

Citizens Review Board For Children



SECOND QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2017 REPORT
(October 1st 2016 – December 31st 2016)

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Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Discrimination Statement

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

Confidentiality

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

CRBC Acknowledgements

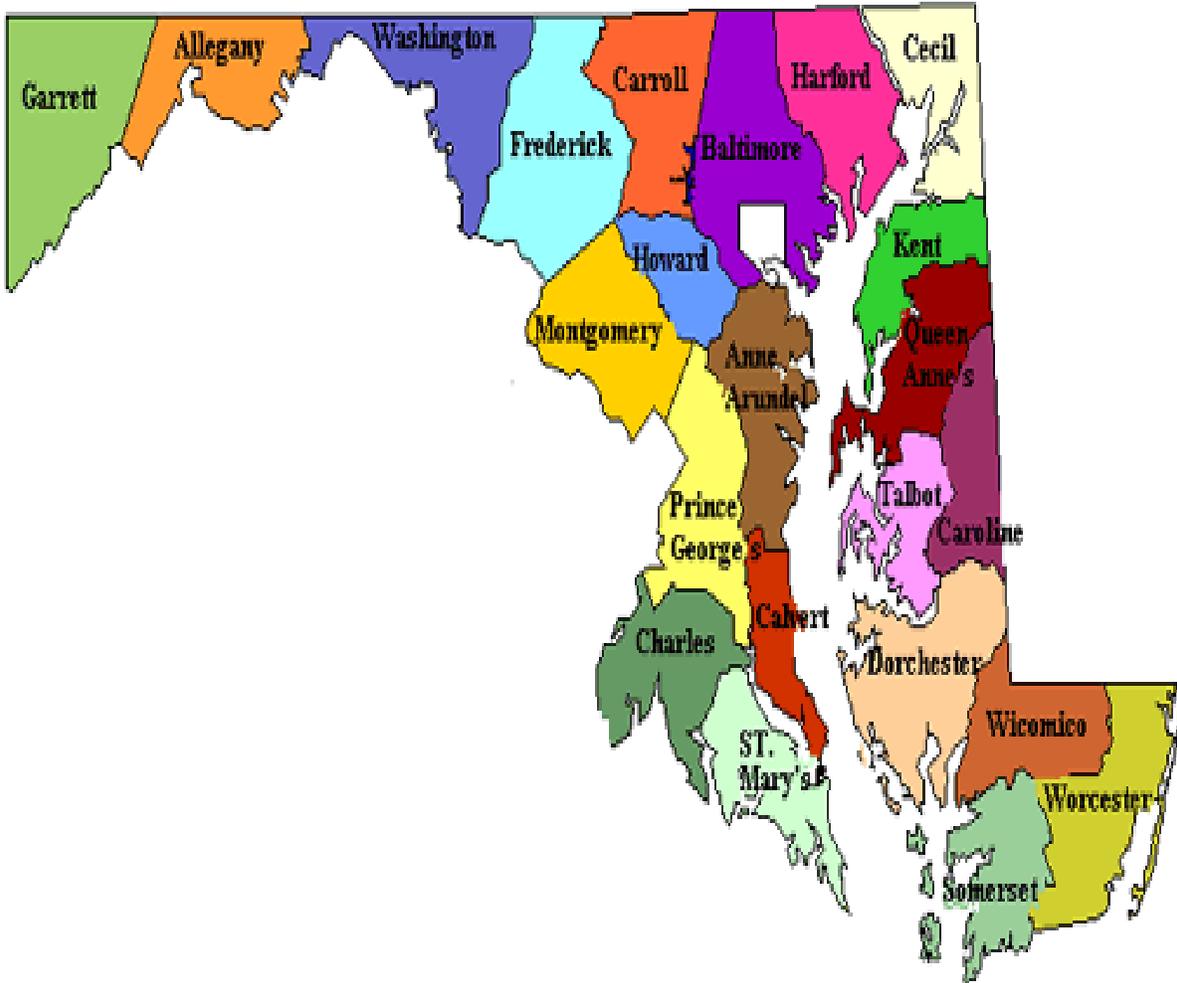
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

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

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings, and recommendations for the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2017.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews: Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 16 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).

