

Citizens Review Board For Children



FOURTH QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2017 REPORT
(April 1st 2017 – June 30th 2017)

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Our Mission Statement

To conduct case reviews of children in out-of-home care case reviews, make timely individual case and systemic child welfare recommendations; and advocate for legislative and systematic child welfare improvements to promote safety and permanency.

Our Vision Statement

We envision the protection of all children from abuse and neglect, only placing children in out-of-home care when necessary; and providing families with the help they need to stay intact; children will be safe in a permanent living arrangement.

Discrimination Statement

The Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) renounces any policy or practice of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, or sexual orientation that is or would be applicable to its citizen reviewers or staff or to the children, families, and employees involved in the child welfare system (CRBC, 2013).

Confidentiality

CRBC local board members are bound by strict confidentiality requirements. Under Article 88A, § 6, all records concerning out-of-home care are confidential and unauthorized disclosure is a criminal offense subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or both. Each local board member shall be presented with the statutory language on confidentiality, including the penalty for breach thereof, and sign a confidentiality statement prior to having access to any confidential information.

CRBC Acknowledgements

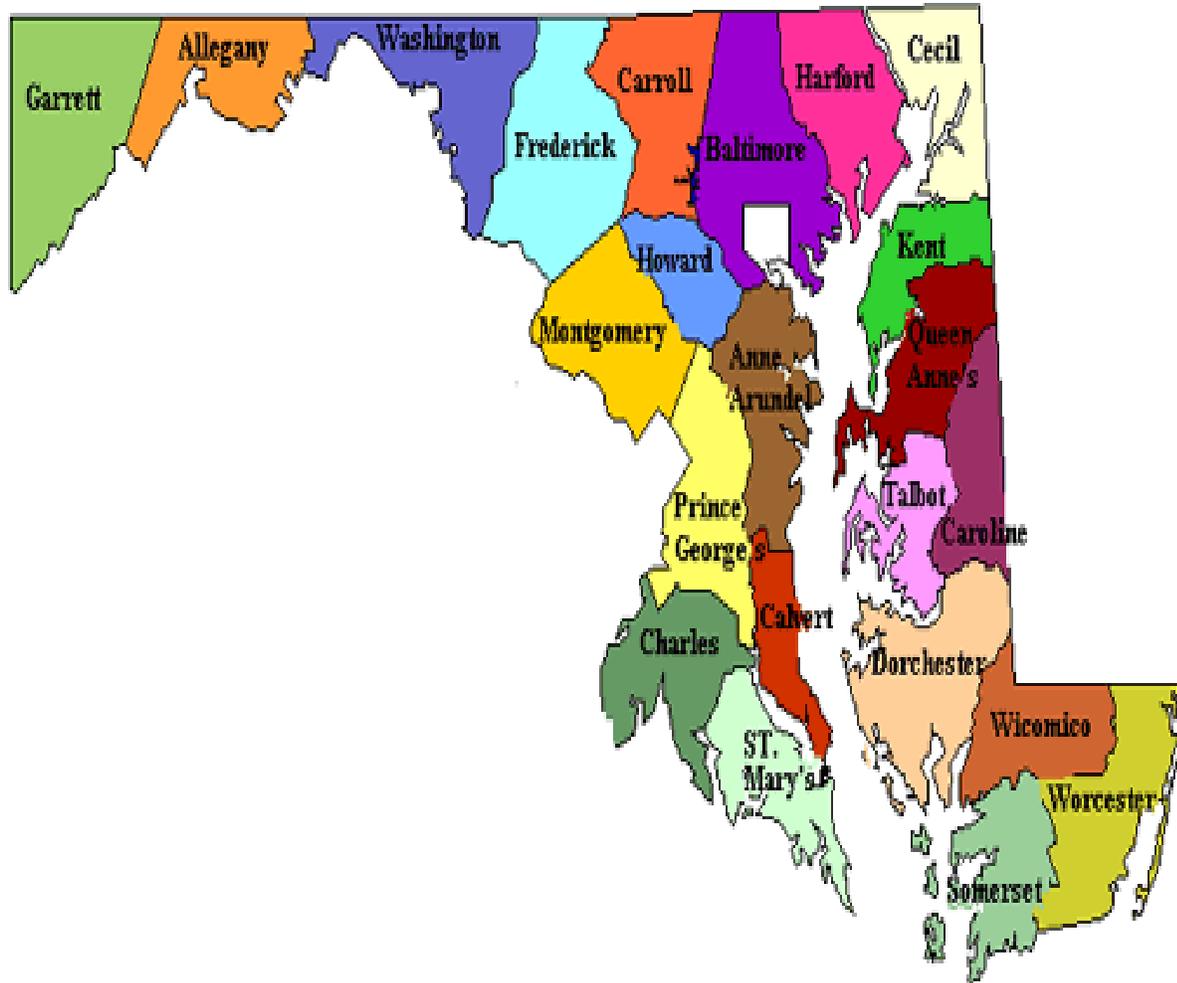
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ CRBC Governor Appointed Volunteers
- ★ The Department of Human Resources (DHR)
- ★ The Social Services Administration (SSA)
- ★ The Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) and (DHHS) Montgomery County
- ★ The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children(CPMC)
- ★ The State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)
- ★ The State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)
- ★ The Local Juvenile Courts of Maryland
- ★ All community partners

