Supreme Court

STATE OF ARIZONA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
CHIEF JUSTICE

DAVID K. BYERS
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE COURTS

June 22, 2026

Lindsey Perry, Auditor General
2910 N. 44th St., Ste 410
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Dear Ms. Perry:

We have reviewed the Arizona Auditor General's performance and sunset audit of the Foster Care Review Board and accept the recommendations made, with our response and comments enclosed, as applicable.

The Foster Care Review Board appreciates the partnership of the Office of the Auditor General and the professionalism of the team assigned to this audit and looks forward to continuing to refine its processes to better serve Arizona's children and families.

Sincerely,

Dave K. Byers

cc: Caroline Lautt-Owens, Dependent Children's Services Division, Director

Sunset factor 2: FCRB's effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its key statutory objectives and purposes.

FCRB established a workgroup that considered and made recommendations to improve the usefulness of information it provides to judges in board reports, including developing a new report format and soliciting feedback from judges about the new format through an annual survey, but could improve its annual survey to ensure prior issues judges reported with board reports have been resolved.

FCRB response: The Auditor General's finding is agreed to.

Recommendation 1: Further modify its annual survey to solicit feedback from judges who hear dependency cases, including incorporating more open-ended questions and/or providing respondents with the opportunity to provide explanations for their answers, to solicit input on the board report content and usefulness to ensure prior identified issues have been resolved.

FCRB response: The audit recommendation will be implemented.

Recommendation 2: Establish a process for implementing feedback received from judges.

FCRB response: The audit recommendation will be implemented.

FCRB finalized a policy requiring supervisors to monitor staffs' timeliness for submitting board reports to the courts sooner than 30 days after a board review, but did not always timely submit some reports to the courts we reviewed and could further revise its policy.

FCRB response: The Auditor General's finding is agreed to.

Recommendation 3: Revise and implement its policy for supervising AOC staffs' report submittal timeliness to include guidance on the actions supervisors should take when staff are at risk of or have not met the required time frame for submitting rush reports to the courts, such as a procedure for expediting the transmittal of the report to the court as soon as possible.

FCRB response: The audit recommendation will be implemented.

FCRB manually compiled DCS responses to local board recommendations for 4 counties and plans to use automated reports to analyze DCS responses State-wide beginning in July 2026 using its new IT system.

FCRB response: The Auditor General's finding is agreed to.

Recommendation 4: Continue to compile State-wide information on whether DCS plans to implement its local boards' recommendations.

FCRB response: The audit recommendation will be implemented.

Recommendation 5: Review the common reasons why DCS does not implement the local boards' recommendations and assess the impact and usefulness of and improve its recommendations to DCS, including working with DCS as needed.

FCRB response: The audit recommendation will be implemented.

FCRB has implemented a written plan to improve parent and foster parent attendance at local board reviews, but has not yet established a baseline attendance rate or conducted an analysis to determine if its efforts are improving attendance.

FCRB response: The Auditor General's finding is agreed to.

Recommendation 6: Continue to track data on parent and foster parent attendance at local board reviews, and use the attendance data to establish a baseline attendance rate and conduct an analysis to determine if its efforts are improving attendance.

FCRB response: The audit recommendation will be implemented.

Sunset factor 3: The extent to which FCRB's key statutory objectives and purposes duplicate the objectives and purposes of other governmental agencies or private enterprises.

Information in board reports may have some overlap with the information provided by CASAs, such as whether the child(ren)'s healthcare, developmental, and/or education services are being implemented and whether children and parents are engaging in tasks and/or services outlined in the case plan and/or ordered by the court.

FCRB response: The Auditor General's finding is agreed to.

Recommendation 7: Solicit feedback from judges who hear dependency cases as part of its annual survey on potential duplication between the information in local board and CASA reports to help it determine whether additional changes to local board reports to eliminate duplicate information would be helpful or whether judges find the information from different perspectives useful for their reviews.

FCRB response: The audit recommendation will be implemented.