

FFCR welcomes new class of Citizen Review Panel volunteers



FFCR is proud to welcome 11 new Citizen Review Panel (CRP) volunteers. The high interest in volunteering stems from our recent recruitment efforts, which included booths at Miami Book Fair International and other community events. The volunteers bring to the table a wealth of experience, with backgrounds in child and adolescent development, social work, suicide prevention, education, the law, neuroscience, special education, nonprofit management, business, life coaching, and art history. One volunteer is an adoptive parent and another previously served as a case manager.

The CRP utilizes trained volunteers, supervised by experienced staff members, to conduct the judicial reviews required at least every six months for children and youth in foster care. Dependency court judges refer cases to the CRP, knowing that FFCR staff and volunteers undertake a rigorous process to identify the needs of each child and make recommendations to the court to ensure that the child is safe, receiving necessary services, and progressing toward a permanent home.

The new volunteers' two-day pre-service training covered permanency considerations, placement safety, case manager and caregiver responsibilities, school stability, required health screenings and check-ups, transitioning to independence, and more.

We also recently held a "Fostering Connections" training – one of many trainings available to ongoing CRP volunteers who must complete 10 hours of continuing education each year. [Joseph Zolobczuk](#), Executive Director of Education at the [YES Institute](#), and Christina Wright, Director of the Teen Outreach Program – Miami for [Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida](#), led the workshop. The volunteers in attendance provided rave reviews.

We remain committed to the highest quality training and support of our volunteers, who make the work of the organization possible.