FIRST QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2018 REPORT
(July 1, 2017 - September 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 Services (DHS)

★ 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
Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC’s out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2018.

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: Caroline, Carroll, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot, and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 15 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).
1st 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurn #</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Reunification</th>
<th>Relative Placement</th>
<th>Adoption</th>
<th>Custody Guardianship</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th># Boards Held</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Allegany</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Anne Arundel</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>03</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Calvert</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Cecil</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Dorchester</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Frederick</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Harford</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Prince Georges</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Saint Mary’s</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Wicomico</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide Totals | 101 | *12 | 57 | 9 | 112 | 291 | 46 |

Percentages: 35% 4% 20% 3% 38% 100%

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 5; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship = 7)*

CRBC conducted a total of 291 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 16 Jurisdictions on 46 boards that held reviews during the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2018.

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
- 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 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the time of the review)
- Permanent Connections
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Pre-Adoption Services
- Post-Adoption Services
- Barriers/Issues to Permanency
- Miscellaneous Findings
**Total Reviewed (291)**

**Gender Totals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>147 (51%)</td>
<td>144 (49%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender by Plan**

**Male (147)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
<td>57 (39%)</td>
<td>44 (31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Placement</td>
<td>7 (5%)</td>
<td>5 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>31 (21%)</td>
<td>26 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody Guardianship</td>
<td>3 (2%)</td>
<td>6 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLA</td>
<td>49 (33%)</td>
<td>63 (44%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Female (144)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
<td>44 (31%)</td>
<td>170 (58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Placement</td>
<td>5 (3%)</td>
<td>105 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>26 (18%)</td>
<td>1 (0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody Guardianship</td>
<td>6 (4%)</td>
<td>1 (0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLA</td>
<td>63 (44%)</td>
<td>14 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ethnicity Overall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>170 (58%)</td>
<td>105 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>170 (58%)</td>
<td>105 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1 (0.5%)</td>
<td>1 (0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>1 (0.5%)</td>
<td>1 (0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14 (5%)</td>
<td>14 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County

Allegany County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:
- Reunification: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 6 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (APPLA – 1 case)
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guad</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 4 of the 6 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 3 of the 6 cases.

1 youth did not sign it, 2 cases were post TPR and the children was under the age of 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 3 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (Private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In all 6 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 4 of the 6 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had one placement change and 2 cases had two placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in all 6 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 6 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 6 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 all 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 3 children had mental health issues.

- Mental Health 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.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes.

The local board found that the health needs of all 6 children had been met.

**Education**

5 of the 6 children 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 14 years of age or older were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 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 – 2 cases)**
  
  The local board agreed that both of the youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- **Housing (Transitioning Youth - None)**
  
  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)
  
  Not applicable.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**

None of the 6 cases had a CASA.

**Risk and Safety**

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (2 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. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative foster parent in both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 10 to 12 months

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 4 of the 6 children had visits with parents and in 3 of the 4 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the local department or at the child’s placement.

The local board also found that 4 of the 6 children had siblings in care. None of the children had visits with their siblings in care.

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 6 children reviewed.
Anne Arundel County

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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 13 of the 15 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 15 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (7 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)
- Placement in long-term care facility until transition to an adult facility (4)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

All 7 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 7 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Relative Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Relative Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 12 of the 15 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 7 of the 15 cases.

1 youth and 2 mothers refused to sign the service agreement.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 7 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Regular Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (Private)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 15 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 5 of the 15 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review, 2 cases with 2 changes, 2 cases with 3 changes and 1 case with 4 or more placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in 14 of the 15 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 10 of the 15 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 10 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 8 children had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 9 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 13 children were taking prescription medication.
Psychotropic Medication: 11 children were taking psychotropic medication.

Mental Health Issues: 11 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 11 children.

Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child/youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.

Substance Abuse Addressed: No.

Behavioral Issues: 10 children had behavioral issues.

Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 10 children.

The local board found that the health needs of 7 of 15 children had been met.

