

Winter Edition

Nov. 1st–Feb. 29th

# Let's Talk About CRBC

## GREETINGS FROM THE CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN (CRBC).

Winter is a time of reflection - everything dies off or goes within it itself to grow and be renewed once spring is here again. We as people tend to celebrate being indoors with our families and friends, (Christmas, Hanukkah, etc) being warmed by fires built in the fireplace and in our hearts (building our foundational relationships). It can also be a time where we think about what we want to accomplish for the next year (new year's resolutions). . . .

## 2015-2016 State Board

**Circuit I:** Doretha "Dee" Henry (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico & Worcester)

**Circuit II:** **Vacant** (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's & Talbot)

**Circuit III:** Delores Alexander, Vice Chairperson ( Baltimore & Harford)

**Circuit IV:** Nettie Anderson-Burr, Chairperson (Allegany, Garrett & Washington)

**Circuit V:** **Vacant** (Anne Arundel, Carroll & Howard)

**Circuit VI:** Susan Gross (Frederick & Montgomery)

**Circuit VII:** Denise Joseph (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's & Saint Mary's)

**Circuit VIII:** Sheila Jessup (Baltimore City)

**Circuit VIII:** Sarah Boyd-Walker (Baltimore City)

**Circuit VIII:** Sylvia Smith (Baltimore City)

# CRBC Insider

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### State Board News

*Next State Board Meeting*

**Friday,**

**April 8, 2016**

The meeting will be held at CRBC in the conference room. This meeting is open to all board members.

# A Message from the State Board Chair



As we enter a New Year and season it is an exciting time for CRBC. We continue with plans for moving forward. Recruitment of volunteers remains a priority to ensure that we have quorums to conduct reviews in every county and Baltimore City. On behalf of the State Board and CRBC staff, I would like to welcome our newest members and thank everyone seeking reappointment which

demonstrates your continued commitment to CRBC and Maryland's children.

For the upcoming 2017 fiscal year, our focus will continue to be safety, well-being and permanency. However, we will take a more in depth look at the services and quality of services, especially in the areas of health, mental health, education and visits.

Nettie Anderson-Burrs, Chairperson

# A Message from the Administrator

We continue moving forward with plans to improve the work that CRBC does. There have been improvements in communication, child welfare and DHR child welfare policy training and CRBC's legislative efforts and advocacy. Our Newsletter and reports will be available electronically and are currently placed on the CRBC webpage. Also, we are working to ensure the local board members receive updates on outcomes of individual and systemic recommendations made. We remain committed to improving at CRBC and seeking improvements for Maryland's most vulnerable children and youth. Your continued commitment and support is appreciated.

## Tips and Things to Remember for Citizen Advocates

- ◆ Volunteers make a difference everyday (advocates for children and families, seek to improve support and services for children and families)
- ◆ Volunteer participation in CRBC activities make a difference
- ◆ CRBC volunteers, Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) and other Child Welfare Agencies are working for the same thing (the well-being of children)
- ◆ Work on building positive and productive relationships (regular meetings with LDSS,

LDSS representative at CRBC meetings, participate in joint activities, acknowledge and honor the work of LDSS staff and foster parents)

- ◆ Relationship building takes time, effort, courtesy and respect

Denise Wheeler,  
Administrator

**"Teamwork is Success"**

## Upcoming Events

# Citizens Review Board for Children's Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day 2016



Citizens Review Board for Children's  
**Annual Take Our Daughter's & Son's to Work Day**  
**Friday, April 1, 2016**  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Business Causal Attire**

Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, March 14, 2016 if you Plan to participate in the **Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day** & if you plan to bring a youth participant.

A continental breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided if your youth participant has any dietary restrictions please specify when you register the youth.

**Special Training  
Presentation By  
Rosa Uddeme,  
DHRT Trainer on Team  
Building**

**Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day** was designed to be more than a career day, the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program goes beyond the average "shadow" an adult. Exposing girls and boys to what a parent or mentor in their lives does during the work day is important, but showing them the value of their education, helping them discover the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life, and providing them an opportunity to share how they envision the future and begin steps toward their end goals in a hands-on and interactive environment is key to their achieving success.

Each year, we develop new interactive activities and partnerships that will assist us in taking girls and boys to the future they dream of.

Please contact Marlo Palmer-Dixon, Volunteer Specialist For more information, to participate or register a youth participant.  
**(410) 238-1338 (Voice)**      [Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov](mailto:Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov) (Email)

# Policy Corner

Waiver of Reunification - In 2015, Anayah's Law was signed which changed the circumstances under which the local department may request the Court waive reunification efforts. The details of the law were covered in the Fall Edition. DHR has issued policy guidance (SSA-CW #16-14) to guide implementation of the law. Application of the waiver is not mandatory in all cases; it is to be based upon a review of the unique facts of each case. The local department must find that a waiver is not contrary to the child's best interests. The local department can elect to provide reunification services even if the case meets waiver criteria if determine that reunification is in child's best interest and there are available services that can remedy the circumstances that led to the child's placement. If the Indian Child Welfare Act applies, Bureau of Indian Affairs has authority to make waiver decision.



