

Citizens Review Board For Children



THIRD QUARTER
FISCAL 2016 REPORT
(January 1st, 2016 – March 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

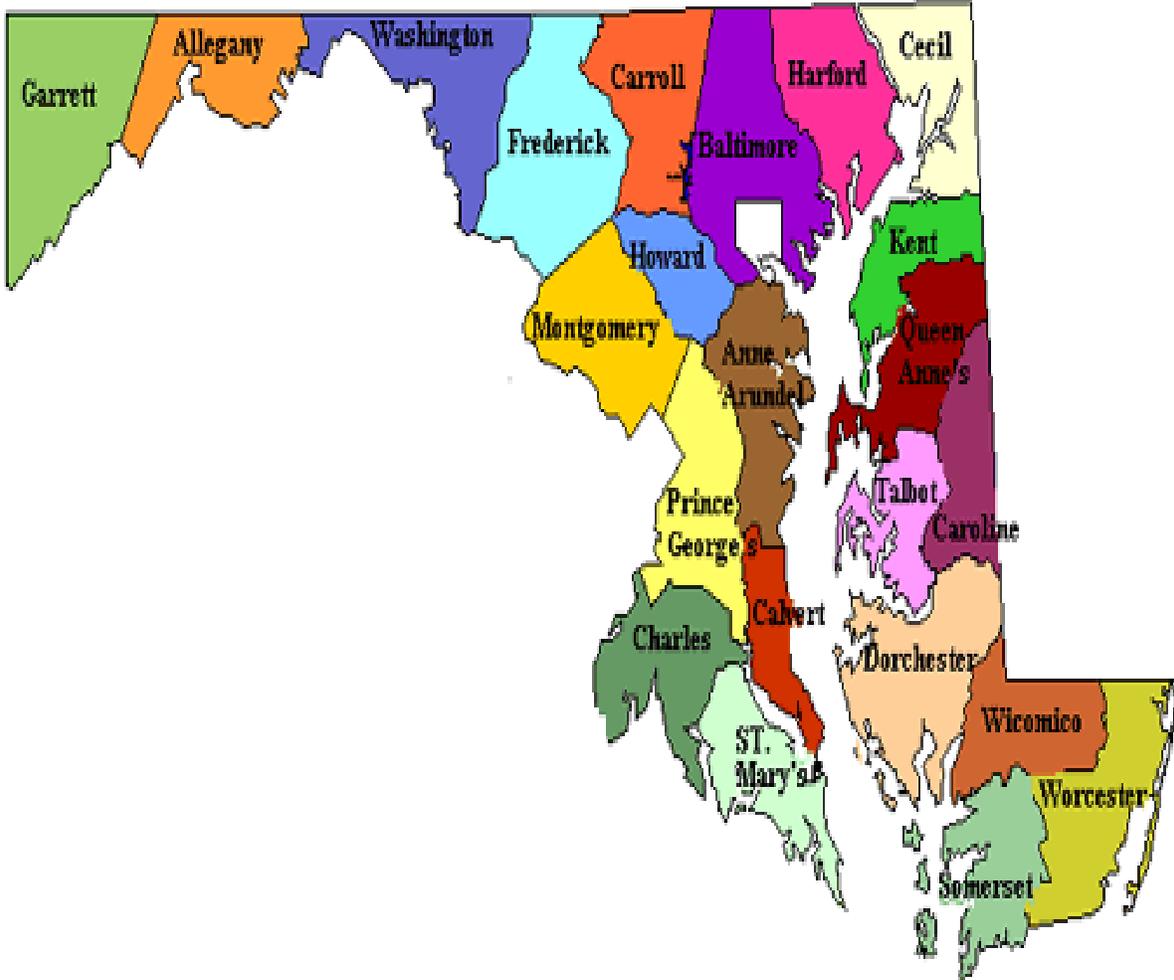
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ 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 Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) is proud to release its 3rd Quarter Fiscal 2016 Report. The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings, and recommendations.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Caroline, Carroll, Garrett, Howard, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 14 counties including 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).

3rd 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.

