Chairperson and Interim Administrator’s Spring Message

“Our Volunteers are the Cornerstone of our Mission”

The Volunteers of the Citizens Review Board for Children continue to offer significant protection for children by combining objective case reviews with individual child advocacy, program monitoring, outcome evaluation, and system advocacy!

Each one of our committed and dedicated volunteers throughout all 23 counties and Baltimore City possess a heart full of grace, and a soul generated by love.

Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nettie Anderson-Burrs, George Randall,
Chairperson State Board Interim Administrator

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State Board

- Nettie Anderson-Burrs, Circuit IV, Chair (Allegany, Garrett, & Washington)
- James Trent, Circuit VII, Vice-Chair (Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s, & Saint Mary’s)
- George Randall, Interim Administrator
- Doretha “Dee” Henry, Circuit I (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester)
- Mary MacClelland, Circuit II (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, & Talbot)
- Delores Alexander, Circuit III (Anne Arundel, Carroll, & Howard)
- Heidi Busch, Circuit V (Baltimore & Harford)
- Helen Diane Johnson, Circuit VI (Frederick & Montgomery)
- Sheila Jessup, Circuit VIII (Baltimore City)
- Sylvia Smith, Circuit VIII (Baltimore City)
On March 7, 2014, Deputy Secretary Heirs attended the CRBC State Board meeting to have an informational conversation about Ready By 21.

**Ready By 21 Overview**

Preparing youth for adulthood is a critical priority of the Department of Human Resources (DHR). Unfortunately, the majority of the older youth in care will likely remain in care until they age out of the system when they reach 21 years of age. As suggested by national research, foster youth don’t do as well as their peers in:

- managing their mental and physical health;
- finding and maintaining employment;
- finding and maintaining housing; and
- completing education goals.
Maryland has approximately 4,100 youth over the age of 14 in foster care. This represents more than half of the total Maryland caseload.

To ensure that youth are provided with the opportunity to achieve, DHR will:

- Refocus its own financial and human resources.
- Actively engage private stakeholders and partners.
- Link youth to needed services and supports provided by community based organizations.
- Strengthen partnerships with local and state government entities.

Five Key factors play a major role in helping youth to be on target and Ready by 21 to be strong, contributing members of society. These key factors include:

- **Housing** that is stable and safe
- **Education** milestones (high school diploma or GED, occupational skills training programs, etc.)
- **Financial stability** (through employment or entitlements leading to established credit, etc.)
- **Health Care** services
- **Mentors** that provide ongoing supports
Legislation Supported and Passed:

- **Senate Bill 64: Children in Need of Assistance — Educational Stability**
  This bill mandates that certain “educational stability” requirements be incorporated into each case plan. The bill will require the court to take an active role in this process by inquiring as to the educational stability of the child at the specified hearings.

- **SB144: Family Law- Foster Care- Kinship Parent Age Requirements**
  Lowering, from 21 years to 18 years, the age that a person must be to serve as a kinship parent for a child in need of out-of-home placement; and repealing a provision authorizing a local department to waive the age requirement for a potential kinship parent who is at least 18 years of age and who lives with a spouse who is at least 21 years of age.

- **HB178: Family Law- Adoption, Search, Contact, and Reunion Services- Relatives of Minors in out of Home Placement**
  This bill expands the adoption search, contact, and reunion services program in the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to include contacting “relatives” of a minor in out-of-home placement in specified circumstances.

- **HB 315: Equity Court Jurisdiction- Immigrant Children- Custody or Guardianship**
  Altering the jurisdiction of an equity court to include custody or guardianship of an immigrant child pursuant to a motion for Special Immigrant Juvenile factual findings requesting a specified determination; and defining the term "child" to mean an unmarried individual under the age of 21 years under specified circumstances.
CRBC’s Annual 2014 Public Form

The 2014 Annual Public Forum on Child Welfare

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

Additional information coming soon!!!
CRBC New Member Training

Date: Friday, April 25, 2014  Time: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

CRBC New Board Member Training
April 25th 2014

Training Location
Citizens Review Board for Children
1100 Eastern Blvd.
Essex, MD 21221
Room #124/125

Please Contact:
Marlo Palmer, Volunteer Specialist
(410) 238-1338
Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov
Complete and mail all of the required forms from the Governor’s Appointment Office:

- CRBC Volunteer Application
- CRBC CPS Clearance
- CRBC Volunteer Code of Conduct
- CRBC State Ethics Form

Provide a current resume along with your application packet.
Consent to a background clearance check through the DHR’s Child Abuse Registry.
Attend a Selection Committee Interview with current board members.
Attend pre-service training.

*Note:* Upon completion of pre-service training the applicant’s information is sent to DHR and the Governor’s Appointments Office for review and appointment.

*The Governor will make the final decision to appoint each applicant!

All forms must be sent to the appropriate office by CRBC!!!

Marlo Palmer-Dixon, Volunteer Specialist
Citizens Review Board for Children
1100 Eastern Blvd
Essex, MD, 21221-3419
410-238-1338 (Phone)410-238-1395 (Fax)
marlo.palmer-dixon@maryland.gov
Saluting CRBC’s Volunteer

Gail Kaufmann
Montgomery County Board #1

For your fourteen years of outstanding service and loving commitment on behalf of Maryland’s children, as demonstrated by your exemplary record of volunteer service and in appreciation of your loyalty, devotion, and caring in caring for the citizens of Maryland; and as an expression of our great respect, admiration, and sincere best wishes for the future,

We Salute You!
Staff Recognition

Marlo Palmer-Dixon
CRBC Volunteer Specialist

In recognition as a DHR Future Leader . . .
Marlo is the recipient of the DHR-U Leadership Reach Bronze Award from Secretary Ted Dallas!
CRBC has **volunteer opportunities** in the following jurisdictions.

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Please help us spread the word!

Please contact our Volunteer Specialist Marlo Palmer-Dixon at (410) 238-1338 or Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov to learn more about volunteering with CRBC.
State Board Calendar of Events

State Board Meeting Schedule

April 11, 2014
June 13, 2014
August 11, 2014
October 10, 2014
December 12, 2014

*Please be advised that State Board Executive Sessions are closed to the Public.

STRATEGY COMMITTEE

The Strategy Committee meets every 1st Friday of each Month excluding holidays.

Conference Call Participation Instructions
If you plan to call into the State Board meeting please Call:
Number: 1-888-942-6579
CRBC’s Wonderful Volunteers