# Policy Corner

Local Department Responsibility for Out-of-Home Placement – COMAR 07.02.11.05 lists the responsibilities that the local department must comply with for every child in out of home placement. During every review, efforts should be made to ensure that the local department is complying with this regulation. Highlights include:

- ⇒ Immediately initiate search for relatives/absent parent and notify those relatives within 30 days of entry into care;
- ⇒ Develop a case plan that identifies a concurrent plan;
- ⇒ Develop service agreement and visitation plan with the parent
  - Parent-child visits at least weekly when plan is reunification
  - Sibling visitation unless Court orders no visits
  - If child refuses visits, must refer child to therapy to resolve issues
  - Offers transportation as appropriate to parents or legal guardian
- ⇒ Provide after care services for up to 6 months following reunification
- ⇒ Provide services to the child's family and monitor the safety of any children remaining in the home
  - Requires at least monthly face-to-face contact with the parent, legal guardian and any children remaining in the family home.

Additional details can be obtained via the Maryland Legislature website  
at

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>.

Any questions can be directed to Debbie Ramelmeier at  
[debbie.ramelmeier@maryland.gov](mailto:debbie.ramelmeier@maryland.gov) or via phone at 410-238-1341

Or

Denise Wheeler at [Denise.Wheeler@maryland.gov](mailto:Denise.Wheeler@maryland.gov) or via phone at 410-238-1337

# Legislative Session Update

The 2016 session opened on 1/13/16. We have been participating on weekly calls with the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children (CPMC). Bills of interest to CRBC (as of 1/26/16) include:

## **SB31/HB7:**

Expanding expungement timeframes from 120 days to 5 years for ruled out investigations.

## **SB15:**

Prohibits "rehoming", the permanent transfer of custody of a child previously under adoption or guardianship order to unrelated

## **SB77:**

Changes age from 16 to 14 when the local department must begin planning for youth to transition to successful adulthood.

# Legislative Session Update

## **SB79:**

Update to CRBC statute to replace “Special Secretary for Children, Youth and Families” with “DHR Secretary” as former

## **HB192:**

Restricts Court from approving plan of APPLA for youth under age 16.

## **SB262:**

Requirements for how the Department utilizes social security and veterans admin benefits for the child’s benefit while in care. Requires percentage of payments to be conserved for youth over age 17.

## **HB245/SB310:**

Requires filing of complaints with specified employers or licensing boards if mandated reporter fails to make report of child abuse/neglect.

# Help Wanted

Citizens Review Board for Children is currently seeking current volunteers available to assist at the CRBC main office. Please contact our office if you are available to volunteer in the office a few hours a week to inquire about volunteer opportunities in the office.

**Citizens Review Board for Children**  
1100 Eastern Blvd.  
Essex MD 21221  
(410) 238-1320 (Office Number)



# Join A Committee

## Recruitment & Retention

**The Recruitment & Retention committee recruits, plans and coordinates activities for CRBC members**

## Children's Legislative Action Committee (CLAC)

**CLAC makes recommendations to the State Board regarding legislation.**

## Training Team

**The training team provides new member orientation and pre service training.**

# Moving Forward



**Contact Marlo Palmer-Dixon, Volunteer Specialist or your Staff Assistant to request recruitment materials to recruit Potential volunteers in your circuit. The volunteer who recruits the most volunteers will be highlighted in the CRBC Insider.....**

**BE the CHANGE that YOU wish to see in the WORLD...**

# **TAKE ACTION!**



## **Action Alerts**

### **50% Board Attendance for 2015—12 Month Alert**

Each Year in December, the Governor's Appointments Office sends us a written directive to submit the names of individuals serving on the boards who have missed more than 50% of their local board meetings during that year. When we reach the 6 month mark 50% attendance will be reviewed.

You can alternate or substitute on local boards in the jurisdiction/circuit in which you are appointed to make up for missed review dates.

**For more information contact your Staff Assistant.**

### **Reappointments for 2016**

Each fiscal year there are local board members that have appointments expiring on June 30th, you are notified by mail and sent a reappointment package. Your Staff Assistant will follow up with you at your board review in reference to your reappointment packet. Please complete the necessary forms and return to CRBC as soon as possible. Board members may serve until reappointed.

If you have any questions about the Reappointment Process you can contact the Volunteer Specialist @ (410) 238-1338 or via email [Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov](mailto:Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov)

# CRBC Pre Service Training

The Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) Training Team trained 4 newly Governor appointed volunteers on Friday, November 13, 2015. There was representation from the following jurisdictions:

- Baltimore County
- Baltimore City
- Montgomery County
- Prince Georges County

Please help CRBC welcome our newly appointed board members. Recruitment is ongoing and it will take the help of every volunteer to get the word out about CRBC. Please remember to tell your story as a volunteer to encourage other citizens to want to be apart of the CRBC family!