**Education**

10 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 youths 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 – 12 cases)**

1 of the 12 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to obtain employment. The local board agreed that 6 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

**Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 12 cases)**

The local board agreed that 9 of the 12 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

**Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)**

(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

12 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 3 children/youths consented to adoption with conditions and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 of the 4 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure for 2 cases comprised of a married couple and 1 child was placed with a single female. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative foster parent.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for the 3 cases that were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 3 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 4 cases. The service that was needed was medical for all 4 cases, mental health for 3 cases, and 1 case was in need of respite services.

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 8 of the 15 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 8 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, public area or at the child’s placement.

The local board also found that 4 of the 15 children had siblings in care. 2 of the 4 children had visits with their siblings in care.

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 15 children reviewed.
Baltimore County had a total of 34 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 17 cases

**Permanency**

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 33 of the 34 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 6 cases.

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

**Category of APPLA plan (17 cases)**

- Emancipation/Independence (17)

**Permanent Connections (APPLA - 17 cases)**

9 of the 17 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 9 cases.

**Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>2 to 3 years</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 20 of the 34 cases and had a signed service agreement in 5 cases.

4 youths were post TPR and under the age of 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 5 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Formal Kinship Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Teen Mother Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Independent Living Residential Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Residential Treatment Center</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 27 of the 34 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 12 of the 34 cases reviewed there was a placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 5 cases had 1 placement change and 7 cases with two placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in all 34 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 34 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 15 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 16 children had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 15 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 14 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 15 children were taking prescription medication.
Psychotropic Medication: 11 children were taking psychotropic medication.

Mental Health Issues: 27 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, 26 of the 27 children had mental health issues addressed.

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.

Substance Abuse: 5 children had substance abuse issues

Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 5 children.

Behavioral Issues: 5 children had behavioral issues.

Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children.

The local board found that the health needs of all 34 children had been met.

Education

22 of 34 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 6 youths had graduated from high school, 3 youths were attending college 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 – 23 cases)

6 of the 23 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 11 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 23 cases)

The local board agreed that all 23 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 6 cases)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 6 youths that was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning
out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

15 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 2 children/youths consented to adoption and 4 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (6 Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 6 cases with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in 3 cases and a single female for the remaining 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative foster parent in 5 cases and 1 fictive kin case.

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

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 5 case(s) 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in all 6 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 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 in all 6 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 6 cases, mental health for 5 cases, educational services for 4 cases, respite services for 1 case, and DDA services needed for 1 case.

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 21 of the 34 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 21 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parent’s home, the visitation center/LDSS, a public place or an unknown location.

The local board found that 22 of the 34 cases had siblings in care. 13 of the 22 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Inadequate preparation for independence
- Unwilling to adopt because of lack of services or financial support
- No service agreement with youth
- No service agreement with child

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

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

**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 cases reviewed.

**Category of APPLA plan (APPLA- 2 cases)**

- Emancipation /Independence (2)

**Permanent Connections (APPLA - None)**

There were no permanent connections identified for the 2 APPLA cases.

**Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 5 of the 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 3 cases.

3 youths were post TPR and under the age of 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 3 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pre Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Own Dwelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 2 placement changes.

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 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: 7 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 out of the 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, 5 out of the 6 children had mental issues addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 out of the 8 children had been met.

Education

7 out of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth had 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 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older - 4 cases)
  
  The local board agreed that all 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth - 1 case)
  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)
  
  Housing had not been specified for the youth that was transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety
The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 1 child/youth consented to adoption, 1 did not want to be adopted, 1 was under the age of consent, and 1 consent to adoption was unknown.

**Adoptive Placement (4 Cases)**

Non-Relative Adoption – 3 cases  
Relative Placement for Adoption – 1 case

**Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources**

3 of the 4 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in 2 cases comprised of a married couple and 1 case was a single female. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a relative foster parent for 1 case and 2 were non-relative foster parents.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement:

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 2 case(s) from 21 months or longer

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

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the 3 cases.

**Post-Adoptive Services and Resources**

Post-adoptive services were needed for 3 cases. The service that was needed was medical for 3 cases and mental health services were needed for 2 cases.

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

**Miscellaneous Findings**

**Child Visits with Parents and Siblings**

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 5 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, the visitation center/LDSS, child’s placement or another location.
The local board found that 3 of the 8 children had siblings in care and the 3 children had visits with their siblings in care.