2nd Quarter Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
02	Anne Arundel	2	2	6	0	2	12	2
03	Baltimore County	6	0	3	4	8	21	4
04	Calvert	0	0	3	0	6	9	1
06	Carroll	6	0	0	0	2	8	1
07	Cecil	2	0	2	0	1	5	1
08	Charles	3	0	1	0	1	5	1
10	Frederick	1	0	6	0	1	8	1
12	Harford	7	0	1	1	3	12	2
13	Howard	2	0	0	0	5	7	1
15	Montgomery	3	3	1	2	7	16	3
16	Prince Georges	15	0	0	1	16	32	6
18	Saint Mary's	5	0	2	0	0	7	1
20	Talbot	3	0	6	0	3	12	1
21	Washington	4	0	2	0	2	8	1
22	Wicomico	4	0	2	0	1	7	1
23	Worchester	0	2	6	0	2	10	1
49	Baltimore City	30	6	20	8	48	112	17
Statewide Totals		93	13	61	16	108	291	45
Percentages		32%	4%	21%	5%	37%	100%	

CRBC conducted a total of 291 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 17 Jurisdictions on 45 boards that held reviews during the 2nd quarter of fiscal 2017.

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

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

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

Total Reviewed
(332)
Gender Totals

Male	Female
138 (47%)	153 (53%)

Gender By
Plan

Male(138):

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Guardianship	APPLA
49 (35%)	4 (2%)	29 (23%)	8 (2%)	48 (38%)

Female(153):

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Guardianship	APPLA
44 (37%)	9 (2%)	32 (16%)	8 (1%)	60 (44%)

Ethnicity Overall
(291)

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
166 (65%)	104 (31%)	2 (1%)	19 (3%)

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Anne Arundel County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

A permanent connection was identified for both cases and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 11 out of the 12 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Formal Kinship Care
6	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program

Placement Stability

In 7 of the 12 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 8 of the 12 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 3 cases with 2 changes and 1 case with 3 changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 12 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 6 out of the 12 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of 12 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 10 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 2 out of 12 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 12 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 out of 12 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for 1 of the 2 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 out of 12 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for all 7 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 2 children and the mental health needs of 10 children were being met. 2 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 out of the 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Not Applicable. None of youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 out of 12 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 6 cases with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in 4 cases comprised of a married couple for each case, and a single female for each of the other 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in all 6 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

- 2 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 placements were appropriate for all 6 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 5 of the 6 cases. The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in 4 cases and mental health services in 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Parents
- Appeal By Birth Parents
- Annual Physical not current
- Dental not current
- Vision 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 12 children reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 21 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 6 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 4 case
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 21 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the Reunification cases. Non Relative Custody/Guardianship for 2 cases and APPLA for 1 case.

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

Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

3 out of the 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 21 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
8	Treatment Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care(Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Own Dwelling
1	Alternative Living Unit

Placement Stability

In 19 out of the 21 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 11 out of the 21 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 10 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 21 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 21 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 5 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 out of the 21 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 19 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 17 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 17 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 18 out of the 21 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 20 out of the 21 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 9 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: The behavioral issues were being addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 18 children and the mental health needs of 13 children were being met. All of the children complied with standard health exams.

Education

17 out of the 21 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 children were under the age of 5 and 2 children were refusing to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children 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 – 16 cases)

2 out of the 16 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 16 cases)

The local board agreed that 15 out of the 16 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 out of 21 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There was 1 case with indicators of risk. However, all applicable safety assessments and child protection protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	1
Child did not want to be Adopted	11
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	3
No, Reunification	6
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (3 Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 3 cases with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was with a married couple in each of the 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in all 3 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) from 21 months or longer

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

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 3 cases. The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 3 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	21
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Annual Physicals not current
- Vision not current
- Dentals 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 21 children reviewed.