3rd Quarter 2016								
Jurn #	County	Adoption	Relative Placement	Custody Guardianship	Reunification	APPLA	TOTAL	Boards Held
01	Allegany	4	0	0	3	0	7	1
02	Anne Arundel	9	0	2	1	7	19	3
03	Baltimore County	3	0	2	26	27	58	8
04	Calvert	3	0	0	1	3	7	1
07	Cecil	2	0	0	4	2	8	1
08	Charles	0	0	0	1	6	7	1
09	Dorchester	1	0	1	4	0	6	1
10	Frederick	5	0	1	1	1	8	1
12	Harford	2	0	0	6	8	16	2
15	Montgomery	3	0	2	12	19	36	6
16	Prince Georges	4	0	0	11	17	32	5
18	Saint Mary's	0	0	0	4	2	6	1
21	Washington	0	0	0	2	5	7	1
49	Baltimore City	25	0	8	36	64	133	23
14	Statewide Totals	61	0	16	112	161	350	55
	Percentages	17%	0%	5%	32%	46%	100%	

CRBC conducted a total of 350 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 14 Jurisdictions on 55 boards that held reviews. However, 9 board reviews were not held due to adverse weather conditions in the following jurisdictions: Howard County 1, Frederick County 1, Montgomery County 2, Prince Georges County 1 and Baltimore City 4.

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 Items

Total Reviewed (350)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
179 (51%)	171 (49%)

Gender By Plan

Male(179):

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Guardianship	APPLA
62 (35%)	0 (0%)	29 (16%)	9 (5%)	79 (44%)

Female(171):

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Guardianship	APPLA
50 (29%)	0 (0%)	32 (19%)	7 (4%)	82(48%)

Ethnicity Overall (350)

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
236 (67%)	100 (29%)	2 (1%)	12 (3%)

Allegany County



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

- Adoption: 4 cases
- Reunification: 3 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plan identified for any of the 7 cases reviewed.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	3				
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years			4		
2 to 3 years					
3 years or more					

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Pre-Finalized Adoption
3	Treatment Foster Care

Placement Stability

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

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 the children in all 7 cases reviewed, and to the birth family in only 3 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that there were no developmental or special needs for any of the 7 children reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 7 of the children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 of the children had received a comprehensive health assessment.

- Prescription Medication: 1 child was on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child was on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the children had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- 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.

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

Education

6 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 educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older)

None of the children were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience due to age.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older)

Not applicable because all of the children were under 14 years of age.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the children because none were 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 7 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Child did not want to be Adopted	2
N/A under age of consent	4
Unknown	0
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	0
Yes, with conditions	0

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 4 children were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure in the 4 cases comprised of a married couple in each case.

The pre-adoptive resource in all 4 cases was a former foster parent.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 2 cases were from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case was from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case was from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 3 out of the 4 cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 4 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 4 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	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

There were 3 cases that had court related barriers.

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.

Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 19 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 9 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 15 out of the 19 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan in 3 of the cases reviewed

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

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (7) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 4 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 1 case : Long term out-of-home care with a non-relative
- 2 cases: Placement in long-term care facility until transition to an adult facility.

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

All 7 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 6 out of the 7 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			3	1	1
7 to 11 months	1		5		
1 to 2 years			1	1	5
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 5 out of the 19 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Formal Kinship Care
6	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
6	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Independent Living Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative

Placement Stability

In 11 of the 19 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 10 of the 19 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 8 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 all 19 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 19 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 8 cases and to the birth family in 12 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 10 out of 19 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 out of 19 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 15 out of 19 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 13 out of 19 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 out of 19 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 1 child had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 out of 19 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was been addressed for 1 out of the 2 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 out of 19 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 14 out of the 19 children were being met.

Education

16 out of 19 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 – 11 cases)

6 out of the 11 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 3 out of the 6 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 6 out of the 11 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths because none were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

12 out of the 19 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 19 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Child did not want to be Adopted	9
N/A under age of consent	2

Unknown	7
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	0
Yes, with conditions	0

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

8 out of the 9 adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure in 5 cases comprised of a married couple for each case and an unmarried couple for each of the 3 other cases.

The pre-adoptive resource was a relative/kin in 4 cases and a non-relative/foster parent in the other 4 cases.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 3 cases were from 7 to 9 months
- 4 cases were from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case was from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 3 out of the 8 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in 5 out of the 8 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for 5 out of the 8 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 5 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 5 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	3
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	2
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	14

Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- Poor Inter-County/Inter-State Coordination
- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not Identified
- Lack Of Available Post-Adoption Services in Area
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Child Has Behavior Problems In The Home
- Appeal By Birth Parents
- Disrupted Pre-Adoption Placement
- Youth Non-Compliant With Medication

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 18 out of 19 children reviewed.



Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 58 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 3 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Reunification: 26 cases
- APPLA: 27 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 58 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 10 out of the 58 cases reviewed.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for 7 out of the 10 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (27) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 25 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 2 cases: Placement in long-term care facility until transition to an adult facility.

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

15 out of the 27 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 15 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				1	3
7 to 11 months	3				3
1 to 2 years	14			1	3
2 to 3 years	9		3		18
3 years or more					

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 58 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Restricted Relative Foster Care
18	Treatment Foster Care
7	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
6	Therapeutic Group Home
4	Residential Independent Living Program
6	Residential Treatment Center
2	Own Dwelling
11	Other

Placement Stability

In 43 out of 58 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 32 out of 58 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 26 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in all 58 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 56 out of 58 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 25 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 12 out of 58 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 52 out of 58 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 58 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 25 out of 58 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 25 out of 58 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 2 children had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 4 out of 58 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was been addressed for 1 out of the 4 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 out of the 58 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 51 out of the 58 children were being met.

Education

49 out of the 58 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 – 42 cases)

8 out of the 42 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that all 8 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 42 cases)

The local board agreed that there were 34 out of the 42 youths receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 5 youths that were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

19 out of the 58 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 58 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Child did not want to be Adopted	44
N/A under age of consent	5

Unknown	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	7
Yes, with conditions	0

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

None of the 3 adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home.
 The pre-adoptive family structure was not applicable.
 The pre-adoptive resource was not applicable.
 The length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was not applicable.
 A home study was not applicable.
 Appropriate services and supports for the pre-adoptive family were not applicable.

Documented efforts to find an adoptive resource was made in 2 out of the 3 adoptive cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – Not Applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice	
Less than twice a month, but at least once	56
Less than once a month	1
Quarterly	1

Barriers to Permanency

Pre-Adoptive placement resources were not identified in all 3 cases.

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 57 out of 58 children reviewed.

Calvert County



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

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plan identified for any of the 7 cases reviewed.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (3) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 3 cases: Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years					
2 to 3 years	1		3		3

3 years or more					
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Case Planning

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

Placement

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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 the children in all 7 cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 3 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 child had a developmental or special need.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 7 of the children reviewed had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 of the children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 out of 7 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 out of 7 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- 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.

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

Education

5 out of 7 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 – 4 cases)

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

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 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)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths because none were 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 7 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	2
Child did not want to be Adopted	4
N/A under age of consent	1
Unknown	0
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	0
Yes, with conditions	0

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 3 adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in the 3 cases comprised of 1 married couple for 1 case, and 1 single female each for the other 2 cases. The pre-adoptive resource was a foster parent in all 3 cases.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 3 cases were from 16 to 20 months

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs 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	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers to permanency found.

Summary

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

Cecil County



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

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plan identified for any of the 8 cases reviewed.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (2) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 1 case: Emancipation/Independence
- 1 case: Placement in a long term care facility until transition to an adult facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 children)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1				
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years	2				

2 to 3 years	1		2		2
3 years or more					

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Treatment Foster Care
3	Residential Group Home
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

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

In 5 of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and no placement changes for 3 of the children reviewed.

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

Appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 8 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 1 case and to the birth family in 7 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of 8 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 out of 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 7 out of 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 out of 8 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 out of 8 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 4 out of 8 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- 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.

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

Education

7 out of the 8 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 – 6 cases)

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 4 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 8 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

None of the 2 adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure was not applicable.

The pre-adoptive resource was not applicable.

The length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was not applicable.
 A home study was not applicable.
 Appropriate services and supports for the pre-adoptive family were not applicable.

Documented efforts to find an adoptive resource was made in both adoptive cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in both 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	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	1
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- No service agreement with parents
- Missing or lack of documentation

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.

Charles County



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plan identified for any of the 7 cases reviewed.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (6) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 5 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 1 case: Placement in a long term care facility until transition to an adult facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					1
1 to 2 years	1				1
2 to 3 years					4

3 years or more					
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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
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Other

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 7 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 of the 7 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 3 cases with 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 the children in all 7 cases reviewed, were not being offered in 3 cases to the foster/kin family, and not being offered to the birth family in all 7 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of 7 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 out of 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: 2 out of 7 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 out of 7 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 1 out of 7 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 out of 7 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.

