

# crb network news

june 2015

newsletter of the citizen review board



## 2014 Annual CRB Report

The [2014 Annual CRB Report](#) is now available online.

The report highlights CRB's many accomplishments over the 2014 calendar year. Some of those accomplishments include updating the new volunteer orientation with four hours of online training modules; prospective volunteers can complete these at their own pace in the comfort of their own home. We've also developed participated in the development of a specialized board that reviews all of Marion County's foster youth age 15 or older.

The report includes findings and recommendations of Oregon's three CAPTA citizen review panels tasked with evaluating the extent to which the Department

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## Celebrating legacy, gaining knowledge, exploring diversity were takeaways at CRB Annual Conference

Lindsay Partridge's years as both an attorney and, currently, a juvenile judge for Marion County Circuit Court have afforded him an up close and personal view of foster care case reviews by the Citizen Review Board. The experience has given him a strong appreciation for the program, Partridge said.

"I've been at (reviews) that have many different tones in the interaction with parents and children," he told an audience inside the Salem Conference Center in April. "And I know that the CRB is focusing on kids. I mean, (who among us) doesn't love kids and want to see them

better their lives?"

Partridge said he used to worry about seeing families in his courtrooms, watching them leave after hearings, and not knowing what happens to them "for months and months."

As such, getting feedback and reports from CRB proceedings "really helps me to be aware if the families are progressing like we hope," he said.

"CRB members are the eyes and ears of the court," he added.

About 225 CRB volunteers, along with child welfare experts and pro-  
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# For many, a name can conjure preconceived notions and responses

By Sam Tazumal, CRB Field Manager

While conducting Citizen Review Board reviews, you have undoubtedly come across a child whose name strikes you as odd or wrong. Every board has an example of such a name — and the responses it generates. It is worthwhile to think about parents' choices of names for their children, our reactions, and how this can inform CRB reviews.

As with many of us, parents' choices of names for their children could be to honor a family member or friend. Some parents' choice of names reflects their racial and ethnic background. Sometimes immigrant parents name their children after specific places that have great meaning for them or where they started their lives in the US. And other parents just want a unique name for their child. Social scientists studying this have argued the taste for difference sometimes leads counterculture groups to pursue names that might be shockingly different. Examples of this might be the "unique" spellings we often see or names some would consider highly inappropriate.

There has been considerable social research on names, their association with social class, race and ethnicity, gender, and how we respond to them. Social scientists have suggested that names can influence the impressions we form about others on a range of attributes, including success, warmth, morality, cheerfulness, and gender.

A [study](#) looking at the effects of disruptive students on peer behavior and academic outcomes found: *Up until a certain point in childhood, boys with names associated with girls are unaffected by their names, either positively or negatively. But as they enter middle school and (1) become more aware of their own sexuality and (2) are mixed with a new group of children (including those older than they are) who did not attend their elementary school, boys with names associated with girls may begin to misbehave in school at a disproportionate rate.*

Further, the author found that "African-American boys who share a name with a female schoolmate increase their suspension behavior by 16%. Those who attend a

*Well, my daddy left home when I was 3  
And he didn't leave much to ma and me  
Just this old guitar and an empty bottle of booze  
Now, I don't blame him cause he run and hid  
But the meanest thing that he ever did  
Was before he left, he went and named me Sue  
Well, he must o' thought that is quite a joke  
And it got a lot of laughs from a' lots of folk  
It seems I had to fight my whole life through  
Some gal would giggle and I'd get red  
And some guy'd laugh and I'd bust his head,  
I tell ya, life ain't easy for a boy named Sue*

~ From the song "A Boy Named Sue."

Written by Shel Silverstein/Performed by Johnny Cash

school with three or more girls with their same first name increase their suspension behavior by 22%." The study results suggest to the author this is one of the variables leading to student disruptive behavior, and that it could be an early sign of disruptive behavior in middle school.

In another [study](#), the same author investigated whether teachers' expectations were different for students with names that are associated more with low socioeconomic status — names that are disproportionately given to African-American children. Names with prefixes such as "lo-", "ta-", and "qua-"; names that end with suffixes such as "-isha" and "-ious"; and names that include an apostrophe. He found that such students were less likely to be seen as gifted. Contrastingly, he also found that expectations were higher for children with distinctively Asian names and they were more likely to be seen as gifted. Interestingly, the author noted "that in schools with larger numbers of African-American students and teachers, teachers perhaps form fewer preconceived notions about children purely on the basis of their names, and do not adjust their expectations based on names as much as they may in schools where contact with African-American students and peers is more limited."

Labor market researchers conducted a [study](#) in which they sent fictitious resumes to help-wanted ads using

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# Conference: “Need is great for community input, volunteers a powerful force.”

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professionals, gathered at the Salem Conference Center on April 17 and 18 for the program’s annual “Every Day Counts” training conference. As with past editions, the event offered attendees the opportunity to gain new tools to assist in dependency case reviews, in subject matter ranging from the trauma informed reviews to aging out of foster care.