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2017.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Dorchester, Talbot, and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 20 counties and Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.

Targeted Review Criterion

The Social Services Administration (SSA) and the Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) together have created a review work plan for targeted reviews of children in out-of-home-placement. This work plan contains targeted review criteria based on out- of-home-placement permanency plans.

Reunification:

- ★ Already established plans of Reunification for youth 10 years of age and older. CRBC will conduct a review for a child 10 years of age and older who has an established primary permanency plan of Reunification, and has been in care 12 months or longer.

Adoption:

- ★ Existing plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child that has had a plan of Adoption for over 12 months. The purpose of the review is to assess the appropriateness of the plan and identify barriers to achieve the plan.
- ★ Newly changed plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of Adoption as a primary permanency plan. The purpose is to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate movement by the local departments to promote and achieve the Adoption.

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):

- ★ Already established plans of APPLA for youth 16 years of age and younger. CRBC will conduct a full review of a child 16 years of age and younger who has an established primary permanency plan of APPLA. The primary purpose of the review is to assess appropriateness of the plan and review documentation of the Federal APPLA requirements.
- ★ Newly established plans of APPLA. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of APPLA as the primary permanency plan. Local Boards will review cases to ensure that local departments have made adequate and appropriate efforts to assess if a plan of APPLA was the most appropriate recourse for the child.

Older Youth Aging Out

- ★ Older youth aging-out or remaining in out-of-home care at age 17 and 20 years old. CRBC will conduct reviews of youth that are 17 and 20 years of age. The primary purpose of the review is to assess if services were provided to prepare the youth to transition to adulthood.

Re-Review Cases:

- ★ Assessment of progress made by LDSS. CRBC will conduct follow-up reviews during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year of any cases wherein the Local Board identified barriers that may impede adequate progress. The purpose of the review is to assess the status of the child and any progress made by LDSS to determine if identified barriers have been removed.

Permanency Plan Hierarchy

In 2005, Maryland House Bill 771 adjusted the state permanency goals to align with the federal standards. The permanency plan hierarchy in Maryland is as follows: (Social Services Administration, 2012):

- Reunification with parent(s) or guardian
- Placement with a relative for adoption or custody/guardianship
- Adoption by a non-relative
- Custody/Guardianship with a non relative
- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

Family Centered Practice Model

According to the Social Services Administration, Family Centered Practice assures that the entire system of care engages the family in helping them to improve their ability to adequately plan for the care and safety of their children. The safety, well-being and permanence of children are paramount. The strengths of the entire family are the focus of the engagement (2010).

4th Quarter Case Review Statistics

The following table shows the jurisdictions where reviews were conducted, the total number of children reviewed, permanency plans and the number of boards held.

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
01	Allegany	2	0	2	0	1	5	1
02	Anne Arundel	3	0	6	0	3	12	2
03	Baltimore County	16	0	4	0	6	26	5
04	Calvert	1	2	3	0	2	8	1
05	Caroline	8	0	0	0	0	8	1
06	Carroll	2	0	1	1	3	7	1
07	Cecil	3	0	1	0	1	5	1
08	Charles	1	0	3	2	3	9	1
10	Frederick	5	5	4	0	1	15	2
11	Garrett	2	0	4	0	2	8	1
12	Harford	8	0	6	1	5	20	3
13	Howard	3	0	0	0	6	9	1
14	Kent	1	0	0	2	0	3	1
15	Montgomery	24	2	12	0	6	44	7
16	Prince Georges	9	0	6	1	23	39	6
17	Queen Anne's	2	0	0	0	1	3	1
18	St. Mary's	3	0	0	0	2	5	1
19	Somerset	5	2	2	0	2	11	1
21	Washington	3	0	1	0	8	12	1
22	Wicomico	3	0	3	2	5	13	1
49	Baltimore City	28	9	24	3	53	117	18
	Statewide Totals	132	20	82	12	133	379	59
	Percentages	35%	5%	22%	3%	35%	100%	

CRBC conducted a total of 379 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 21 Jurisdictions on 59 boards that held reviews during the 4th quarter of fiscal 2017.