Calvert County



Calvert County had a total of 9 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

3 out of the 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Restricted Relative Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

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

In 5 out of the 9 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 4 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 9 cases reviewed, to the birth family in 1 case, and the foster/kin family in 2 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 9 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 out of the 9 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 9 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 7 children and the mental health needs of 8 children were being met. 1 child refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

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

The local board agreed that the children 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 – 7 cases)

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 9 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	2
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	7
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	
No, Reunification	
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (3 Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 3 cases with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was with a married couple in each of the 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in all 3 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) from 21 months or longer

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

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 3 cases. The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 3 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of Local Residential Treatment Facilities
- Annual Physicals 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 9 children reviewed.

Carroll County



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

- Reunification: 6 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 6 out of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local board recommended Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship and APPLA for 2 of the Reunification cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence
- Placement in a long-term facility until transition to an adult facility.

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

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

Placement Stability

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

In 5 out of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 3 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 out of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 7 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 out of the 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse was being addressed for 1 of the 2 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for 6 of the 7 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 7 children and the mental health needs of 2 children were being met. All of the children complied with standard health exams.

Education

6 out of the 8 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child had already graduated high school and the other refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children 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)

None of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

The local board agreed that 4 out of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for the 1 youth that was transitioning out of care.

The local board did not agree that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 out of 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of Local Residential Treatment facility
- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction
- Youth not enrolled in school
- Board does not agree with permanency plan
- Annual Physicals not current
- Vision not current
- Dentals not current

Summary

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

Cecil County



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

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan of Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship in 1 Reunification case, and Non Relative Custody/Guardianship in 2 Adoption cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for 2 of the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Own Dwelling
1	None

Placement Stability

None of 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 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.

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 5 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 2 of the 3 cases where the child was placed in a foster home and to the birth family in 2 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 4 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 out of the 5 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 5 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse was being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for the 3 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 5 children and the mental health needs of 3 children were being met. All of the children complied with standard health exams.

Education

3 out of the 5 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child had already graduated high school and 1 child was refusing to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children 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 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children with a plan of adoption were not placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Documented efforts were made to find adoptive resources and the local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 1 case. The post-adoptive service that was needed was educational.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- No Service Agreement with Parent
- Physicals not current
- Vision not current
- Dental 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 5 children reviewed.

Charles County



Charles County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Therapeutic Group Home
4	Treatment Foster Care

Placement Stability

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

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

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

Supportive Services

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

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

- Current Dental: 5 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 5 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not Applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for the child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 5 children and the mental health needs of 2 children were being met. All of the children complied with standard health exams.

Education

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

The local board agreed that the children 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 – 2 cases)

Both of the youths were not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 child had a plan of adoption but the child was not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Documented efforts were made to find an adoptive resource.

The local board agreed that the recruitment efforts were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services was needed in the 1 case. The post-adoptive service that was needed was educational.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of Foster Homes
- No Service Agreement with Parents
- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not 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.

Frederick County



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 6 out of the 8 cases reviewed and recommended a plan of Reunification for 2 Adoption cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

The 1 APPLA case did not have a permanent connection identified.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home

Placement Stability

In 7 out of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 5 out of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 2 cases with at least 2 placement changes, and 1 case with 3 changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 out of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 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 out of the 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse was not being addressed for the child.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for the 6 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 7 children and the mental health needs of 5 children were being met. 1 child refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

5 out of the 8 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 children were under 5 years of age.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

The youth was not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

The local board agreed that the youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Not Applicable. The youth was not transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 out of 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 6 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 5 cases and a single female for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in all 6 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 2 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

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 family to meet identified needs of the children in all 6 cases.

The pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in 5 out of the 6 cases reviewed.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 6 adoption cases. The post-adoptive services that were needed were medical and mental health in 3 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Appeal by Birth Parents
- Youth Not Receiving Adequate Services
- Youth Non-Compliant with Medication
- Other Mental Health Barriers
- Board does not agree with current Permanency Plan

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 6 out of the 8 children reviewed.

Harford County



Harford County had a total of 12 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 7 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody and Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan of Non Relative Adoption for the 1 Non Relative Custody and Guardianship case.

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)
- Placement in Long-Term Care Facility until transition into an adult facility (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	None

Placement Stability

In 6 out of the 12 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 out of the 12 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 1 case with at least 2 placement changes, 2 cases with 3 changes and 5 cases with none.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 12 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 8 cases and to the birth family in 8 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 out of the 12 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 9 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 out of the 12 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 10 out of the 12 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for the child.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for all 10 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 5 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 10 children and mental health needs of 8 children were being met. 3 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

All 12 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program

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

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

The local board agreed that 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was not being prepared for independent living due to mental health reasons and 3 youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth 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)

3 out of 12 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were not needed in the 1 adoption case reviewed.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	11
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	1
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Child
- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan
- Annual Physicals Not Current
- Dentals Not Current
- Vision Not Current
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General)
- No Current Safe-C/G

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 12 children reviewed.

Howard County



Howard County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 7 cases reviewed.

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

4 out 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

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Treatment Foster Care(Private)
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Other
1	None (Runaway)

Placement Stability

In 1 out 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 out of the 7 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 3 cases with at least 2 placement changes, and 1 case with 4 or more placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 6 out 7 cases reviewed and recommended Own Dwelling for 1 APPLA case.

Supportive Services

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of the 7 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 out of the 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was not being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: 3 of the 4 children with behavioral issues were having it addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 1 child with a mental health issue had an identified plan to obtain mental health service in an adult mental health system.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 4 children and the mental health needs of 3 children were being met. 2 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

4 out of the 7 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child had already graduated high school and 2 children refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children 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 – 7 cases)

2 out of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

The local board agreed that 5 out of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth 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)

6 out of 7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There was 1 case with indicators of risk. However, all applicable safety assessments and child protection protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of Local Residential Treatment facility
- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction
- Youth not enrolled in school
- Board does not agree with permanency plan
- Annual Physicals not current
- Vision not current
- Dentals 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 5 out of the 7 children reviewed.

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 16 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody and Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 15 out of 16 cases reviewed and recommended Non Relative Adoption for 1 Non Relative Custody and Guardianship case.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan of Non Relative Custody/Guardianship for 1 Reunification case.

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

Category of APPLA plan (7 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)
- Long-Term Out of Home Care with a Non Relative (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 14 out of the 16 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Restricted Relative Foster Care
7	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Intermediate Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Other

Placement Stability

In 7 out 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 9 out of the 16 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 5 cases with at least 2 placement changes, 1 case with at least 3 changes and 1 case with four or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 15 out of the 16 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

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

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education

- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all of the children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 10 cases and to the birth families in 6 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of the 16 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 13 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 13 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 11 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 15 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 3 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for the 3 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for all of the children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and 1 child had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 12 children and the mental health needs of 13 children were being met. 6 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

15 out of 16 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child had already graduated high school.

The local board agreed that 14 of the children 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 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 6 out of 12 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 2 out of the 4 youths 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)

6 out of 16 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	10
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	1
No, Reunification	2
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	2

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

The 1 child with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female 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 21 months or longer

A home study was not completed and approved.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed. The post-adoptive service that was needed was referral to DDA.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	2
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	14
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Child
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- Non Compliant With Service Agreement
- Youth Not Attending School or in GED Program
- Youth Needs More Restrictive Placement
- Youth Engages in Risky Behavior
- Refusal to Locate or Maintain Employment
- Child Has Behavioral Problems in Home
- Annual Physicals Not Current
- Dentals Not Current
- Vision Not Current
- Not Attending Scheduled Visits
- Unwilling to Adopt because of Lack of Services or Financial Support
- Current Provider unable or unwilling to meet youth's needs
- Transitional Housing Has Not Been Specified
- Inadequate Communication between DSS & POC Agency
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General)
- Other Independence Barrier
- Other Mental Health Barrier
- Other Court Related Barrier
- Board Does Not Agree with Permanency Plan

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 15 out of the 16 children reviewed.

Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 32 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 15 cases
- Non Relative Custody and Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 16 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (16 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (16)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

9 of the 16 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all the cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 31 out of the 32 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
22	Treatment Foster Care
2	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
1	Own Dwelling
4	None

Placement Stability

In 25 out of the 32 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 19 out of the 32 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 10 cases with at least 2 placement changes, 1 case with 3 changes, 1 case with 4 or more changes, and 1 with no changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 29 cases.

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to 29 of the children reviewed and to the birth family in 13 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of the 32 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 24 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 23 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 26 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 18 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 31 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 11 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 8 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for 2 of the 8 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 29 children and the mental health needs of 15 children were being met. 4 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

21 out of 32 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 6 children had graduated high school, 4 refused to attend school and 1 was under 5 years of age.

The local board agreed that the children 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)

8 out of the 23 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 8 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 16 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

12 out of 32 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were 2 cases with indicators of risk. However, all safety assessments and child protection protocols had been followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Yes, with conditions	
Child did not want to be Adopted	19
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
No, Mental Health Reasons	
N/A under age of consent	
No, Reunification	13
No, Relative Placement	
Unknown	

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	1
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	29
Less than once a month	2
Quarterly	
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Annual Physicals Not Current
- Dentals Not Current
- Vision 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 30 out of the 32 children reviewed.

Saint Mary's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan of Non Relative Custody/Guardianship for all 5 Reunification cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan

Not Applicable.

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

Not Applicable.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Treatment Foster Care
2	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 3 out 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 out of the 7 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 4 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 7 children reviewed and to the birth family in 1 case.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of the 7 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: 7 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 3 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: None of the children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 7 children and the mental health needs of 1 child were being met. All of the children complied with standard health exams.

Education

5 out of the 7 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 2 were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children 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)

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 age 17 and older)

Not Applicable. The youth was not transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure of the pre-adoptive family was a single female in both cases and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was not completed and approved.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement with Parents
- Lack of Special Needs Foster Homes
- Lack of Local Residential Treatment Facilities

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.

Talbot County



Talbot County had a total of 12 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan of Non Relative Adoption for 1 Reunification case, and a plan of Reunification for 5 Adoption cases.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent plan of Non Relative Adoption set by the court, instead they were pursuing Relative Custody/Guardianship. The local department was implementing the concurrent plan of Reunification for the 5 Adoption cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
3	Treatment (Private) Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	None

Placement Stability

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

In 7 out of the 12 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 3 cases with at least 2 placement changes, 1 case with 3 changes and 1 case with no changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 12 children reviewed, to the birth family in 4 cases and to the foster/kin family in 9 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of the 12 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 10 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 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 9 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 11 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse was being addressed for the child.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for all 11 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 5 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 11 children and the mental health needs of 9 children were being met. 2 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

10 out of the 12 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 had already graduated high school and 1 was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children 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)

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 – 4 cases)

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

1 youth was transitioning out of care and housing had been specified for the youth.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 12 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

- 5 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for all 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 and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 5 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 5 cases. The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical for all 5 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Appeal by Birth Parents
- Annual Physicals not current
- Dentals not current
- Vision 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 12 children reviewed.

Washington County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
4	Treatment Foster Care
1	Own Dwelling
1	Non Relative

Placement Stability

In all 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 3 out of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review 4 cases with at least 2 placement changes, and 1 case with no changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 8 of the children reviewed and to the birth family in 7 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 8 children and the mental health needs of 4 children were being met. All of the children had complied with standard health exams.

