



THIRD QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2024 REPORT (January 1st 2024 – March 29th 2024)

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Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Discrimination Statement

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

Confidentiality

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

CRBC Acknowledgements

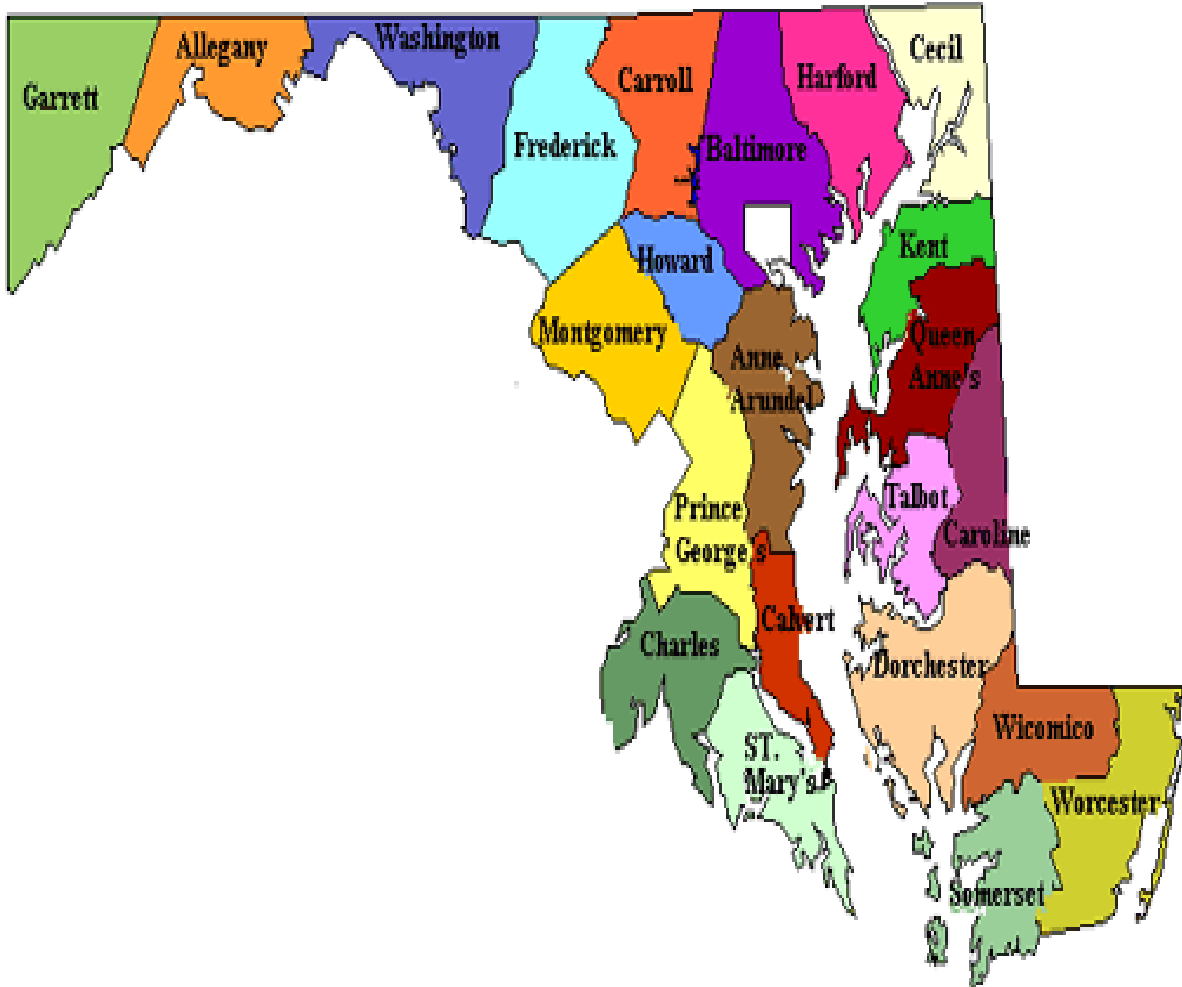
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

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

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024.