Although CRBC collects data on a number of data elements, this report will focus on the following:

- Permanency Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (E))
- Placement Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (I))
- Progress towards Permanent Placement - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F))
- Case Planning
- Supportive Services
- Health/Mental Health (family article 5-545)
- Education (family article 5-545)

- Ready by 21
- Independent Living Skills (14 and older)
- Employment (14 and older)
- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)
- Permanent Connections
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Pre-Adoption Services
- Post-Adoption Services
- Barriers to Permanency
- Miscellaneous Findings

Total Reviewed (379)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
198 (52.2%)	181 (47.8%)

Gender by Plan

Male(198)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
71 (36%)	10 (5%)	51 (26%)	4 (2%)	62 (31%)

Female(181)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
61 (34%)	10 (6%)	31 (17%)	8 (4%)	71 (39%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
224 (59%)	131 (35%)	1 (0%)	23 (6%)

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County



Allegany County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				2		
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years	2					
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 3 of the 5 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
1	Treatment Foster Care ((Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 5 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 5 cases reviewed, there were 2 changes in placement within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 5 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 2 of the 5 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 5 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 5 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 5 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs for all 5 children and the mental health needs for 3 children were being met.

Education

2 of 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child refused to attend school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 1 case)

The local board agreed that the youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 1 case)

Housing had been specified for the 1 youth transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA – 2 cases)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	2
No, Reunification	2
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (2 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both cases with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in both cases comprised of a married couple for each case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative in both cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 2 case(s) 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive

families to meet identified needs of the children in both cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for both cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for both cases. The service that was needed was medical in both cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	5
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- TPR not granted
- Other Planning Barrier

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children reviewed.

Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 12 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 10 of the 12 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 12 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

All 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 2 of the 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	3			3		1
7 to 11 months				1		
1 to 2 years				2		2
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 12 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
6	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Relative
2	Other

Placement Stability

In 9 of the 12 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 12 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 3 cases with 2 changes, and 1 case with 4 or more placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 12 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 12 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 12 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 11 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 10 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 12 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 7 children and the mental health needs of 5 children were being met. 2 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

8 of the 12 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had already graduated high school, 1 youth refused to attend, and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

2 of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

The local board agreed that 3 of the 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 1 case)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	5
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	5
No, Reunification	
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	1

Adoptive Placement (6 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

6 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 4 cases and a single female for 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative for all 6 children.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 3 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for all 6 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the children in all 6 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 6 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 6 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 6 cases and mental health services for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for all 6 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	5
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	6
Less than once a month	1
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Are Not Current
- Vision Exams Are Not current
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Board Does Not Agree with Current Permanency Plan

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) in 11 of the 12 children reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 26 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 16 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 25 of the 26 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

1 of the 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	4			2		1
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years	4					
2 to 3 years	5			2		3
3 years or more	3					1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 25 of the 26 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
10	Treatment Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
2	Teen Mother Program
5	None

Placement Stability

In 21 of the 26 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 26 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 20 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 26 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 26 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 15 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 26 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 21 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 21 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 19 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 19 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 26 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 9 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 20 children and the mental health needs of 7 children were being met. 2 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

20 of the 26 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had already graduated from high school, 2 children/youths refused to attend school and 3 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 10 cases)

2 of the 10 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 10 cases)

The local board agreed that 9 of the 10 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older- 6 cases)

Not applicable. None of the 6 youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There was 1 case with an indicator of risk, however all applicable safety assessments and child protection protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	2
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	6
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	3
No, Reunification	15
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (4 Adoption Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 4 cases with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was with a married couple in 2 cases and a single female in the other 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative in all 4 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 3 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs of the children in all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 4 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 4 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	24
Less than once a month	2
Quarterly	
LDSS reports visits but it is undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Vision Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 23 of the 26 children reviewed.

