06%	25 3.61%	128 18.5%	8 1.16%	14 2.02%
2008	264 39.11%	21 3.1%	114 16.89%	30 4.44%	1 .15%	5 .74%	33 4.89%	19 2.81%	20 2.96%	143 21.19%	15 2.22%	10 1.48%



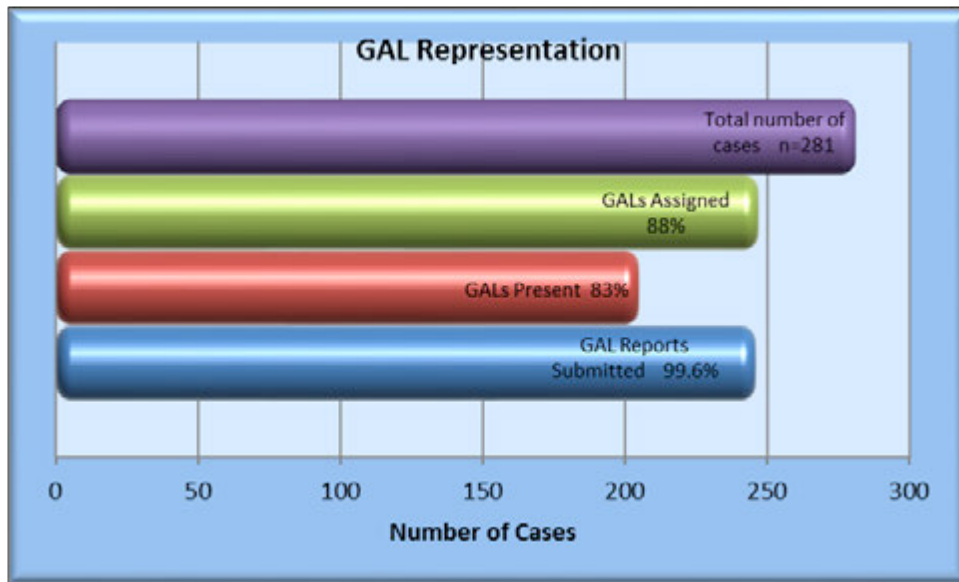


Observations:

- Parent's lack of compliance with case plan tasks (drug screens, incarceration, no contact, not present, visitation and protective capacities lacking) remains the leading barrier to case closure (42%).
- Children's issues are next at 18% (not present, runaway, unhappy in placement, education, health, immigration or not involved).
- Case management issues and preparedness of case managers (numbers are combined) accounts for 14% of cases.

Trend: Data essentially unchanged in last 3 years.

CATEGORY	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Parents	328 42.3%	276 38.6%	180 36.8%	306 46.5%	313 37.3%	249 36.09%	131 20.7%	125 19.1%
Children's Concerns	143 18.5%	130 18.2%	105 21.5%	99 15%	97 11.6%	36 5.22%	5 ≤ 1%	9 1.4%
Legal	73 9.4%	72 10.1%	43 8.8%	65 9.9%	113 13.5%	112 16.23%	147 23.3%	165 25.2%
GAL Issues	27 3.5%	29 4.1%	19 3.9%	44 6.7%	81 9.7%	107 15.51%	22 3.4%	54 8.3%
Caregivers	25 3.2%	34 4.8%	40 8.2%	44 6.7%	58 6.9%	48 6.96%	10 1.6%	11 1.7%
Case Management	51 6.6%	55 7.7%	28 5.7%	43 6.5%	53 6.3%	31 4.49%	47 7.4%	54 8.2%
Preparedness of Case Manager	51 6.6%	56 7.8%	19 3.9%	40 6.1%	64 7.6%	62 8.99%	46 7.2%	75 11.5%
Placement Issues	25 3.2%	19 2.7%	15 3.1%	17 2.6%	10 1.2%	45 6.52%	223 35.3%	160 24.5%
Cases with no Barriers/Concerns	52 6.7%	44 6.2%	40 8.25	36 5.47%	50 6%	29 9.32%	Statistic not kept	Statistic not kept



OBSERVATION: 88% of cases had a guardian-ad litem assigned of which 99.6% of reports were submitted. Attendance at judicial reviews of GALs was at 83%. In the absence of an assigned GAL, well-informed supervisors were in attendance to provide updates.

GAL reports are a critical component in the JR process and input at this level is greatly valued.

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
GAL's Assigned	247	225	164	183	249	241	274	249	170	167	158	151
% of Cases with GAL assigned	88%	84%	81%	67%	73.45%	77.49%	65.71%	61.94%	53.29%	50.45%	37.71%	32.13%
% of assigned GALs who attended JRs	83%	86%	62%	78.69%	71.49%	74.69%	71.53%	73.90%	79.41%	68.86%	68.99%	73.51%
Report submitted	99.6%	100%	99%	182 99.45%	199 79.92%	134 55.60%	176 64.23%	202 81.12%	144 84.71%	130 77.84%	137 86.71%	138 91.39%
Total JRs	281	268	202	273	339	311	417	402	319	331	419	470



2015 Panel Member Volunteers

Terry Abraham-Whalley	Tom Becker	Bob Bogle
Stephen Brazina	Ann Campbell	Lisa Cannon
Lori Cohen	John D'Alimonte	Jennifer Devries
Mike Dias	Jan Eustis	Liz Hayes
Newton Hoilette	Joe Jaffe	Fran Kieselhorst
Cheri Kooiker	Judi Mudarri	Susan Naj
Rob Nossen	Patty Ormsby	Janice Rogers
Jim Schoenwetter	Ken Shevin	Elli Taylor
Paul Wachsmith	Harold Weeks	Marv Weisberg
Willie West	Marcia White Williams	Carmen Wise



2015 Steering Committee Members

Ann Campbell	John D'Alimonte	Lisa Cannon
Jan Eustis (<i>chair</i>)	Joe Jaffe	Janice Rogers
Elli Taylor		



Support us....

The CFCRB is recognized as a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. This means that donations you make to CFCRB may qualify as tax-deductible, charitable contributions on your Federal Income Tax forms. Contributions to the CFCRB are a wonderful way to show your appreciation of family and friends or to celebrate happy occasions or the memory of loved ones.

With a minimum contribution of \$10, a notice of your donation will be sent to the family or person you wish to honor. Contributions to the CFCRB are used to fund training, printing and recruiting expenses, none of which are covered by funds provided to CFCRB by the County.

Your check payable to CFCRB may be sent to:

CFCRB Inc.

PO Box 10746

Naples, FL 34101

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE STATE.