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: Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Garrett, Somerset, Talbot and Wicomico counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 16 jurisdictions 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 2024 Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Non Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non Relative C & G	Reunification	Relative Placement for Adoption	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
01	Allegany	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	1
02	Anne Arundel	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	1
03	Baltimore County	7	0	1	10	3	10	31	8
07	Cecil	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	1
09	Dorchester	2	0	0	1	0	1	4	1
10	Frederick	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	1
12	Harford	0	0	0	4	1	3	8	2
13	Howard	0	2	0	0	0	2	4	1
14	Kent	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
15	Montgomery	1	0	1	5	0	7	14	4
16	Prince George's	1	1	2	9	0	8	21	5
17	Queen Anne	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1
18	St. Mary	2	0	0	1	0	1	4	1
21	Washington	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	1
23	Worcester	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	1
49	Baltimore City	5	3	3	29	3	26	69	18
15	Statewide Totals	24	6	7	67	10	68	182	48
	Percentages	13%	3%	4%	37%	5%	37%	100%	

CRBC conducted a total of 182 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 16 Jurisdictions on 48 boards that held reviews during the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2024.

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

- Permanency Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (E))
- Placement Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (I))
- Progress towards Permanent Placement - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F))
- Case Planning
- Health/Mental Health (family article 5-545)
- Education (family article 5-545)
- Ready by 21
 - Employment (14 and older)
 - Independent Living Skills (14 and older)

- Housing
(Transitioning Youth age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the time of the review)
- Permanent Connections
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Adoptive Services
 - Pre-Adoptive Placement
 - Adoptive Recruitment
 - Post-Adoption Services
- Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
- Miscellaneous Findings
- Typical Statewide Barriers/Issues to Permanency
 - No Service Agreement with parents
 - No current safety risk
 - Lack of concurrent planning
 - Lack of follow-up (general)
 - Youth placed outside home jurisdiction
 - Youth has not been measured for mental health
 - Other physical health barrier
 - Other service resource barrier
 - Other placement barrier
 - Non-compliance with service agreement
 - Youth engages in risky behavior
 - Health concerns
 - Lack of documentation
- Typical Statewide Barriers /Issues to Adoption
 - Pre-adoptive resources not identified
 - Child in pre-adoptive home, but adoption not finalized
 - Efforts not made to move towards finalization
 - Other court related barrier

Total Reviewed (182)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
75 (41%)	107 (59%)

Gender by Plan

Male (75)

Non Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non Relative C & G	Reunification	APPLA	Relative Placement for Adoption
8 (11%)	2 (3%)	5 (6%)	32 (43%)	25 (33%)	3 (4%)

Female (107)

Non Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non Relative C & G	Reunification	APPLA	Relative Placement for Adoption
16 (15%)	4 (4%)	2 (2%)	35 (33%)	43 (40%)	7 (6%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
120 (66%)	46 (25%)	2 (1%)	14 (8%)

Age Range by Permanency Plan

[RU] = Reunification

[RA] = Relative Adoption

[RG] = Relative C & G

[AD] = Non-Relative Adoption

[CG] = Non-Relative C & G

[AP] = AAPLA

AGE RANGE	RU	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	3	7	2	11	2	0	25
2_age 6 thru 10	13	3	2	4	1	0	23
3_age 11 thru 13	19	0	1	3	1	0	24
4_age 14 thru 16	23	0	1	4	3	1	32
5_age 17 thru 19	8	0	0	2	0	39	49
6_age 20	1	0	0	0	0	28	29
Totals	67	10	6	24	7	68	182

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County



Allegany County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified 1 concurrent permanency plan.

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for both cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for both signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative

In 1 of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change and 2 cases had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 3 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 3 most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal
- 2 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) unrelated to behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) other

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- No, for 3 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 of the 4 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.

- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes for the 2 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 children/youths were not met.

Education

3 of 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

2 of 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and both had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child's/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 3 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

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

2 youths were receiving required Independent Living skills.

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

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth consented to adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

1 child/youth with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a relative foster parent(s) for the 1 case.

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

- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed for the 1 case and the family was given a social summary for the case.

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed for 1 child/youth. The service that was needed was medical.

The Board found the Post-Adoptive services appropriate for the 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	2
No	2	2

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		1
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	1	1

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	2
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	2
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the children/youths had siblings in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 4 children/youths reviewed.