Calvert County



Calvert County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 2 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)
- Placement in long-term care facility until transition to Adult Facility (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

Both of the APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			2			
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	1					1
2 to 3 years				3		
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 5 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Restricted Relative Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

2 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 8 cases reviewed there were at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 8 cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 4 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 8 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 8 children and the mental health needs of 7 children were being met.

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child was under the age 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

None of the 5 children/youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that all 5 children/youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – None)

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	2
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	3
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	2
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	
No, Reunification	
No, Relative Placement	1
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (2 Adoption Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 2 children with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was with a married couple. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement is as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for the 1 pre-adoptive case.

The local board agreed that appropriate service and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child in the 1 case.

Documented efforts had not been made to find a pre-adoptive resource for the 1 child not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 1 case. The service that was needed was medical and mental health.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	8
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth Placed Outside Of Home Jurisdiction
- Child Has Behavior Problems In The Home
- Youth Needs More Restrictive Placement
- Current Provider Unable Or Unwilling To Meet Youth's Needs

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 7 of the 8 children reviewed.

Caroline County



Caroline County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 8 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not applicable

Permanent Connections (APPLA - None)

Not applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	6					
2 to 3 years	2					
3 years or more						

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 8 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Formal Kinship Care
4	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 5 of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 8 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 6 cases and to the birth family in 8 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: None of the children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the 8 children

had completed medical records in their case files.

- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 of the 8 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of the 8 children were not being met and the mental health needs of 6 children were being met.

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

None of the children/youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 youths was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – None)

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	2
No, Reunification	1
No, Relative Placement	3
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement: Not applicable.

Appropriate services and supports for the pre-adoptive families: Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	8
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Parents
- Other Education Barrier
- Vision Exams Not Current
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children reviewed.

Carroll County



Carroll County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 6 of the 7 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

All 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1			1		
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years					1	1
2 to 3 years	1					1
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 7 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 7 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 7 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 1 case with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 7 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 7 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 7 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 5 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 2 children and the mental health needs of 6 children were being met.

Education

6 of the 7 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

2 of the 6 children/youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 youths was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

The local board agreed that 5 of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 1 case)

Housing had not been specified for the 1 youth transitioning out of care. The local board did not agree that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	5
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	1
No, Reunification	
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	1

Adoptive Placement (1 Adoption Case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

The 1 child with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was with a married couple. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement is as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child in the 1 case.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 1 case. The services that were needed were medical and educational.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Parents
- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Vision Exams Not Current
- Inadequate Preparation for Independence (General)
- Youth Not Employed and Transitioning Out of Care

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 7 children reviewed.

Cecil County



Cecil County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Adoption: 1 case
- Reunification: 3 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months				1		
1 to 2 years	1					
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more	1					1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 5 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Alternative Living Units
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	None

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 5 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 of the 5 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 1 case with at least 3 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 5 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 1 case and to the birth family in 4 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 3 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 5 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 2 children and the mental health needs of 3 children were being met.

Education

4 of the 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth had already graduated from high school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

2 of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

The local board agreed that 3 of the 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 1 case)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	1
No, Reunification	3
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources - (1 case)

The 1 child with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months

A home study was completed and approved.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child and the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 1 case. The services that were needed were medical, mental health, and educational.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	4
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	1

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of Housing
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Visions Exams Not Current
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- No Service Agreement With Parents

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children reviewed.

Charles County



Charles County had a total of 9 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 9 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA 3 cases)

None of the APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					1	3
7 to 11 months					1	
1 to 2 years	1			3		
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 4 of the 9 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 9 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 9 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 3 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 8 of the 9 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 9 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 4 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: Not applicable.
- Current Physical: 9 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 7 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 9 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 5 children and the mental health needs of 6 children were being met.

Education

All 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet their educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

None of the youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

The local board agreed that all 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 2 cases)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	2
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	5
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	1
No, Reunification	1
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (3 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 3 children with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was with a single female in 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the children in the 1 case.

The pre-adoptive placement was appropriate in the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 3 cases. The services that were needed were medical, mental health services, and educational services for 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	9
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth Placed Outside Of Home Jurisdiction
- Dental Exams Not Current
- No Service Agreement with Youth

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 8 of the 9 children reviewed.