**Barriers to Permanency**

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth needs more restrictive placement
- Current provider unable or unwilling to meet youth’s needs
- Child has behavior problems in the home

**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.
Cecil County

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

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 11 of the 15 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for all 11 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (APPLA – 4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

All 4 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 9 of the 15 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 6 of the 15 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 6 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
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<td>Regular Foster Care</td>
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<td>Treatment Foster Care</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residential Treatment Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 8 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 8 of the 15 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had one placement change, 2 cases had two placement changes, and 2 cases had three placement changes.

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 15 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 9 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 10 children had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 10 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 10 children were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 9 children were taking psychotropic medication.
Mental Health Issues: 12 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of the 12 children.

Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child/youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.

Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes.

Behavioral Issues: 13 children had behavioral issues.

Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 13 children.

The local board found that the health needs of 9 children had been met and 3 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

12 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 youth graduated from high school and 2 youths refused to attend school.

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 – 8 cases)

2 of the 8 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 – 8 cases)

The local board agreed that 3 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

Housing (Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 2 cases)

Housing had been specified for the 2 youths that were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 4 children/youths consented to adoption and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources - (6 cases)

All 6 children were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure for all 6 cases was a married couple. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child in 2 cases was the relative foster parent, 1 was a non-relative and 3 were fictive kin.

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

- 3 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in 4 of the 6 cases reviewed.

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 6 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all 6 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources - (6 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 6 cases. The services needed were medical for 6 cases, mental health services were needed for 5 cases, and educational services were needed for 5 cases.

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 5 of the 15 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 5 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, public area or another location.

The local board also found that 5 of the 15 children had siblings in care. 3 of the 5 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Not attending scheduled visits
- Annual physicals not current
- Dentals not current
- Visions not current
- No service agreement with parent
- Not following through with service agreement objectives

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

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 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 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan identified by the courts in the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

2 of the 3 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guad</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>7 to 11 months</td>
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<td>2 to 3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 5 of the 8 cases.

1 youth refused to sign the service agreement.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 5 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Formal Kinship Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Independent Living Residential Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Residential Treatment Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 all 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had two placement changes and 2 cases had three placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: Not applicable. None of the cases reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 6 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 5 children had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 6 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child was taking psychotropic medication.
Mental Health Issues: 3 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children.

Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.

Substance Abuse Addressed: No.

Behavioral Issues: 4 children had behavioral issues.

Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 4 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 4 of the 8 children were being met.

**Education**

4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 3 youths had graduated from high school 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 their educational goals.

**Ready by 21**

- Employment (age 14 and older – 6 cases)
  
  2 of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 6 cases)
  
  The local board agreed that 4 of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth - None)
  
  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

  Not applicable.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**

1 case had a CASA.
Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 1 child/youth consented to adoption and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 child was placed in a pre-adoptive home and the pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple and 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 4 to 6 months

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 families to meet identified needs of the child. The local board also 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, educational and mental health services.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 4 of the 8 children had visits with parents and none of the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home or in a public area.

The local board found that 3 of the 8 children had siblings in care. All 3 children had visits with their siblings in care.
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 7 of the 8 children reviewed.
Dorchester County

Dorchester County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 5 of the 6 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 6 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
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<td>1 to 2 years</td>
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<td>2 to 3 years</td>
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<td>3 years or more</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 6 of the cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 4 of the 6 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 4 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care(Private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Residential Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 1 of the 6 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 6 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in all 6 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 6 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 1 child had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 6 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.

Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.

Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children.

Behavioral Issues: All 6 children had behavioral issues.

Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children.

The local board found that the health needs for 3 of the 6 children were met.

Education

5 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth 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 – 6 cases)

None of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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 aged 20 – 1 case)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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)

5 cases had a CASA.
Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 1 child/youth was medically fragile and unable to consent.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

The 1 child with an adoption plan was not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

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 the 1 case. The services that were needed were medical, mental health, educational, and DDA services.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 2 of the 6 children had unsupervised visits with parents at the child’s placement.

The local board also found that 2 of the 6 children had siblings in care. 2 children had visits with siblings that were also in care.