## CRBC Governor Appointed Volunteers

### CRBC Governor Appointed Volunteers

- Clarence Hooper - Baltimore County Board #1
- Debra Madison-Moore - Baltimore City Northwest Region #7
- Constance Urquhart - Baltimore County Board #3
- Samantha Bender - Montgomery County Board #2
- Mary Taylor Acree - Talbot County Board #1
- Beatrice Lee - Baltimore City Northwest Region #2
- Owen Wormser - Talbot County Board #1

## Upcoming Pre-Service Trainings

### Citizens Review Board for Children Pre-Service Training

#### 2016 Trainings

Friday, May 20, 2016 (CRBC)

Friday, July 22, 2016 (CRBC)

Friday, September 16, 2016 (CRBC)

Friday, November 18, 2016 (CRBC)

Training Dates are subject to change

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Citizens Review Board for Children

1100 Eastern Blvd.

Essex MD 21221

To register or **R.S.V.P.** contact:

Marlo Palmer-Dixon, Volunteer Specialist.

(410) 238-1338 **Voice** or [Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov](mailto:Marlo.Palmer-Dixon@maryland.gov) **Email**

**The purpose of the CRBC Pre Service Training is to train newly Governor Appointed Volunteers to serve on CRBC review boards. Current members may also take advantage of the Pre Service Training as a refresher.**

# Citizens Review Board for Children State Board and Strategy Committee Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2016

## **State Board Meeting Dates**

- ⇒ April 8, 2016
- ⇒ June 10, 2016
- ⇒ August 12, 2016
- ⇒ October 14, 2016
- ⇒ December 9, 2016

## **Strategy Committee**

- ⇒ The Strategy Committee meets every 1st First of each Month excluding holidays.

## **Note:**

- \* Please be advised that State Board Executive Sessions are closed to the public.
- \* State Board does not meet the following months: January, March, May, July, September and November.
- \* Meeting dates are subject to change. Please contact office to confirm.

## **Conference Call Participation Instructions**

If you plan to call into the State Board meeting please call:

**Number:** 1 (650) 479-3208

**Code:** 76091766

# Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently recruiting for volunteers who reside in the following jurisdictions:

**Allegany County**  
**Anne Arundel County**  
**Baltimore City**  
**Calvert County**  
**Caroline County**  
**Carroll County**  
**Cecil County**  
**Charles County**  
**Dorchester County**  
**Garrett County**  
**Howard County**  
**Kent County**  
**Montgomery County**  
**Prince George's County**  
**Queen Anne's County**  
**Saint Mary's County**  
**Somerset County**  
**Talbot County**  
**Washington County**  
**Wicomico County**  
**Worcester County**



**We're  
recruiting!**

## Contact Us

Citizens Review Board for Children

1100 Eastern Blvd.

Essex, MD 21221

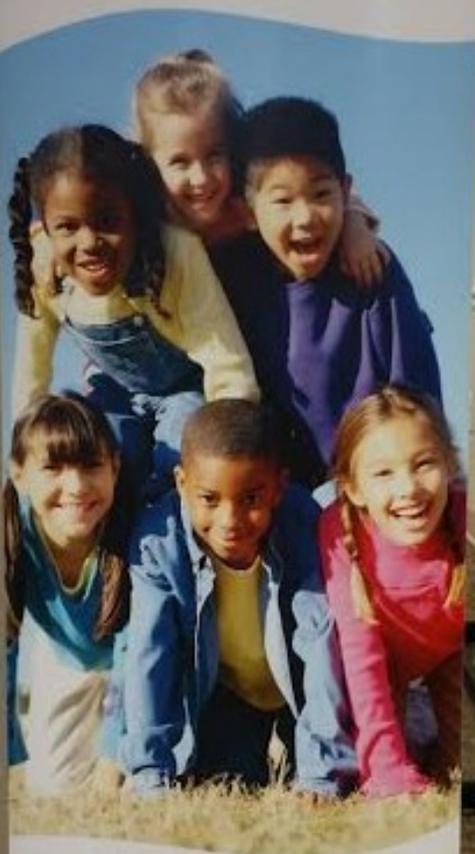
Office Number: (410) 238-1320

Fax Number: (410) 238-1395

Email: [crbc.mail@maryland.gov](mailto:crbc.mail@maryland.gov)

Website: [www.dhr.maryland.gov/crbc](http://www.dhr.maryland.gov/crbc)

Citizens Review  
Board For Children



 **CRBC**  
Citizens Review Board for Children



### Connect with CRBC on Social Media

Like us on Facebook:



**Maryland Citizens Review Board for  
Children**

Follow us on Twitter:



**[twitter.com/MD\\_CRBC](https://twitter.com/MD_CRBC)**

**“One Unified Volunteer  
Voice for Safety,  
Permanency and  
Advocacy”**