Another key talking point? Milestones. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of legislation in Oregon that led to the CRB’s creation. Speakers honored the late Father Paschal Phillips, an attorney-turned monk of the Trappist Abbey in Lafayette. Paschal gathered dozens of academics, professionals and child welfare advocates from across the state to form the Committee for Oregon Families, which pushed for House Bill 2333. It passed in 1985, and the first reviews took place a year later.

Jean Cauthorn, a former CRB volunteer and current advisory committee member in Multnomah County, has been involved with the CRB from the beginning – including lobbying for HB 2333 during the early 1980s.

“The need has kept me involved,” Cauthorn said. “The need is so great for objective community input ... volunteers can be a powerful force.”

Conference guest speakers covered different elements

at play in child welfare. Keynote speaker Laura Porter, director of ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Partnerships for Comprehensive Health Education Foundation, discussed the impact of ACE issues. Part of her work centers on incorporating neuroscience findings into human service policies.

Porter said healthy brain development and the creation of synaptic linkages across the brain hinge on exposure to a full array of language, support and other experiences; Children in foster care often develop general behavioral responses rooted in active abuse or neglect .

“Our (social service system) isn’t yet giving the skills and knowledge to adults to really work effectively with people who adapted to toxic environments in their earliest years,” Porter said.

The conference also centered on issues surrounding foster children who identify as (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning) – an overrepresented population in the foster care system.

Volunteers who might otherwise have little interaction with the subgroup learned about the importance of awareness and sensitivity in gender and sexual diversity, terminology and how sexual orientation and gender identity aren’t the same thing.



If you missed the Every Day Counts Conference, materials and video recordings are available [HERE](#) on the [CRB website](#). A highlight of the conference was the charitable giving it generated. Baskets filled with prizes and goodies donated from local boards across the state raised \$2,731 to support [Camp to Belong](#), which reunites siblings living in separate foster care homes in a summer camp setting. THANK YOU to all who gave and attended the conference. Until next year!



# Names: values, beliefs can influence how we respond to names

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assigned African-American- or Caucasian-sounding names. They sent four resumes in response to each ad: two higher-quality and two lower-quality ones, and randomly assigned to one of the higher- and one of the lower-quality resumes an African-American-sounding name. Caucasian names received 50% more callbacks for interviews, and callbacks were more responsive to resume quality for Caucasian names than African-American ones.

Social scientists have [studied](#) issues such as the name-pronunciation effect, in which easy-to-pronounce names (and the people who bear them) are evaluated more positively than difficult-to-pronounce names. Other studies have looked at the way names have impacted political races, career success and educational attainment.

Some research has found a positive correlation between unpopular first names and juvenile delinquency; not surprisingly, it has also found that unpopular names are associated with juvenile delinquents who come from disadvantaged home environments.

The amount of research on this topic is surprisingly rich. While not all researchers agree, the research invites us to think about our reactions towards others, including

their names, and possible consequences.

I remember a CRB review in which a child had a “unique name.” The lead reviewer showed interest and the parent described how she chose the name, which helped the board understand how the mother’s family and background influenced her choice. The interaction also helped build rapport with the mother as she enjoyed talking about her child. I remember another review where the teen took pride in having a unique name.

Though difficult at times in school and social settings, the teen saw it as a connection to his biological family.

We come to the CRB with our own values and beliefs, and as the research above suggests, they can influence or impact how we respond to parents, their actions and choice of name for their children. Our responses during reviews can be telling to those across the table, and perhaps set the tone for a review. From your initial training with the CRB, you’ll remember our emphasis on fairness and objectivity. This fairness and objectivity is sometimes tested by the facts of the cases, and, perhaps, also by the name parents have chosen for their child – whether “clever” or “odd.”

## Annual Report: teen review board, CRB 5-year planning process underway

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of Human Services (DHS) is discharging its child protection responsibilities. Where citizen review boards look at DHS efforts at the individual case level, CAPTA citizen review panels focus on systemic issues. This year, those issues included:

- \* Reducing the number of children with a permanency plan of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (Douglas County)
- \* Increasing safety and permanent connections for older youth in foster care (Lane County)
- \* Determining whether laws, policies and procedures relating to relative placement have a disproportionate impact on communities of color (Multnomah County).

In her “Message from the Director,” Leola McKenzie

announced CRB would be undergoing a 5-year strategic planning process.

“CRB is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year [2015],” McKenzie said. “As I look back on all the events and people that got our program to where it is today, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to keep alive the passion and energy for child advocacy that established citizen review in our state.”

While Oregon’s child welfare system has made many improvements, there is still much work to be done.

All children need and deserve safe, permanent, and enriching homes,” she also said.

To view the report, click [HERE](#).

# In the news

## THE NORTHWEST

◆ Nonprofits across 15 counties in Oregon will receive funding to combat child sexual abuse, thanks to a recently-announced partnership with the Ford Family Foundation.