Frederick County



Frederick County had a total of 15 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 5 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 14 of the 15 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 4 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1		1			
7 to 11 months			4	1		
1 to 2 years	3					1
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1			3		

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 15 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative
1	Other
2	None

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 15 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 5 of the 15 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 2 cases with at least 2 placement changes and 1 case with 3 changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 15 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 15 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 10 cases and to the birth family in 11 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 15 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 12 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 15 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 7 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs and the mental health needs of 7 children were being met.

Education

14 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

3 of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

The local board agreed that 7 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older- 2 cases)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There was 1 case with an indicator of risk, however all safety assessments and child protection protocols had been followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	3
Yes, with conditions	1
Child did not want to be Adopted	4
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	1
N/A under age of consent	1
No, Reunification	4
No, Relative Placement	1

Adoptive Placement (4 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 of the 4 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 3 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the children in all 3 cases.

The pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in 3 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 4 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical, mental health in 1 case, educational services in 3 cases, and special needs for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	15
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Not Following Through On Service Agreement Objectives
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Vision Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 15 children reviewed.

Garrett County



Garrett County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 8 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

Both APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				4		1
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years	1					
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more						

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Treatment Foster Care (private)
2	Own Dwelling
2	Therapeutic Group Home

Placement Stability

In 6 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed there were at least 2 changes in placement within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 8 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 5 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs and mental health needs of 6 children were being met.

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth had already graduated from high school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

1 of the 5 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that all 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 4 cases)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	3
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	3
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	1
No, Reunification	1
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (4 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

None of the 4 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Documented efforts had been made to find a pre-adoptive resource for all 4 children not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The local board agreed that the recruitment efforts were appropriate for 3 of the 4 children.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement: Not applicable.

Appropriate services and supports for the pre-adoptive families: Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 4 cases. The services that were needed were medical and mental health for the 4 cases, and educational services for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	8
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Disagreement With Permanency Plan
- Dental Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children reviewed.

Harford County



Harford County had a total of 20 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non Relative Custody and Guardianship: 1 case
- Reunification: 8 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 19 of the 20 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 20 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)
- Placement in a Long-Term Facility until Transition to an Adult Facility (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

Both APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 5 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				1		
7 to 11 months				4		
1 to 2 years	3			1	1	
2 to 3 years	2					1
3 years or more	3					4

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 20 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Regular Foster Care
5	Treatment Foster Care (private)
2	Residential Group Home
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
3	None

Placement Stability

In 8 of the 20 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 7 of the 20 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 1 case with at least 3 placement changes and 1 case with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 19 of the 20 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 20 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 12 cases and to the birth family in 16 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 20 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 19 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 18 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 14 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 14 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 20 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 13 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 12 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 3 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 13 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 12 of 13 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 6 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 17 children and mental health needs of 14 children were being met.

Education

11 of the 20 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 youths had already graduated from high school, 2 refused to attend school and 5 children were under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

4 of the 13 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

The local board agreed that 8 of the 13 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 9 cases)

Housing had been specified for 4 youths transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	9
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	5
No, Reunification	6
No, Relative Placement	

Adoptive Placement (6 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

5 of the 6 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for all 5 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in all 5 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs of the children, and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 3 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 3 cases, mental health for 1 case, and educational services for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	1
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	19
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Other Permanency Barrier
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Youth Non-Compliant With Medication

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 20 children reviewed.

Howard County



Howard County had a total of 9 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 of the 9 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 9 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

4 of the 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						2
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	2					3
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1					1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 9 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Teen Mother Program
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

In 8 of the 9 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 6 of the 9 cases reviewed there were at least 2 changes in placement within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 9 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 9 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 1 case.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 9 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 9 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 6 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 children and the mental health needs of 4 children were being met. 4 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

6 of the 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 youth had already graduated high school and 2 youths refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 9 cases)

2 of the 9 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 9 cases)

The local board agreed that 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 3 cases)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	6
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	
No, Reunification	3
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources – (Not applicable)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – (Not applicable)

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	2
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Vision Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Youth Engages In Risky Behavior

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 9 children reviewed.

Kent County



Kent County had a total of 3 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 3 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years					1	
3 years or more	1				1	

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 3 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In all 3 cases reviewed the children were not placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 3 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 1 case with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 3 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 3 cases reviewed, to the foster family in 1 case and to the birth family in 2 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 3 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child had completed medical records in their case file.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 3 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 1 child and the mental health needs of all 3 children were being met. 1 child refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

All 3 of the children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

None of the youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – None)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	
No, Reunification	1
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources - (Not applicable)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – (Not applicable)

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	2
Less than once a month	1

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Vision Exams Not Current
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General)

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 3 children reviewed.