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

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

**Permanency**

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 12 of the 15 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the cases.

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

**Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)**

- Emancipation/Independence (3)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

**Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)**

4 of the 5 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
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<td>2 to 3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 13 of the 15 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 11 of the 15 cases.

1 mother refused to sign the agreement.

The local department found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 11 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pre-finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (Private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Regular Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Independent Living Residential Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residential Treatment Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 5 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 4 of the 15 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had two placement changes and 1 case had three placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in 14 of the 15 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 15 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 14 children had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 10 children had received a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 10 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.

- Prescription Medication: 14 children were taking prescription medication.
Psychotropic Medication: 13 children were taking psychotropic medication.

Mental Health Issues: 13 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 12 children.

Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

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.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 10 children had been met.

Education

11 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 youth had already graduated high school, 1 youth was attending college, 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 – 10 cases)

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

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

The local board agreed that all 10 youths were receiving appropriate independent living skills.

Housing (Transitioning Youth - None)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable.
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

10 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 2 children/youths consented to adoption, 1 youth consented with conditions and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 of the 5 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female for both cases and the relationship was a non relative foster parent.

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

- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved in 2 of the 5 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 both cases.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 5 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 5 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 5 cases.
Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 9 of the 15 children had visits with parents and in 4 of the 9 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, visitation center/LDSS, the child’s placement or another location.

The local board also found that 2 of the 15 children had siblings in care. Both children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Child has behavior problems in the home
- Legal representation for the child
- Not following through on service agreement objectives
- Not attending scheduled visits
- 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 15 children reviewed.
Harford County had a total of 17 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Reunification: 5 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

**Permanency**

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 16 of the 17 cases reviewed.

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

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

**Category of APPLA plan 8 cases**

- Emancipation/Independence (7)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

**Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)**

All 8 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 15 of the 17 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 13 of the 17 cases.

2 mothers refused to sign the service agreement.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 13 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Regular Foster Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (private)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Residential Group Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
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<td>Independent Living Residential Program</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Own Dwelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 7 of the 17 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 9 of the 17 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 7 cases had one placement change and 2 cases had two placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in 16 of the 17 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: 3 children had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 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 8 of the 17 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 15 children were taking prescription medication.
Psychotropic Medication: 15 children were taking psychotropic medication.

Mental Health Issues: 16 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 15 children.

Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

Substance Abuse: 4 children had substance abuse problems.

Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children.

Behavioral Issues: 14 children had behavioral issues.

Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 13 of the 14 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 11 of the 17 children were met and 1 youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

13 of the 17 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 youth had graduated from high school, 1 youth attended college, 1 youth refused to attend school and 1 child was 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 – 11 cases)

2 of the 11 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 11 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

Housing (Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 4 cases)

(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 2 of the 4 youths transitioning out of care.
The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**

2 cases had a CASA.

**Risk and Safety**

The local board agreed that in 16 of the 17 cases reviewed safety and risk 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. 1 child/youth did not want to be adopted, 1 child was medically fragile and 2 were under the age of consent.

**Adoptive Placement (4 cases)**

**Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources**

The 3 of the 4 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 1 case and a single female for 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative foster parent for the 3 cases.

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

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

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

The pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the 3 cases.

**Post-Adoptive Services and Resources**

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

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 12 of the 17 children had visits with parents and in 4 of the 12 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home or in a public area.

The local board also found that 8 of the 17 children had siblings in care. The 8 children had visits with their siblings in care.

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 17 children reviewed.
Montgomery County

Montgomery County had a total of 30 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 16 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 9 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 23 of 30 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 30 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (9 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)
- Transition to adult supportive living arrangement (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 9 cases)

7 of the 9 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 7 of the 9 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
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<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3 years or more</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 22 of the 30 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 15 of the 30 cases.

3 mothers refused to sign the agreement, 1 youth refused to sign the agreement and 1 child was post TPR and under the age of 14.

The local board found the service agreement was appropriate in the 15 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Formal Kinship Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Regular Foster Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Restricted Foster Home (private)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (Private)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Independent Living Residential Program</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Non Relative</td>
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<td>Own Dwelling</td>
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<td>Diagnostic Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Placement Stability

In 18 of the 30 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 14 of the 30 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had two placement changes and 8 cases had three placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in 29 of the 30 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 24 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 14 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 16 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.