Anne Arundel County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 4 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court did not identify concurrent plan for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for none of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were not appropriate for the 4 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Regular Foster Care
2	Therapeutic Group Home

In 2 of 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan for the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 4 cases reviewed there were no placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 4 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.

- Refused Prescribed Medication: It is unknown if any child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 children/youths with mental health issues that had mental health issues were transitioning out of care had an identified plan.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of all 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

2 of 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 2 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child's/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience.

1 youth that was participating in paid or unpaid work experience not relevant to career field of choice.

1 youth was referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

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

2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

1 youth completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – none)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable.

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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases reviewed.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	
No		4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	3	
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	
Unsupervised		

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	3	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center	4	
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	4



Siblings/Visits

4 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together for 4 children/youths that did not reside with each other. 4 children/youths have visits with siblings who do not reside with each other.

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 4 children/youths reviewed.



Baltimore County had a total of 31 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 7 case(s)
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 3 case(s)
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case(s)
- Reunification: 10 case(s)
- APPLA: 10 case(s)

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 31 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 9 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for all 9 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (10 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)
- Transition to an adult (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 10 cases)

9 of the 10 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 9 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	3	1			1	3
7 to 11 months	3	1		6		3
1 to 2 years		1		1		2
2 to 3 years	2					1
3 years or more	2					1
Totals →31	10	3		7	1	10

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 31 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 8 cases. 10 children/youths were Post TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 9 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 9 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	None
3	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care
12	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
4	Therapeutic Group Home
4	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Psychiatric Respite

In 16 of the 31 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 30 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

8 of the 31 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

7 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 8 cases.

The following levels of care were found in 8 most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were in a less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was more restrictive
- 5 case(s) were same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 4 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason
- 1 case(s) placement with relatives

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 6 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) related to behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) runaway

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 1 case

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 8 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 10 of the 31 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 24 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 16 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 18 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 6 eligible children/youths reviewed.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 12 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 15 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 15 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 9 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 9 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 16 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children/youths reviewed with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: Yes, for 3 children/youths.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: Yes, for 9 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 31 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 12 of the 31 children/youths had been met.

Education

25 of 31 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 23 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 2 youths were enrolled in GED program.

16 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 8 had a copy

of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 7 of the 23 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 24 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

6 of 15 children/youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

All 6 children/youths employed were participating in work experience relevant to career field of choice.

2 children/youths did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to being medically fragile and 1 child/youth for mental health reasons.

2 children/youths were over 20 years old and earning a living wage.

The local board agreed that 6 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

10 of 15 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

5 youths completed a Life Skill Assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

2 children/youths did not complete a life skills assessment due to being medically fragile and 1 child/youth for mental health reasons.

10 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 10 of 15 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

Housing was specified for 2 youths transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options were provided to 2 youths transitioning out of care.

The Board agreed with transitional housing plan for the 2 youths.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 2 children/youths consented to adoption. 9 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (12 cases)

12 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a relative foster parent(s) for 2 cases. In 10 cases the pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female and the relationship to pre-adoptive child was non-relative foster parent.

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

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 2 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 9 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed for 2 of 12 cases.

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 12 children/youths.

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource effort for 1 child/youth was Wendy's Wonderful Kids.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (13 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 13 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for all 13 cases. The additional case that required post adoptive services was not in pre adoptive home.

The local board found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the 12 of 13 children/youths.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 29 of 31 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	9	8
No	22	23

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		1
Once a week	2	
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	
More than once a month	3	3
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	3	4

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	1
Unsupervised	6	8

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	1	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		3
Other	3	

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	6	7
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	1	2
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other	2	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	5
No	6	3

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 13 of the 31 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 13 children/youths. 6 children/youths have visits with siblings who do not reside with each other. All 13 children/youths have visits with siblings who are not in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 30 of the 31 children/youths reviewed.



Cecil County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- APPLA: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified no concurrent permanency plan for any case.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence: 1 case
- Transition to an adult: 1 case

Permanent Connections APPLA (2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. 2 cases were Post TPR child under the age of 14. No efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 2 cases.

The local board did not agree that the service agreements were appropriate for the 2 cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Residential Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

3 of 4 children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 1 of 3 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 3 placement changes.

It is unknown if the local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 1 case.