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

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

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

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

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 out of 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children with an adoption plan were placed in pre-adoptive homes and the pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for each case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child in both cases was a foster parent.

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

- 2 case(s) 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in the both 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 and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were not needed.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Dentals Not Current

Summary

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

Wicomico County



Wicomico County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 5 of the 7 cases reviewed and recommended a plan of Non Relative Adoption for 2 of the 4 Reunification cases.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 5 cases. 2 Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship and 2 Non Relative Custody/Guardianship for the 4 Reunification cases and 1 Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship for 1 Adoption case.

The local department was implementing all the concurrently plans set by the court.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Placement In Long Term Care Facility Until Transition to An Adult Care Facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted Relative Foster Care
1	Alternative Living Units

Placement Stability

In 6 out of the 7 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.

5 of the 7 cases reviewed had at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 2 cases had no changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 7 children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 6 cases, and to the birth family in all 7 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 out of the 7 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 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 all 7 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for all 4 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 7 children and the mental health needs of 2 children were being met. 1 child refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

6 out of 7 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 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 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

The local board agreed that the 2 youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 child was medically fragile and 1 was due to mental health reasons.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

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

The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children with an adoption plan were placed in pre-adoptive homes and the pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 1 case and a single male for the other case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative for both cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved in both case.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoption services were needed in 1 case. The post adoption service needed was medical.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified. None.

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.

Worcester County



Worcester County had a total of 10 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 9 out of the 10 cases reviewed and recommended a plan of APPLA for 1 of the 2 Relative Placement cases.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for the 2 Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship cases. The concurrent plans were APPLA for both cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 10 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
8	Treatment (Private) Foster Care
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 3 out of the 10 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.

1 out of the 10 cases reviewed had at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 4 cases had 2 changes, 2 cases had 3 changes, 1 case had 4 or more and 2 cases had no changes.

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

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 10 children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 9 cases, and to the birth family in 6 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 out of the 10 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 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.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 6 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for all 8 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 8 children and the mental health needs of 9 children were being met. 5 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

8 out of 10 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had already graduated high school and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children 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 – 7 cases)

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

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

The local board agreed that 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living and 2 were not. 1 child was medically fragile and 1 had mental health reasons.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

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

The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 out of 10 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

5 of the 6 children with an adoption plan were placed in pre-adoptive homes and the pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 2 cases and a single female for each of the other 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative for all 5 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) 12 to 15 months
- 2 case(s) 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in all cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the children in all 5 cases and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoption services were needed in 4 cases. 3 cases required medical and 1 case required educational.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	10
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

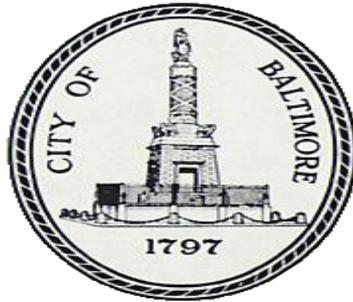
The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- No Service Agreement with Parents
- No Current IEP
- Other Educational Barrier
- Other Independence Barrier
- Board Does not Agree with Permanency Plan
- Annual Physicals not current
- Dentals not current
- Vision 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 10 children reviewed.

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 112 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 30 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 20 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 8 cases
- APPLA: 48 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 90 out of 112 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan of Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship for 1 Reunification case.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent plan set by the court.