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

Education

5 out of the 7 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 being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

4 out of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths because none were 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 7 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	

Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

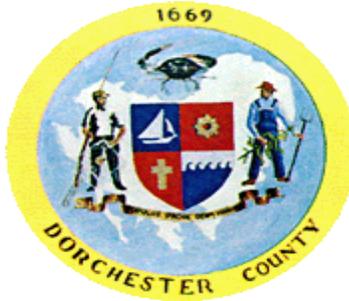
There were no barriers to permanency found.

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.



Dorchester County



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

- Adoption: 1 case
- Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Reunification: 4 case

Permanency

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

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years	2		1	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 6 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)

1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 3 out of the 6 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In all 6 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 6 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 6 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 3 cases and to the birth family in 5 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 3 out of the 6 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: All 6 children were on prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: All 6 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 1 child had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- 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.

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

Education

All 6 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 – 4 cases)

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

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

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

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for all 4 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)



5 out of the 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 6 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

The 1 adoptive child was placed in a pre-adoptive home.
The pre-adoptive family structure in the 1 case comprised of a single parent.
The pre-adoptive resource in the 1 case was a non-relative or foster parent.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case was from 21 months or longer

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

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in the 1 case.

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	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	6
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- Child In Pre-Adoptive Home, But Adoption Not Finalized

Summary

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

Frederick County



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

- Adoption: 5 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 out of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had concurrent permanency plans identified for 2 out of the 8 cases reviewed. 1 plan was for adoption and the other reunification.

The local department was implementing the concurrent reunification plan set by the court and pursuing a relative placement instead of adoption for the other.

Category of APPLA plan

The 1 case with a plan of APPLA (1) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 1 case: Placement in a long term care facility until transition to an adult facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1		2	1	

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 6 out of the 8 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Relative Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home

Placement Stability

In 6 of the 8 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 6 of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 2 cases with 2 placement 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, were being offered in 1 case to the foster/kin family, and in 2 cases to the birth family.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 out of 8 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 out of 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: 5 out of 8 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 out of 8 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 1 out of 8 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 out of 8 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 6 out of 8 children were being met.

Education

7 out of the 8 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 – 3 cases)

1 out of the 3 youths was 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 1 out of the 3 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 with the housing and found that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 out of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 8 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources



4 out of the 5 adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in the 4 cases comprised of 1 married couple for 1 case and 3 single females each for the other 3 children. The pre-adoptive resource was 1 case with a relative/kin, and 3 cases with a non-relative or foster parent.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case was from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case was from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case was from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case was from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved in 2 out of the 4 cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 4 cases. The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 4 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

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

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- Pre-Adoptive Resources not identified
- TPR not granted



- Appeal by birth parents

Summary

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

Harford County



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

- Adoption: 2 cases
- Reunification: 6 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plans identified for any of the 16 cases reviewed.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (8) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 8 cases: Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)

6 of the 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 6 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years	5		2		4
2 to 3 years	1				4
3 years or more					

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 12 out of 16 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Regular Foster Care
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Own Dwelling
3	Other

Placement Stability

In 8 of the 16 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 14 of the 16 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 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 the children in all 16 cases reviewed, were being offered to the foster/kin family in 7 cases, and to the birth family in 10 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of 16 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 10 out of 16 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 14 out of 16 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 11 out of 16 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 out of 16 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 6 out of 16 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 10 out of the 16 children were being met.

Education

8 out of the 16 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 - 10 cases)

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 4 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition 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 16 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	
Child did not want to be Adopted	11
N/A under age of consent	4
Unknown	
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	1
Yes, with conditions	

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home.
The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for each case.

The pre-adoptive resource was with a non-relative or foster parent in both cases.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- both cases were from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 1 case.

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	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	16
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- Other Coordination Barrier
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- Missing Or Lack Of Documentation

Summary

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

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 36 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 3 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Reunification: 12 cases
- APPLA: 19 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 29 out of 36 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plans identified for any of the 36 cases reviewed.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (19) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 15 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 2 cases: Long term out of home care with a relative
- 2 cases: Placement in long term care facility until transition to adult facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 19 cases)

All 19 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	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	2		1	2	3
7 to 11 months	2				2
1 to 2 years	4		2		5

2 to 3 years	4				9
3 years or more					

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 32 out of the 36 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
6	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
9	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
8	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Independent Living Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative
2	Own Dwelling
3	Other

Placement Stability

In 22 of the 36 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 28 of the 36 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 6 cases with 2 placement changes and 1 case with 3 changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 34 of the 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 36 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 10 cases, and to the birth family in 30 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 17 out of 36 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 20 out of 36 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 36 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 21 out of 36 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 19 out of 36 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the 36 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 6 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: 2 of the 6 children with a substance abuse problem were having it addressed.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 22 out of 36 children were being met.