The following levels of care were found for the 1 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

Child specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for the 1 case

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department did not ensure that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for the 2 children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 1 child/youth.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 children/youths with mental health issues that were transitioning out of care had no identified plan.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Standard Health Exams: 1 of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of the 3 of 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

None of the children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

2 children/youths graduated high school.

2 children/youths were underage of 5.

The local board did not agree that 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

1 youth was referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 of 2 youths were adequately prepared for independent living when they leave home care.

1 of 2 youths completed life skill assessment for transition to adulthood.

1 youth received required independent living skills.

The local Board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate independent living skills.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

Alternative housing options were provided to both youths.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 2 youths.

The local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 2 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

2 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for the 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a relative foster parent for 2 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) 21 months or more

An adoptive home study was completed and approved for the 2 cases.

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 2 children/youths.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 2 children/youths. The services needed for the 2 children/youths were medical.

Post-adoptive subsidies were needed for 2 children/youths. It is unknown if the subsidies were approved for the 2 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 2 children/youths.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

2 children/youths had siblings in care. Both children/youths had 1 sibling in care. It is unknown if efforts were made to place the siblings together if they do not reside with each other in both 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 all 4 of the children/youths reviewed.



Dorchester County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 3 of 4 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence: (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 3 of 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 3 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Treatment Center

In 1 of the 4 cases reviewed the child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

It is unknown if a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 2 cases.

The following level of care was found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

- 2 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements:

- Yes, for the 2 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for all 2 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 3 children/youths.

- Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child/youth with mental health issues that was transitioning out of care had no identified plan.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

3 of 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were in Pre-k through 12 grade. 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

All 3 children/youths had a 504 or IEP plan and a copy was found in 2 children/youths record.

2 children/youths had a current progress report card available for review.

The local board agreed the educational goals were met for 1 child/youth.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

1 youth did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth did not participate due

to other reasons.

1 youth that was employed was earning a living wage.

The local board agreed that 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

None of the youths had completed a life skills assessment.

1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that none of the youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing was not specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options were provided to the 1 youth.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 1 youth.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 2 children/youths consented to adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 2 children/youths not placed in pre-adoptive home. The 2 children/youths were listed on Adopt Us Kids.

The local board agreed the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for the 2 children/youths.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post-adoptive services were not needed for the 2 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 2 children/youths.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Yes, all 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	3	4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly	1	
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative	1	
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

None of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 4 children/youths reviewed.



Frederick County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court did not identify concurrent permanency plan for any case.

The local department was not implementing any concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for any case.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 case. 2 children/youths were a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 1 case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program

2 of 4 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

None of the 4 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that all 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for all 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

1 child/youth reviewed was enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The 1 child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 youths graduated high school and 1 child/youth was under age 5.

1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade did not have a 504 or IEP plan or had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth enrolled in school, or another educational/vocational program was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. Both youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant career field of choice.

Both youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

1 of 2 youths was 20 years old and was earning a living wage and 1 youth was under age 20.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

2 youths received appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

2 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case) (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

Alternative housing options were provided to the 1 youth.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 1 youth.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 2 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

2 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for the 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for 2 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) 21 months or more

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 2 children/youths.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for 2 children/youths. The service needed was medical, mental health and education for all cases.

Post-adoptive subsidies were needed for 2 children/youths. The subsidy was approved for both children/youths.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 2 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	1
No	1	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week	1	1
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly	2	
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	1	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent	2	
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No	2	2

Siblings/Visits

2 of the children/youths had siblings in care. Both children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place both siblings together in the 2 cases. 2 children/youths have visits with siblings who do not reside with them. 1 child/youth have visits with siblings who are not in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 4 children/youths reviewed.



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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case

Permanency

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

The local Juvenile Court did not identify any concurrent plan.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for any case.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 4 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 5 cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 5 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 5 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	None
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

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

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

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 3 changes.

It is unknown if the local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 4 most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) was unknown

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal
- 2 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 4 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) related to child behavior
- 1 case(s) other

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for all 4 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for all 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 4 children/youths.

- Refused Prescribed Medication: 2 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 6 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had did not had any identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 of the children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school. 1 child/youth refused to attend school and 1 child/youth was under age 5.