• Prescription Medication: 13 children were taking prescription medication.

• Psychotropic Medication: 12 children were taking psychotropic medication.

• Mental Health Issues: 17 children had mental health issues.

• Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 14 of the 17 children.

• Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child/youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

• Substance Abuse: 4 children had a substance abuse problem.

• Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children.

• Behavioral Issues: 16 children had behavioral issues.

• Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 16 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 11 children had been met and 2 youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

23 of the 30 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 youths had already graduated high school and 2 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 – 18 cases)

  5 of the 18 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 15 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

• Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 18 cases)

  The local board agreed that 12 of the 18 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.
Housing (Transitioning Youth – 4 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)
Housing had been specified for all 4 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
16 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety
The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. All 3 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (3 cases)
Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources
All 3 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for all 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative foster parent for all 3 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 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 child in 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the 3 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources
Post-adoptive services were needed for all 3 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 3 cases.

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 23 of the 30 children had visits with parents and in 6 of the 23 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, visitation center/LDSS, public area or the child’s placement.

The local board also found that 16 of the 30 children had siblings in care. 6 of the 16 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Child
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- Other Implementation Barrier
- Unwilling to Adopt Because of Lack of Services or Financial Support
- Inadequate Communication between DSS & POC Agency
- Not Attending Scheduled Visits
- Not Following Through on Service Agreement Objectives
- Child Has Behavior Problems In The Home

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 30 children reviewed.
Prince George’s County

Prince George’s County had a total of 38 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 17 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 15 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 38 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 8 of the 38 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for the 8 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (15 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (15)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 15 cases)

4 of the 15 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 22 of the 38 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 9 of the 38 cases.

The local department found that the service agreement was appropriate in 8 of the 9 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Formal Kinship Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pre Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Restricted Foster Care (relative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Non Relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 28 of the 38 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 15 of the 38 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review, 2 cases with one placement change and 13 cases with two placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in 37 of the 38 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 38 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 16 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 18 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 12 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 14 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 13 children were taking psychotropic medication.
➢ Mental Health Issues: 27 children had mental health issues.

➢ Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 24 of the 27 children.

➢ Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

➢ Substance Abuse: 4 children had a substance abuse problem.

➢ Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 4 children.

➢ Behavioral Issues: 8 children had behavioral issues.

➢ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 8 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 12 children had been met and 1 youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

**Education**

27 of the 38 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 youths had graduated high school, 1 youth was attending college, 1 youth was in trade school, 3 youths refused to attend school and 3 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 – 24 cases)**

5 of the 24 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 10 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➢ **Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 24 cases)**

The local board agreed that 18 of the 24 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➢ **Housing (Transitioning Youth – 8 cases)**

(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 2 of the 8 youths transitioning out of care.
The local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**

10 cases had a CASA.

**Risk and Safety**

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 2 children/youths consented to adoption, 1 consented with conditions, and 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to consent.

**Adoptive Placement (4 cases)**

**Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources**

3 of the 4 cases with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in 1 case, an unmarried couple for 1 case and a single female in 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children for all 3 cases was non relative foster parent.

Length of time in 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 in 3 cases.

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

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

**Post-Adoptive Services and Resources**

Post-adoptive services were needed for 4 cases. The services that were needed were medical for 4 cases, mental health for 3 cases, educational for 3 cases, and respite services for 1 case.

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 20 of the 38 children had visits with parents and in 4 of the 20 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, the visitation center/LDSS, a public area, the child’s placement or another location.

The local board also found that 14 of the 38 children had siblings in care. 5 of the 14 children had visits with their siblings in care.

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 34 of the 38 children reviewed.
St. Mary’s County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

**Permanency**

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

The local juvenile court had not identified a concurrent permanency plan any of the cases.

**Category of APPLA plan (1 case)**

- Emancipation/Independence

**Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)**

The 1 case did not have a permanent connection identified.

**Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
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<td>1 to 2 years</td>
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<td>3 years or more</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 6 of the 7 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 2 of the 7 cases.