Education

31 out of the 36 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 – 30 cases)

10 out of the 30 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 10 youth were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 30 cases)

The local board agreed that 13 out of the 30 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 3 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

19 out of 36 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 36 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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



Yes, with conditions	
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Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 out of the 3 adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in the 2 cases comprised of a married couple in 1 case and a single male in the other. The pre-adoptive resource was with a non-relative/foster parent in both cases.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case was from 4 to 6 months
- 1 case was from 12 to 15 months

A home study was not completed and approved in both cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in both 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	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	4
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	31
Less than once a month	1
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.



- Court-Ordered Permanency Plan
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier
- Postponement Or Continuation Of Hearings
- Other Court Related Barrier
- Other Family Related Barrier
- Youth Refuses Mental Health Treatment Including Therapy
- Youth Engages In Risky Behavior

Summary

Based on the findings of the review, the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 35 out of 36 children reviewed.

Prince George's County



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

- Adoption: 4 cases
- Reunification: 11 cases
- APPLA: 17 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had concurrent permanency plans identified for 3 of the cases reviewed. The identified plans were all adoption for all 3 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court in all 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (17) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 17 cases: Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 17 cases)

11 of the 17 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 11 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			4		6
7 to 11 months	2				

1 to 2 years	4				5
2 to 3 years	5				6
3 years or more					

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
17	Treatment Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
1	Own Dwelling
4	Other

Placement Stability

In 27 of the 32 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 10 of the 32 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 20 cases with 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 31 of the 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 29 of the 32 of the cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 6 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of 32 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 22 out of 32 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 32 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 13 out of 32 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 13 out of 32 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the 32 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse was being addressed for only 1 of the 2 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 26 out of the 32 children were being met.

Education

22 out of the 32 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 – 28 cases)

8 out of the 28 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 8 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 28 cases)

The local board agreed that 22 out of the 28 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths, because none were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 out of 32 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 32 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	1
Child did not want to be Adopted	28
N/A under age of consent	3
Unknown	
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 out of the 4 adoptive children was placed in a pre-adoptive home.
The pre-adoptive family structure in the 1 case comprised of a married couple.
The pre-adoptive resource was with a former foster parent in the 1 case.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case was from 16 to 20 months

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

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 4 adoptive cases.
The post-adoptive services that were needed were 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	32
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- TPR Not Granted

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 27 out of 32 children reviewed.

Saint Mary's County



Saint Mary's County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 4 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had concurrent permanency plans identified for 1 case. The identified plan was custody/guardianship.

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

Category of APPLA plan

The local board found that the cases with a plan of APPLA (2) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 2 cases: Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					1

7 to 11 months	1				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 6 cases reviewed.

Placement

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

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 6 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 5 of the 6 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 1 case with 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan in all 6 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 6 cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 5 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of 6 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 out of 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 5 out of 6 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 out of 6 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 out of 6 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the 6 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- 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.

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

Education

5 out of the 6 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 – 2 cases)

None of the children were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work

experience.

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths because none were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 6 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

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	6
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers to permanency found.

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 6 children reviewed.



Washington County



Washington 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 had concurrent permanency plans identified for 2 of the 7 cases. The identified plan for both cases was custody/guardianship.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court in both cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (5) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 5 cases: Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

3 of the 5 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	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					1
7 to 11 months					1
1 to 2 years					1

2 to 3 years	2				2
3 years or more					

Case Planning

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
2	Other

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 7 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 of the 7 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 3 cases with 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 the children in all 7 cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 3 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of 7 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 out of 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: 2 out of 7 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 out of 7 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the 7 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- 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.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 6 out of the 7 children were being met.

Education

4 out of the 7 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 – 6 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 – 6 cases)

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths, because none were 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 7 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	

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

Barriers to Permanency

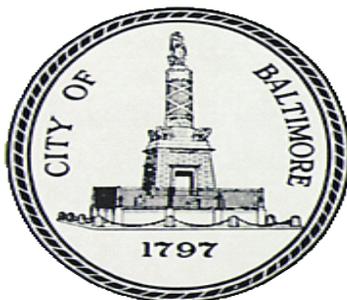
There were no barriers to permanency found.

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.



Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 133 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 25 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 8 cases
- Reunification: 36 cases
- APPLA: 64 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 110 out of 133 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had concurrent permanency plans identified for 11 of the cases reviewed. The identified plans were; 8 cases for relative placement and 3 cases for custody/guardianship.

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

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (64) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 63 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 1 case: Long term out of home care with a relative

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 64 cases)

46 of the 64 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 46 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			11		15
7 to 11 months			5	5	8
1 to 2 years	20		8	2	15
2 to 3 years	13		1	1	25
3 years or more	3				1

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 112 of the 133 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Formal Kinship Care
6	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
11	Regular Foster Care
14	Relative Foster Care (Restricted)
4	Treatment Foster Care
39	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
2	Teen Mother Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
17	Independent Living Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
5	Relative
1	Non Relative
8	Own Dwelling
11	Other

Placement Stability

In 91 of the 133 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 82 of the 133 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 23 cases with 2 placement changes, 4 cases with 3 placement changes and 4 cases with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 120 out of 133 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 129 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 49 cases, and to the birth family in 54 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 29 out of 133 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 49 out of 133 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 119 out of 133 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 42 out of 133 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 29 out of 133 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 9 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 16 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: 5 of the 16 children with a substance abuse problem were having it addressed.

- Behavioral Issues: 7 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 62 out of 133 children were being met.

Education

92 out of 133 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 – 88 cases)

30 out of the 88 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 30 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 88 cases)

The local board agreed that 65 out of the 88 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 39 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 39 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 out of the 133 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were 19 cases with indicators of risk. The risk indicators were child abuse and neglect. Safety plans were in place for 23 cases, and the local board agreed that safety protocols were followed in 112 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Child's Consent to Adoption	Cases
Yes	6
Child did not want to be Adopted	83
N/A under age of consent	27
Unknown	15
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	2
Yes, with conditions	

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 25 of the 25 adoptive children were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure in the 25 cases comprised of the following; 6 cases each with a married couple, 3 cases each with an unmarried couple and 16 cases each with a single female.

The pre-adoptive resources were; 7 cases with a former foster parent, 5 cases with a relative/kin and 13 cases with a non-relative.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case was from 4 to 6 months
- 3 cases were from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case was from 10 to 12 months
- 5 cases were from 12 to 15 months
- 2 cases were from 16 to 20 months
- 13 cases were 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 16 out of the 25 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in all 25 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 25 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 20 cases.
The post-adoptive service that was needed in all 20 cases was medical.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	10
More than once a week	1
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	8
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	102
Less than once a month	10
Quarterly	2

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Child.
- Inadequate Casework Services.
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence.
- Poor Coordination Within LDSS.
- Other Coordination Barrier.
- Other Service Resource Barrier.
- Lack Of Housing.
- Lack Of Employment.
- Lack Of Transportation.
- Lack Of Concurrent Planning.
- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Youth.
- Youth Placed Outside Of Home Jurisdiction.
- Missing Or Lack Of Documentation.
- Child Has Behavior Problems In The Home.
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement.
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier.
- TPR Not Granted.
- Appeal By Birth Parents.
- Child In Pre-Adoptive Home, But Adoption Not Finalized.

- Home Study Not Approved.
- Youth Not Receiving Adequate Services.
- Other Physical Health Barrier.
- Transitional Housing Has Not Been Identified.
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General).
- Other Independence Barrier.
- Other Placement Barrier.
- Youth's Psychotropic Medications Should Be Adjusted.
- Youth Non-Compliant With Medication.
- Other Mental Health Barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review, the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 113 out of 133 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.

CRBC Metrics

FY2016	
Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	553
Total # of Children - Not Received & Rescheduled:	154
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	399
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	350
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	49
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	88%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	12%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	350
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	294
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	84%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received	331
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received %	95%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time	89
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time %	27%
Number of Boards Held	55
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	319
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	96%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	6
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	2%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	6
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	2%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	17%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT Children Reviewed for the Period:	0%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	5%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	32%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	46%

The State Board

Doretha Henry

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

Vacant

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

Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

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



CRBC Staff

Denise E. Wheeler
Administrator

Crystal Young, MSW
Assistant Administrator

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

Jerome Findlay
Information Technology Officer

Marlo Palmer-Dixon
Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Sandy Colea
Volunteer Activities Coordinator

Fran Barrow
Staff Assistant

Michele Foster, MSW
Staff Assistant

Eric Davis, MSW
Staff Assistant

Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

Vacant
Office Clerk II



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