2 of the 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan. 2 children/youths did not have a copy of the 504/IEP plan in their record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 4 of 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 2 of the 5 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

2 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience. Both youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

1 youth was referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities. 1 youth was not eligible to be referred to summer school due to age.

1 youth is 20 years old employed and earning a living wage.

The local board agreed that 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

5 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

3 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

3 of 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.

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

Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

Housing was not specified for the 2 youths transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options were not provided to the 2 youths.

The local board did not agree with the transitional housing plan for the 2 youths.

The local board did not agree that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) 12 to 15 months

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 of 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 6 of 8 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	1
No	3	6

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month	2	1

More than once a month	3	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	5	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	3	1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	2	
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	3	1

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 1 child/youth had sibling in care. 1 child/youth had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were not made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 1 child/youth. 1 child/youth with sibling in care had no visits with their sibling who did not reside with them.

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 4 of 8 children/youths reviewed.



Howard County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify any concurrent permanency plan for 4 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreement for 2 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements was appropriate for the 2 of 4 cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Independent Living Residential Program

In 3 of 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

1 of 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 3 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement change for the 1 case.

The following level of care was found for the 1 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was less restrictive

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 1 case

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for the 4 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 children/youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Unknown, for 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Standard Health Exams: No child/youth refused to comply with standard health exam.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

2 of 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 child/youth was enrolled in college. 2 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were under the age of 5.

1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and a copy in child/youth record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for the 1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that both children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

1 youth was referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

2 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

2 youths completed a life skills assessment.

Both youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

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

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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	2	2

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	
More than once a week		
Once a month		1
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	4	3

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 2 children/youths. 2 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.



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 4 children/youths reviewed.



Kent County had a total of 2 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Reunification: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for both cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

- Not applicable.

Permanent Connections (None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for both cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 eligible case. 1 child/youth was a post-TPR child under the age of 14.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Diagnostic Center

In 1 of the 2 cases reviewed the child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan for both cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 1 of the 2 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement change for the 1 case.

The following level of care was found for the most recent placement change:

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement change included:

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placement:

- Yes, for 1 case

Current placement match between child’s needs and the provider’s ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: Both children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 1 child/youth had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Standard Health Exam: None of the 2 children/youths refused to comply with health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of both children/youths had been met.

Education

1 of 2 children/youths were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The 1 child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth not enrolled in school was under age 5.

1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and a copy of the 504/IEP plan was in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – None)

Not applicable.

➤ Independent Living Services (None)

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

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

The family was given a social summary for the 1 case.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. The child/youth was already placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed for the 1 child/youth.

The services needed for the 1 child/youth was medical and education.

The local board agreed the post adoptive services was appropriate for the 1 case.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for the 2 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	2

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	
More than once a month		

Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No		

Siblings/Visits

None of the 2 children/youths had siblings in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 2 children/youths reviewed.



Montgomery County had a total of 14 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Reunification: 5 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 9 of 14 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plans for 5 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (7 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (7)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	5			1		2
7 to 11 months						2
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more					1	2
Totals → 14	5			1	1	7

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 14 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 11 cases. 1 child/youth was a post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 13 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 11 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	None
4	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Own Dwelling

In 7 of the 14 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 14 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 14 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change, 2 cases had 2 changes, and 1 case had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 4 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 4 most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 3 case(s) placement not due to provider issue
- 1 case(s) provider request

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 4 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 4 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 14 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 10 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 14 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 14 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 9 of the 14

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children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 8 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 7 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 7 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 9 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 11 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 10 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 14 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 10 of the 14 children/youths had been met.

Education

11 of the 14 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 8 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 children/youths were enrolled in GED program and 1 youth was in college. 1 child/youth graduated high school and 1 child/youth refused to attend school. 1 child/youth was under the age of 5.

5 of the 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 5 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 9 of 11 children/youths.

The local board agreed that 13 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 10 cases)

7 of the 10 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

7 youths employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

6 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

7 youths received appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.

1 youth was unable to receive appropriate services due to being medically fragile and 1 youth did not receive services due to mental health reasons.

7 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

6 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases) (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

Alternative housing options were provided to the 3 youths.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 3 youths.