Both parents refused to sign the service agreement in 1 case.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 2 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Restricted Relative Foster Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (Private)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Residential Treatment Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pre-finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 6 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 3 of the 7 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 7 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 6 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 7 children had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 7 children had received a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 6 children had received a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- 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: 4 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 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 of the children were being met. None of the children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

4 of the 7 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 3 were under the age of 5.

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

Ready by 21

Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

Not applicable, the youth was not participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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 – None)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 7 cases had a CASA.
Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that risk and 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. 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources – (1 case)

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

➢ 1 case from 10 to 12 months

A home study was completed an approved for the case.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed and the service needed was medical.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 4 of the 7 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 4 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, the visitation center/LDSS or an unknown location.

The local board also found that 4 of the 7 children had siblings in care. None of the 4 children had visits with their siblings.
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 7 children reviewed.
Somerset County

Somerset County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Adoption: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 5 of the 6 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 of the 6 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for 4 of the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Permanent Connections (APPLA - None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 6 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 4 of the 6 cases.
The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 4 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Regular Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residential Group Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 6 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.

None of the 6 cases reviewed had 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 6 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 6 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of the 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 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 3 of the 6 children were being met.

**Education**

3 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 3 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 – 1 case)**

  1 youth was 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 – None)**

  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

  Not applicable.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**

None of the 6 cases had a CASA.

**Risk and Safety**

The local board agreed that the risk and 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. 1 child/youth consented to adoption and 2 were under the age of consent.
Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

None of the 3 cases with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoption services were needed in all 3 cases. The post adoption services needed were medical, mental health and educational in all 3 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 5 of the 6 children had visits with parents and in 5 of the 6 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred in a public area or at an unknown location.

The local board also found that 4 of the 6 children had siblings in care. None of the 4 children had visits with their siblings in care.

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 6 children reviewed.
Washington County

Washington County had a total of 16 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 8 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 16 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (4 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 15 of the 16 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 9 of the 16 cases.

6 of the agreements were with the mother and 3 were with the youths. 8 of the children were under age 14. 1 father refused to sign.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 9 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Non Relative (SILA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (Private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residential Treatment Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 11 of the 16 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 16 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.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in all 16 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 16 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 15 children had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 15 children had received a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 15 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 13 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 8 children were taking prescription medication.
Psychotropic Medication: 8 children were taking psychotropic medication.

Mental Health Issues: 10 children had mental health issues.

Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 10 children

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 14 of the 16 children were being met.

Education

12 of the 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 youth had already graduated high 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 – 8 cases)

2 of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 2 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning
out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. All 4 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 of the 4 children with an adoption plan were placed in pre-adoptive homes and the pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 1 case and single females for 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child in both cases was a non relative foster parent.

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

- 2 case(s) 0 to 6 months
- 1 case 21 months or more

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

Documented efforts had been made to find a pre-adoptive resource for the child not placed in a pre-adoptive home and 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 the 3 cases.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 12 of the 16 cases had visits with parents and in 5 of the 12 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents’ home, visitation centers/LDSS, or at the child’s placement.

The local board also found that 5 of the 16 children had siblings in care. None of the 5 children had visits with their siblings in care.

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 16 children reviewed.
Wicomico County

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

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 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 cases.

Category of APPLA plan:

- Emancipation/Independence (1)
- Transition to adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA - None)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local board found that the local department made efforts to involve family in the service agreement process in all 5 cases and had a signed service agreement in 1 of the 5 cases.

In 2 of the 5 cases reviewed, a termination of parental rights had been granted.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 1 case.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Formal Kinship Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residential Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 5 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 5 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 5 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 5 children had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 5 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 5 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 5 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 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with a mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 5 children were being met.

Education

All 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 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 2 of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)
  Housing had been specified for the 1 youth that was transitioning out of care.
  The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.
Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk 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. 1 child/youth consented to adoption.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

The 1 child with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female and the relationship was a non relative foster parent.

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

- 1 case – 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 the identified needs of the child.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed. The services that were needed were medical, mental health and education.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 3 of the 5 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 3 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the child’s placement.