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 44 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 24 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 12 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 32 of 44 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 2 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 2 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (6 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

All 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 5 of the 6 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			2	7		1
7 to 11 months	3					2
1 to 2 years	13			5		
2 to 3 years	7					1
3 years or more	1					2

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 42 of the 44 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Emergency Foster Care
3	Formal Kinship Care
7	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
6	Regular Foster Care
6	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
8	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
5	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Other
2	None

Placement Stability

In 30 of the 44 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 17 of the 44 cases reviewed there was at least 2 changes in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 1 case with at least 3 placement changes and 3 cases with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 44 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 44 children reviewed, to the foster family in 7 cases and to the birth family in 12 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 9 of the 44 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 27 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 25 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 27 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 19 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 43 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 20 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for both children.
- Behavioral Issues: 20 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 17 of the 20 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 23 children and the mental health needs of 18 children were being met. 5 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

33 of the 44 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 youths had already graduated high school and 9 children were under age 5.

The local board agreed that all the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

2 of the 15 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

The local board agreed that 11 of the 15 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 7 cases)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

19 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and safety protocols were followed in 42 of the 44 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	3
Child did not want to be Adopted	15
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	1
N/A under age of consent	17
No, Reunification	2
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	6

Adoptive Placement (12 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

10 of the 12 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 7 cases, an unmarried couple for 1 case and a single female for 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a foster parent in 1 case and in 6 cases a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 3 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 5 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 3 of the 12 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child in 10 cases and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all 10 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 7 of the 12 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for 10 cases, mental health services for 2 cases, educational services for 1 case, and special needs services for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	5
More than once a week	4
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	7
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	27
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	1
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Vision Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 43 of the 44 children reviewed.

Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 39 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 9 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- APPLA: 23 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 39 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (23 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (23)

Permanent Connections (APPLA –23 cases)

14 of the 23 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 14 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guac	APPLA
0 to 6 months	4			2	1	10
7 to 11 months	1					1
1 to 2 years	2			1		5
2 to 3 years	1			1		4
3 years or more	1			2		3

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 30 of the 39 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
1	Treatment Foster Care
18	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Teen Mother Program
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
2	Own Dwelling
1	Other
2	None

Placement Stability

In 27 of the 39 cases reviewed where children were in a placement, the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 39 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 20 cases with at least 2 placement changes and 1 case with at 3 changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 39 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, to the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to 38 of the 39 children reviewed and to the birth family in 21 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 39 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 26 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 27 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 23 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 24 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 38 of the 39 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 9 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 9 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for both children.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes for 4 of the 6 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 29 children and the mental health needs of 20 children were being met. 5 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

27 of the 39 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 6 youths had graduated high school, 2 refused to attend school and 4 children were under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 32 cases)

7 of the 32 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 32 cases)

The local board agreed that 27 of the 32 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 20 cases)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	27
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	4
No, Reunification	7
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (6 Adoption Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 of the 6 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 1 case and a single female for the other 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a foster parent for 2 cases and for 1 case a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 2 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for 2 of the 3 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the children in 3 cases and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in the 3 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 2 of 6 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for both cases, mental health services for 1 case, and educational services for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	38
Less than once a month	1
Quarterly	
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Vision Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 36 of the 39 children reviewed.

Queen Anne's County



Queen Anne's County had a total of 3 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 3 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	2					1
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 3 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Residential Group Home

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 3 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 of the 3 cases reviewed there were at least 3 changes in placement within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 3 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 3 cases reviewed, to the foster family in 1 case and to the birth family in 2 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 3 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: None of the children had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 2 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 3 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs for all 3 children had not been met however the mental health needs of all 3 children were being met.

Education

2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth had already graduated high school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

2 of the 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for

independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 3 cases)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	
No, Reunification	2
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources-(Not Applicable)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources-(Not applicable)

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	3
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Vision Exams Not Current
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 3 children reviewed.

St. Mary's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

1 of the 2 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years	3					1
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 4 of the 5 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Residential Group Home
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 1 of the 5 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 5 cases reviewed there were at least 2 changes in placement within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 5 children reviewed and to the birth family in 3 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the 5 children had

completed medical records in their case files.

- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 5 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs and the mental health needs of 4 children were being met.

Education

All 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

None of the 2 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

The local board agreed that the 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 2 cases)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	1
No, Reunification	2
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (none)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources – (Not applicable)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – (Not applicable)

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	5
Less than once a month	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth Placed Outside of Home Jurisdiction

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children reviewed.

Somerset County



Somerset County had a total of 11 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Relative Placement Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 of the 11 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 4 cases.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

Both APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	2					
2 to 3 years	3	2		1		1
3 years or more				1		1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 11 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
8	Treatment Foster Care (Private)

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 11 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 of the 11 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 1 case with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 10 of the 11 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 11 children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 11 cases and to the birth family in 8 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 11 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 10 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 9 children had received a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 11 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 of the 11 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 11 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: All 11 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 11 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain service in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 8 children and the mental health needs of all 11 children were being met.

Education

8 of the 11 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child had already graduated from high school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

2 of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.
- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that 3 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 2 cases)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	3
Yes, with conditions	1
Child did not want to be Adopted	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	4
No, Reunification	
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	1

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 2 children with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was an unmarried couple. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months

A home study was completed and approved for the 1 case.

Documented efforts had been made to find a pre-adoptive resource for the 1 child not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The local board agreed that the recruitment efforts were appropriate.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child in 1 case and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for both adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for 2 cases, mental health services for 2 cases, and educational services for 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	11
Less than once a month	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier
- Board Does Not Agree with Current Permanency Plan
- Other Independence Barrier

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 11 children reviewed.

Washington County



Washington County had a total of 12 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 10 of the 12 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 12 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (8 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)

4 of the 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for all 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				1		4
7 to 11 months	1					
1 to 2 years						2
2 to 3 years	2					2
3 years or more						

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 12 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

In 9 of the 12 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 of the 12 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 2 cases with at least 2 placement changes and 1 case with 3 changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 12 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 12 of the children reviewed and to the birth family in 4 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 12 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 11 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 11 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 12 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had a behavioral issue.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 11 children and the mental health needs of 8 children were being met.

Education

9 of the 12 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 youth had already graduated high school and 2 refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 11 cases)

5 of the 11 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 11 cases)

The local board agreed that 10 of the 11 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 7 cases)

Housing had been specified for 2 youths transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	9
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	
No, Reunification	2
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (1 Adoption case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

The 1 child with an adoption plan was placed in pre-adoptive home and the pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 1 case(s) 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child in the 1 case and that the pre-adoptive

placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 1 case. The services that were needed were mental health and education.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	12
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 11 of the 12 children reviewed.

Wicomico County



Wicomico County had a total of 13 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- Reunification: 3 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 13 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 4 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)
- Placement in a Long Term Care Facility until Transition to Adult Facility (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

4 of the 5 cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	3			1	1	2
2 to 3 years				1	1	
3 years or more				1		3

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 13 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	None

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 13 cases reviewed children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 of the 13 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 1 case with at least 2 placement changes and 1 case with at least 3 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 13 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 13 children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 5 cases, and to the birth family in 10 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 13 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 12 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 11 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 13 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 child were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for both children.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 11 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 11 children and the mental health needs of 8 children were being met. 3 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

10 of the 13 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 youth refused to attend school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

4 of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

The local board agreed that 6 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 7 cases)

Housing had been specified for 3 youths transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 13 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	4
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	1
No, Mental Health Reasons	3
N/A under age of consent	2
No, Reunification	3
No, Relative Placement	

Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 of the 3 cases with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was with a married couple. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children in both cases was a non relative.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs of the children in both cases.

Documented efforts had been made to find a pre-adoptive resource for the 1 child not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The local board agreed that the recruitment efforts were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 3 cases. The services that were needed were medical for 2 cases, and DDA services for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	13
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

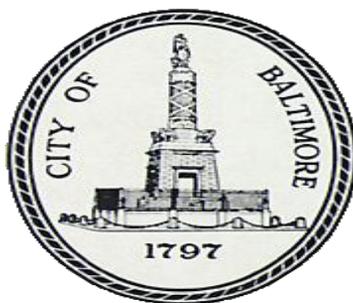
Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 13 children reviewed.