The local board agreed that 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 14 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	9	3
No	5	11

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	1
More than once a week		
Once a month	6	3
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	5	1
Unsupervised	4	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	5	1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Others/not specified		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		1
LDSS Visitation Center	5	1
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Others/not specified		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	13	14

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 7 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 7 children/youths. 7 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 4 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 11 of the 14 children/youths reviewed.



Prince George's County had a total of 21 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- Reunification: 9 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 21 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)

Permanent Connections (8 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					1	
7 to 11 months	5					3
1 to 2 years	2		1	1		2
2 to 3 years	2				1	1
3 years or more						2
Totals →21	9		1	1	2	8

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 21 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department have signed service agreements for 7 cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for all 7 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 7 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
5	None
2	Formal Kinship Care
2	Regular Foster Care
8	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Own Dwelling
1	Other

In 12 cases reviewed the child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 16 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 7 of the 21 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had 1 placement change, 2 cases had 2 changes, 3 cases had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 for more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 7 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 7 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was more restrictive placement
- 6 case(s) were the same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 7 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included

- 7 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 5 case(s) behavioral
- 1 case(s) other

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- No, for 6 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 6 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of 21 children/youths reviewed had developmental or specials needs.
- Current Physical: 18 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 16 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 17 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 6 children/youths requiring follow-ups.

- Completed Medical Records: 13 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for 8 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 5 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: 2 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 13 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 13 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 12 of 13 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 13 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 9 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 21 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board agreed that health needs of 13 of 21 children/youths were met.

Education

14 of the 21 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 11 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 3 children/youths were enrolled in college. 2 children/youths not enrolled in school graduated high school. 2 children/youths refused to attend school and 3 children/youths were under the age of 5.

6 of the 11 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available to review for the 7 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 14 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 12 cases)

4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

1 youth over 20 years of age were employed and earning a living wage.

The local board agreed that 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

10 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

8 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

10 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

Alternative housing options were provided to the 1 youth.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 1 youth.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

The 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a single female for the 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for the 1 case.

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

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was not completed or approved for the 1 case.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable. Child/youth already place in pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for 1 child/youth. The service needed was medical for the 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 16 of 21 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	10	13
No	11	8

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	7	7
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	3	6

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		1
Unsupervised	10	12

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	3	10
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	2	1
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other	5	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	6
No	6	6

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 8 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 8 children/youths. 8 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

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 20 of the 21 children/youths reviewed.



Queen Anne's County had a total of 2 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for both cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plan for any case.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local juvenile court for any case.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for both cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreements for 1 case. Efforts were made to involve the families in the service agreement process for the 1 case.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate to meet the needs for the 1 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	None
1	Residential Group Home

In both cases reviewed the children/youths were not placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 1 of 2 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In all 2 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change and 1 case had 3 placement changes.

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for any case.

The following level of care was found for the most 2 recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

- 1 case(s) was less restrictive

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) hospitalization
- 1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 1 case

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 2 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that all 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Current Vision: No, for both children/youths.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that neither of the 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for both children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care did not have identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of both children/youths had not been met.

Education

1 of 2 children/youths reviewed was enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and did not have a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth was not being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

The local board agreed that none of the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

None of the youths completed a life skills assessment.

None of the youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that both youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing was specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care.

Information on alternative housing options were provided to the 1 youth transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 1 youth.

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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 1 of 2 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	2

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other	1	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 1 child/youth had a sibling in care. 1 child/youth had visits with siblings who were not in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services did not make adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for the 2 cases reviewed.

St. Mary's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plan for 2 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 2 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had no permanent connection identified.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreements for 1 case. Efforts were made to involve the families in the service agreement process for the 1 case.

The local board agreed that the service agreement is appropriate to meet the needs of child for 1 case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
1	None
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Other

The 2 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 1 case reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 1 case.

The following level of care was found for the 1 placement change:

- 1 case(s) was less restrictive

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) behavioral

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- No, for 1 case

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on 2 children/youths health concerns noted by physician requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.

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- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. The 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program graduated high school.

2 of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 2 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report card was available for 2 of 3 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 3 of 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

None of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

1 youth was not participating in paid or unpaid work experience due to being medically fragile.

