



**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

### FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

**Kim Hawekotte, Executive Director**

521 S. 14th Street, Suite 401  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2707  
Phone (402) 471-4420  
1-800-577-3272  
Fax (402) 471-4437  
[www.fcro.nebraska.gov](http://www.fcro.nebraska.gov)

**Omaha Regional Office**

1313 Farnam-on-the-Mall  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-1846  
Phone (402) 595-2764  
Fax (402) 595-2767

Thank you for your interest in serving Nebraska's abused and/or neglected children by becoming a local Foster Care Review Board member. The following information is a brief explanation of the role of citizen review and how you, too, can help abused and/or neglected children as a local board member.

The Foster Care Review Office is an independent state agency responsible for reviewing cases of children in out-of-home care, and making required recommendations regarding the plan for the child's future (known as the permanency plan), services for the child and family, and the appropriateness and safety of the child's placement (foster home, group home, detention facility, or specialized facility).

Citizen review makes a difference for children in the following ways: children receive attention from agencies and the courts, cases make more progress, and placements are monitored. Additionally, three studies done by Dr. Ann Coyne of UNO's School of Social Work have shown that children who receive citizen reviews are as much as 3.9 times more likely to move from foster care into adoptive placement when compared to children similar in every way except not reviewed.

Local boards, each consisting of five or more community volunteers, conduct the reviews. Prior to the board meetings, local board members typically spend about 2-3 hours carefully reading through the information provided on each of the ten or more children to be reviewed that month. Boards meet monthly for 2-3 hours to conduct case reviews for children in out-of-home care. At the review recommendations are formulated which are sent to the court that placed the child in care, the agency responsible for the child, the child's guardian ad litem (attorney representing the child's best interests), the county attorney, and other legal parties to the child's case.

Before serving on a local board, each board member must first attend three consecutive training sessions. Each session in the mandatory training builds on information received in the prior session. The first two sessions are formal class sessions; the last session includes observing a working review board.

Enclosed please find an Application form, a Release form, and a Confidentiality form. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me at 402-471-4665, or email me at [mary.furnas@nebraska.gov](mailto:mary.furnas@nebraska.gov), our call our office at 402-471-4220 or 800-577-3272. You can scan them in and email them to me, or fax them however I will still need the original signed forms so please mail them to me at the address below.

Please complete these forms and return them to:

State Foster Care Review Office  
Attn: Mary Furnas  
521 S. 14th, Suite 401  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Kind Regards,

*Mary*

Mary Furnas  
Program Administrator