Eleven child-centered nonprofits in Oregon, along with the Siskiyou Child Care Council in Weed, Calif., will be a part of the Ford Foundation's Protect Our Children Program.

The initiative will use a training curriculum – the nationally renowned Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children – to educate adults on how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. It will be offered to organizations and individuals at minimal or no cost.

Child sexual abuse is linked to a host of societal issues including teen pregnancy, depression and suicide. Victims are three times more likely to have

substance abuse issues, twice as likely to drop out of school, and are at greater risk for physical illnesses such as diabetes.

“In Oregon, many of our nonprofits, state agencies, and individuals work hard to prevent and fight child sexual abuse,” said Keavy Cook of the Ford Foundation in a press release. “We see Protect Our Children as a way to help.” For more information, read the Roseburg-based foundation's press release [HERE](#).

◆ *The Seattle Times* updates the mission of a former Washington state supreme court judge who quit her job to start an organization that assists youth who end up in the child-welfare or juvenile-justice systems.

Bobbi Bridge resigned from the court system in 2008 to devote herself to the Center for Children and Youth Justice, which identifies concerns, and explores studies and pilot projects that

might be helpful in improving outcomes for children, and connects stakeholders.

A grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is being used to explore disproportionality in the justice system, with resulting data helping counties identify specific causes and needs for interventions. This includes a pilot project between area schools and King County Superior Courts, in which young people got leadership training in the summer, and tutoring and other services during the school year.

Another project stemming from Bridge's work is helping craft rules and practices that treat girls and boys in prostitution cases as victims rather than criminals, the article said.

The center is also testing a training program for lawyers representing kids of all ages in child welfare. Data collection ended March 31, and the results of the analysis are due in the fall.

To read the whole story, click [HERE](#).

## THE NATION

◆ States across the nation are contemplating the best ways to implement a Congressional mandate passed last year that seeks to create “normalcy” for children in foster care by recognizing the youths' rights to engage in a variety of regular extracurricular and social activities like their non-foster care counterparts, according to a story by *The Associated Press*.

This could mean a happier, livelier household, but it also entails greater decision-making responsibilities. “In the eyes of some experts, that requires a higher level of parenting skill than has been expected of foster parents in the past,” the article said.

In California and Florida – among the states that already have “normalcy” laws – child advocates are trying to meet the recruiting challenge for new providers through a program called the Quality Parenting Initiative. It seeks to attract a new wave of motivated, capable adults undeterred by higher expectations.

“We need parents who will be fierce advocates for their children,” said Jennifer Rodriguez of the Youth Law Center. To read the whole story, click [HERE](#).

## THE WORLD

◆ Lawmakers in Manitoba, Canada announced this spring that the government would stop placing children in foster care in hotels, according to a story in *The National Post newspaper*. Several other provinces, however, confirmed that they, too, have used the practice.

Those provinces, which include Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, said such placements are rare and done on an emergency or short-term basis. Child welfare advocates said they shouldn't happen at all.

“When you hear they're going into a hotel, or a temporary arrangement, it should be a siren call to all of us,” said Gord Phaneuf of the Child Welfare League of Canada.

“Children coming to care require placements with caregivers who are trained, supported, and who provide safe protection, nurturing and consistency,” Phaneuf said.

During the past year, the province has placed about 350 children in hotels. As of early April, that number was down to nine. “The solution is not to put them in hotels and get them away from downtown,” a Manitoba spokeswoman said. To read the whole story, click [HERE](#).

## **PEARLS: HUMOR TO MANAGE STRESS**

Humor is a great way to manage stress. We know that the work you do for the Citizen Review Board can be stressful, and it is important to take care of yourself. In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the CRB, Leigh Anne Jasheway gave volunteers of the program the following **PEARLS:**

**People who can make you laugh — surround yourself with them.**

**Everything can be viewed positively and negatively**

**Always break for laughter.**

**Replace negative things with positive things.**

**Limit negative communications — for every complaint, find 5 positive things to say.**

**Silliness trumps ego.**

## **New CRB Volunteers!**

### **BAKER COUNTY**

Robert Heriza

### **CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

Erin Robinson

### **DESCHUTES COUNTY**

Joan Roane

### **HOOD RIVER COUNTY**

Maureen Luran

Paula Runyan

Kenneth Swager

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

Michelle Kortum

Melissa Williams

### **KLAMATH COUNTY**

Melissa Duff

Scott Heller

### **LANE COUNTY**

Richard Goad

Jodi Hisey

### **MARION COUNTY**

Griffin Bates

Kelle Sossaman

### **UMATILLA COUNTY**

Kinda Argogast

Mary Lemm Davis

Dru Powers

### **WASCO COUNTY**

Randi Condon

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Cindy Downey

Anali Makin

### **YAMHILL COUNTY**

Ted Lorenzen

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