1 youth was referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 3 of 4 youths were not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals

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

2 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

None of the youths completed a life skill assessment.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were receiving appropriate independent living skills.

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

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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 3 of 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	1
No	1	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	2	1

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	2	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other	1	

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 1 child/youth. 2 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

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 4 children/youths reviewed.



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

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 3 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified no concurrent permanency plan for any case.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for any case.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 2 of 3 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department have a signed service agreement for 1 case. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 1 case.

The board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 1 case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Other

1 child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

None of the 3 cases reviewed had any placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 1 child/youth had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Standard Health Exams: 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of 3 children/youths had been met.

Education

1 of 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child/youth was in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 child/youth not enrolled in school or other vocational program graduated high school and 1 child/youth was under age 5.

1 child/youth in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and it is unknown if a copy of the 504/IEP plan was in the child/youth's record.

Current progress report card was available for review for 1 child/youth in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 1 child/youth was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

1 youth was not able to participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to mental health issues.

The 1 youth was not referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

The local board agreed the 1 youth was not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

1 youth did not complete a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood and was not receiving required independent skills.

The local board agreed the 1 youth was not being appropriately prepared for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing was specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care.

Information on alternative housing options were provided to the 1 youth transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 1 case.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed for the 1 case and approved with a social summary.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 3 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	2	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No		

Siblings/Visits

None of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care.

Summary

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



Worcester County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for 3 of 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3)

The 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for all 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process was made for the 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 3 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	None
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Independent Living Residential Program

2 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan for 3 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 placement changes.

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for both cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was less restrictive
- 1 case(s) unknown – no information

The primary reason for the 2 most recent placement changes were:

- 1 case(s) transition towards permanency goal
- 1 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the 2 most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

Child specific issues for the 2 most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) behavioral

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 2 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: None of the 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: None of the 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 child/youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care had no identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for the 2 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: 2 of 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board agreed that the health needs of none of the 4 children/youth had been met.

Education

2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. Both children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. The 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school. 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

None of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan or had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for both children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that none of the 2 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

1 youth participated in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

1 youth was referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.

1 youth was 20 years old and earning a living wage.

The local board agreed 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 youth was receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

All 4 youths completed a life skill assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

1 youth received required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that none of the 4 youths were receiving appropriate independent living skills.

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

Housing was specified for 1 of 2 youths transitioning out of care.

Information on alternative housing options were provided to both youths.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for 1 of 2 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. It is unknown if child consent to adoption for 1 case.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

1 child/youth with a plan of adoption was not placed in pre-adoptive home.

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 1 child/youth not placed in pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 of 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	4	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

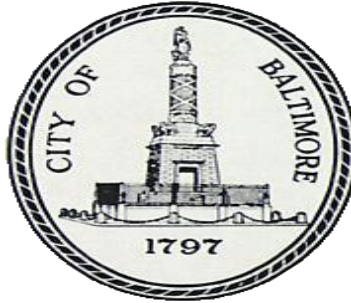
Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No		

Siblings/Visits

None of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 2 of 4 children/youths reviewed.



Baltimore City had a total of 69 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases
- Reunification: 29 cases
- APPLA: 26 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 48 of the 69 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 10 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (26 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (23)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)
- Other (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 25 cases)

25 of the 26 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 21 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	4		2			4
7 to 11 months	6	2		2	1	8
1 to 2 years	2				2	4
2 to 3 years	5	1	1	1		6
3 years or more	12			2		4
Totals →69	29	3	3	5	3	26

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 42 of the 69 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 20 cases. 7 children/youths were a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 43 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 21 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
6	None
8	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
6	Regular Foster Care
7	Restrictive Foster Care (Relative)
20	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
3	Teen Mother Program
3	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Relative
2	Own Dwelling
5	Other

In 38 of the 69 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 64 of the 69 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 23 of the 69 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 9 cases had 1 placement change, 11 cases had 2 changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 2 cases had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 6 of the 23 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 23 most recent placement changes:

- 8 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 4 case(s) were more restrictive placements
- 9 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) child on runaway
- 1 case(s) unknown – no information

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 9 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 1 case(s) placement with relatives
- 13 cases(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect
- 1 case(s) founded incident of provider abuse/neglect
- 20 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 13 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 7 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) runaway
- 2 case(s) hospitalization

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 20 of the 23 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 21 of the 23 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 25 of the 69 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 44 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 30 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 24 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 26 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 16 of the 69 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 22 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 22 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 11 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 5 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 52 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 49 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 31 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 26 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system. 4 youths had no identified plan.