Reason for APPLA (48 cases)

- Parents whereabouts unknown
- Parents unable or unwilling to work towards reunification
- Parents unable to meet child's needs
- LDSS did not identify a suitable relative
- Lack of family resources
- Child did not consent to Adoption
- Medically/mentally fragile
- Placed in long term resource and does not want Adoption

Category of APPLA plan (48 cases)

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

- Emancipation/Independence (45)
- Long-Term Out of Home Care with a Non-Relative (1)
- Placement in Long-Term Care Facility until Transition to an Adult Facility (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

38 of the 48 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 36 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1	1		10	6	22
7 to 11 months	5		1	2	1	2
1 to 2 years	12		3	1	1	8
2 to 3 years	7		1	2		7
3 years or more	5			5		9

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 103 of the cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Formal Kinship Care
4	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
16	Regular Foster Care
7	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
1	Treatment Foster Care
47	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Alternative Living Units
4	Residential Group Home
1	Teen Mother Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
13	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Non-Relative
4	Own Dwelling
4	Other
3	None

Placement Stability

In 76 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 57 of the cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 29 cases with at least 2 placement changes, 7 cases with at least 3 placement changes, 8 cases with 4 or more changes and 11 cases with no changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 109 out of the 112 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

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

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to 111 of the children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 38 cases, and to the birth family in 36 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 22 out of the 112 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 75 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 54 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 55 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 40 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 88 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 57 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 38 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 14 children had a substance abuse problems.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for 6 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 50 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for 41 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 10 children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 66 children and mental health needs of 68 children were being met. 14 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

74 out of 112 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 14 youths had already graduated high school, 10 refused to attend school, and 14 were under age 5.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 73 cases)

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

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

The local board agreed that 47 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 17 youths transitioning out of care.

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

15 out of 112 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	3
Yes, with conditions	4
Child did not want to be Adopted	67
No, Medically Fragile	
No, Mental Health Issue	2
N/A under age of consent	22
No, Reunification	8
No, Relative Placement	5
Unknown	1

Adoptive Placement (20 Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

14 out of the 20 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 6 cases, an unmarried couple for 2 cases, a single female for 5 cases, and a single male for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in all 14 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 8 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 8 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the children in all 14 cases and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 17 cases. The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	3
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	5
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	101
Less than once a month	1
Quarterly	2
Undocumented	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement
- Inappropriate Service Agreement
- Other Planning Barrier
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier
- Other Administrative Barrier
- Other Education Barrier
- Other Court Related Barrier
- Other Family Related Barrier
- Other Independence Barrier
- Other Mental Health Barrier
- Need For Siblings To Be Placed Together
- Child has Behavior Problems in the Home
- Child does Not Consent to Adoption
- Appeal By Birth Parents
- Child In Pre-Adoptive Home, But Adoption Not Finalized
- Disrupted Pre-Adoption Placement
- Unwilling to Adopt because of lack of Services or Financial Support
- Pre-Adoptive Resources not Identified
- 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 Receiving Adequate Services
- Youth Not Employed and Transitioning Out of Care
- Youth Needs More Restrictive Placement
- Youth Has Not Been Assessed for Mental Health Concerns
- Youth Refuses Mental Health Treatment Including Therapy
- Youth Engages in Risky Behavior
- Refusal to Locate or Maintain Employment
- No Current Safe-C/G
- Issues Related to Substance Abuse
- Issues Related to Insurance Company
- Transitional Housing has Not been Identified
- Missing or Lack of Documentation
- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan
- Lack of Concurrent Planning
- Poor Coordination with LDSS
- Lack of Training of LDSS Staff
- LDSS Not Searching for Pre-Adoptive Resources

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 106 out of the 112 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.

2nd Quarter 2017
CRBC Metrics

FY2017	
Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	501
Total # of Children - Not Received & Rescheduled:	172
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	329
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	291
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	38
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	88%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	12%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	291
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	251
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	86%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received	258
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received %	89%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time	66
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time %	26%
Number of Boards Held	45
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	254
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	98%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	4
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	2%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	0
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	32%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	1%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	4%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	21%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	5%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	37%

The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Doretha Henry

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

Vacant

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

Vacant

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

Susan Gross

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

Denise Joseph

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

Sheila Jessup, PhD

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sylvia Smith

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

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Eric Davis, MSW
Staff Assistant

Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

Vacant
Office Clerk II

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