The local board found that 2 of the 5 children had siblings in care. None of the 2 children had visits with their siblings in care.
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 5 children reviewed.
Baltimore City had a total of 65 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 17 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 9 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 32 cases

**Permanency**

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 50 of 65 cases reviewed.

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

**Category of APPLA plan (32 cases)**

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

- Emancipation/Independence (32)

**Permanent Connections (APPLA – 32 cases)**

20 of the 32 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 19 cases.
Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>Reunif</th>
<th>Relative for Adoption</th>
<th>Relative for C &amp; G</th>
<th>Non-Rel Adoption</th>
<th>Non-Rel Cust/Guard</th>
<th>APPLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 6 months</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 11 months</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years or more</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case Planning

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 51 of the 65 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 28 of the 65 cases.

4 mothers, 1 youth and 1 father refused to sign the service agreement

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in 24 of the 28 cases.

Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Formal Kinship Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Regular Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Treatment Foster Care (Private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Teen Mother Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Independent Living Residential Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Non-Relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Own Dwelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement Stability

In 42 of the 65 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 65 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 16 cases with at least 2 placement changes, 12 cases with at least 3 placement changes, 4 cases with 4 or more changes and 29 cases with no changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in 63 of the 65 cases reviewed.
Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 15 of the 65 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 30 children had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 21 children had received a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 22 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.

- Prescription Medication: 24 children were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children were taking psychotropic medication.

- Substance Abuse: 15 children had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 15 children.

- Behavioral Issues: 30 children had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 25 of the 30 children.

- Mental Health Issues: 34 children had mental health issues

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 23 of the 34 children.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child/youth 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 of the 65 had been met. 6 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

31 of the 65 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 14 youths had already graduated high school, 9 refused to attend school, and 11 were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that all of 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 – 43 cases)**

  18 of the 43 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 35 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- **Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 43 cases)**

  The local board agreed that 24 of the 43 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- **Housing (Transitioning Youth – 16 cases)**
  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

  Housing had been specified for 6 of the 16 youths transitioning out of care.

  The local board agreed that the 6 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**

5 cases had a CASA.

**Risk and Safety**

The local board agreed that in 64 of the 65 cases reviewed safety and risk 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. 4 children/youths did not want to be adopted and 7 were under the age of consent.

**Adoptive Placement (11 cases)**

**Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources**

7 of the 11 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for 4 cases and a single female for 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent for 5 cases and a relative foster parent for 2 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:
- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 5 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in the 7 cases.

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

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 7 cases.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 9 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 9 cases, and mental health services for 2 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found 35 of the 65 children had visits with parents and in 6 of the 35 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parent’s home, visitation centers/LDSS, a public area, the child’s placement or an unknown location.

The local board also found that 27 of the 65 children had siblings in care. 19 of the 27 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement
- Other Education Barrier
- Other Court Related Barrier
- Other Independence Barrier
- Appeal By Birth Parents
- Child In Pre-Adoptive Home, But Adoption Not Finalized
- Disrupted Pre-Adoption Placement
- Annual Physicals Not Current
- Dentals Not Current
- Vision Not Current
- No Follow Up On Medical Referrals
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General)
- No Current IEP
- Youth Not Attending School Or In GED Program
- Youth Not Employed and Transitioning Out of Care
- Youth Non-Compliant with medications
- Youth Refuses Mental Health Treatment Including Therapy
- 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 60 out of the 65 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.
### 1st Quarter 2018

**CRBC Metrics**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission &amp; Rescheduled:</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Number Sent</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Boards Held</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement</td>
<td>98%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C &amp; G Children Reviewed:</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The State Board

Doretha Henry
Circuit 1: Representing Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worchester Counties

Vacant
Circuit 2: Representing Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne, 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

Davina Richardson
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
CRBC Staff

Denise E. Wheeler
Administrator

Crystal Young, MSW
Assistant Administrator

Debbie Ramelmeier, LCSW-C, J.D.
Director of Child Welfare Policy

Jerome Findlay
Information Technology Officer

Marlo Palmer-Dixon
Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Sandy Colea
Volunteer Activities Coordinator

Fran Barrow
Staff Assistant

Michele Foster, MSW
Staff Assistant

Eric Davis, MSW
Staff Assistant

Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary
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