- Substance Abuse: 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 30 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 18 of the 30 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: 8 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 19 of the 69 children/youths had been met.

Education

48 of the 69 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 44 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 2 children/youths were enrolled in GED program and 2 children/youths were in college. 4 youths graduated high school and 7 children/youths refused to attend school. 7 children/youths were under the age of 5 and 3 children/youths were not enrolled for other reasons.

23 of the 44 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 14 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 33 of the 44 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 37 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 41 cases)

18 of the 41 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

6 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 youth was in a correctional facility.

23 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 19 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 41 cases)

22 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.

4 youth were not receiving appropriate services due to mental health reasons and 1 youth for being medically fragile. 1 youth did not receive services as he was in a correctional facility and 1 youth for other reasons.

22 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

20 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 21 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 11 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 7 of 11 youths transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options were provided for 7 youths.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for 6 youths.

The local board agreed that 6 of 11 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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. 8 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (8 cases)

8 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 4 cases and a single female for 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was foster parent relative for 3 cases, foster parent non-relative for 4 cases and foster parent – fictive kin for 1 case.

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

- 1 case(s) 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) 12 to 15 months
- 6 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed for 7 of 8 placements and approved.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and support were in place for all 8 placements for pre-adoptive family to meet the identified needs of the children/youths.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in pre-adoptive home. The 1 child/youth was listed with Adopt Us Kids.

The local board found the adoptive recruitment efforts not appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

Post-adoptive subsidies were needed for 2 of 5 cases.

Post-adoptive subsidy was approved for 1 case.

The local board found post-adoptive services appropriate for all 5 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 of 69 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 60 of the 69 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	31	22
No	38	47

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	10	6
More than once a week	4	2
Once a month	9	13
More than once a month	6	4
Quarterly	1	1
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	11	9
Unsupervised	18	16

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	9	5
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	2	1
Foster Parent		1
Other/not indicated		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	5
LDSS Visitation Center	8	6
Public Area	4	
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	4
Other	1	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	44	43

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 36 of the 69 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 27 children/youths. 27 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 25 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.



Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 45 of the 69 children/youths reviewed.

Citizens Review Board for Children

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email: crbc.mail.maryland.gov website: <http://dhr.maryland.gov/crbc>

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 Services (DHS), Social Services Administration and the Citizens Review Board for Children.

- Each (LDSS) is required to have access at the time of the review to the child's complete case records and/or records containing requested supportive documentation to present at all CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should continue supplying CRBC with the most recent and current contact information including emails 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 children/youths with a permanency plan of reunification.
- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all children/youths who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living

- Each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts with preparing youths that have a plan of APPLA to meet their employment goals. Additionally, each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts for youth aged 14 and older with appropriate independent living skills.

Permanent Connections

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

Adoption

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

3rd Quarter 2024 CRBC Metrics

Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent:	182
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time:	182
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time:	100%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received: ¹	136
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	75%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	114
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	84%
Number of Boards Held	48
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:	134
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:	99%
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	2
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:	1%
Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered: ²	0
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered:	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	37%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:	5%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:	3%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	13%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	4%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	37%

¹ The local Department of Social Services is required by COMAR 07.01.06.06 (H) to respond to the local out-of-home placement (CRBC) review board's recommendation(s) within 10 days of receipt of the report.

² The number of recommendation report responses received from the local Department of Social Services that did not indicate acceptance or non-acceptance of the local (CRBC) board's recommendation.



CRBC
Citizens Review Board for Children
The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chair)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chair)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Vacant

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

Vacant

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

Vacant

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

Sandra "Kay" Farley

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

Davina Richardson

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

Beatrice Lee

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Benia Richardson

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City



CRBC Staff

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IT Functional Analyst

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Marlo Palmer-Dixon, M.P.A
Child Welfare Specialist

Nikia Greene
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Volunteer Activities Coordinator II

Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

Agnes Marie Smith
Executive Assistant

LeShae Harris
Office Clerk II

References

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