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 117 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 28 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 24 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 53 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 93 of 117 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 4 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 2 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (53 cases)

The cases with a plan of APPLA had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence (51)
- Placement in Long-Term Care Facility until Transition to an Adult Facility (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 53 cases)

42 of the 53 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 39 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	5	4		13	1	12
7 to 11 months	5		4	2		5
1 to 2 years	6			7	1	15
2 to 3 years	2				1	13
3 years or more	10		1	2		8

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 109 of the 117 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Formal Kinship Care
17	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
9	Regular Foster Care
9	Restricted Relative Foster Care
29	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
1	Teen Mother Program
11	Therapeutic Group Home
13	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
6	Own Dwelling
1	Other
15	None

Placement Stability

In 74 of the 117 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 11 of the 117 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 28 cases with at least 2 placement changes, 3 cases with at least 3 placement changes and 4 cases with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 101 of the 117 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family
- Referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in 115 of the 117 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 19 cases, and to the birth family in 29 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 28 of the 117 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 65 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 47 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 42 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 32 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 115 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 47 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 35 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 11 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 11 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 52 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 36 of the 52 children.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 9 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 38 children and the mental health needs of 43 children were being met. 19 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

59 of the 117 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 19 youths had already graduated high school, 16 refused to attend school, and 23 were under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 73 cases)

25 of the 73 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 25 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 73 cases)

The local board agreed that 38 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older – 61 cases)

Housing had been specified for 15 youths transitioning out of care. The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were 6 cases with an indicator of risk however all safety assessments and child protection protocols had been followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	4
Child did not want to be Adopted	69
No, Medically Fragile	4
No, Mental Health Reason	1
N/A under age of consent	30
No, Reunification	5
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	4

Adoptive Placement (24 Adoption cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

17 of the 24 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 5 cases, an unmarried couple for 1 case, a single female for 10 cases, and a single male for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent for 3 cases and a non relative for 14 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case(s) from to 6 months
- 4 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 3 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 3 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 6 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 15 of the 17 cases.

Documented efforts had been made to find a pre-adoptive resource for the 7 children not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The local board agreed that the recruitment efforts were appropriate.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the children in all 17 cases and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 24 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all cases, mental health services for 4 cases, educational support for 1 case, respite services for 1 case, and special needs services for 5 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Once a week	2
More than once a week	1
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	15
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	93
Less than once a month	3
Quarterly	2
Never	1

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Other Independence Barrier
- Annual Physical Exams Not Current
- Dental Exams Not Current
- Vision Exams Not Current
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General)
- Youth Not Attending School Or In GED Program
- Youth Not Employed and Transitioning Out of Care
- Transitional Housing has Not been Identified
- Missing or Lack of Documentation
- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan
- Lack of Concurrent Planning

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 95 of the 117 children reviewed.

Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

The following are reminders of the materials required in accordance with the work plan agreement created between the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Social Services Administration and the Citizens Review Board for Children.

- Each (LDSS) is required to continue to bring the child's complete case records and/or records containing requested supportive documentation to all CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should continue supplying CRBC with the most recent and current contact information for all interested parties, including professionals and family members.

Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

- Each (LDSS) should encourage the attendance of children and youth who are 10 years of age and older to attend his/her scheduled CRBC case review.
- Each (LDSS) should encourage foster parent attendance at scheduled CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with documenting concurrent permanency plans.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with getting parents to sign service agreements for those youth with a permanency plan of reunification.
- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all youth who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living

- Each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts with preparing youth that have a plan of APPLA to meet their employment goals.

Permanent Connections

- Each (LDSS) is encouraged to improve their efforts with identifying permanent connections for those youth with a plan of APPLA.

Adoption

- Each (LDSS) should ensure that age appropriate youth with a permanency plan of Adoption are linked with adoption counseling services.

4th Quarter 2017
CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	681
Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission & Rescheduled:	258
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	423
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	379
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	44
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	90%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	10%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	379
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	358
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	94%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response	214
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response	58%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response	63
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response	29%
Number of Boards Held	59
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	190
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	89%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	10
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	5%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	14
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	7%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	35%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	1%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	4%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	22%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	3%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	35%

The State Board

Doretha Henry

Circuit 1: Representing Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties

Vacant

Circuit 2: Representing Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Denise Messineo

Circuit 5: Representing Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties

Wanet Tyson

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

Denise Joseph

Circuit 7: Representing Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties

Beatrice Lee

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

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Eric Davis, MSW
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Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

Vacant
Office Clerk II

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Issued - Pursuant to Family Law Article Section §5-539.1(b)(3)