

# **CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN**

## **FY 2014 FIRST QUARTER REPORT**



**Citizens Review Board for Children  
Fiscal Year 2014 – First Quarter Report**

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**Our Mission**

Volunteer reviewers monitor child welfare systems and review cases, make findings and recommendations, and advocate improving the administration of the system and the management of individual cases. As a result, children will be safe; be placed in stable, permanent living arrangements without undue delay; enjoy continuity of relationships; and have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

**Our Vision**

The child welfare community, General Assembly, other key decision-makers, and the public will look to the Citizens Review Board for Children for objective reports on vital child welfare programs and for consistent monitoring of safeguards for children. The State of Maryland will investigate child maltreatment allegations thoroughly, protect children from abuse and neglect, give families the help they need to stay intact, place children in out-of-home care only when necessary, and provide placements that consider all the child's needs. Casework will combine effective family services with expeditious permanent placement of children.

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The Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) continues to support all efforts to provide permanence for children in foster care. CRBC has two major components consisting of, out-of-home care and child protection. CRBC consists of governor appointed volunteer representatives that serve on and are appointed to local boards in each county and Baltimore City.

During the First Quarter review period of July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013; the CRBC local boards conducted 141 case reviews for children/youth in out-of-home placement with a primary permanency plan of Reunification, Adoption, or Another Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA).

**Review Criteria**

**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. The review will be conducted within 3 months of the next court hearing.
- *Newly changed plans of Reunification for youth 10 years of age and older.* CRBC will conduct a review of a child that has a plan of Reunification within 3 months before the child's 18-month court hearing.

**Adoption:**

- *Existing plans of Adoption.* CRBC will conduct a review for 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 3 months of the establishment of adoption as the 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 Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA):**

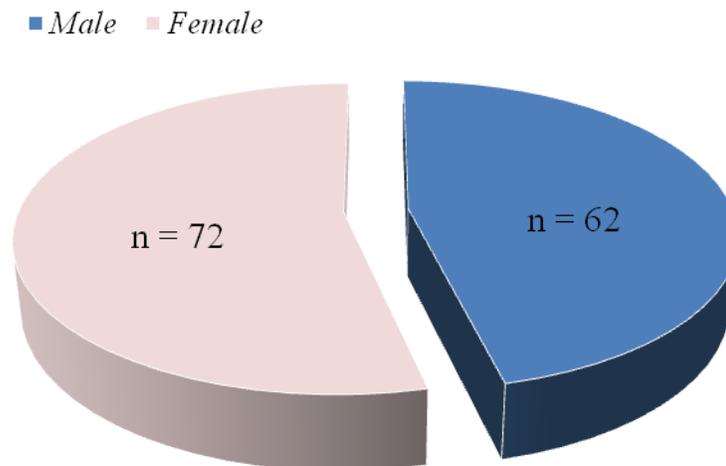
- *Already established plans of APPLA for youth 16 years of age and younger.* CRBC will conduct a full review for a child 16 years of age and younger who has an established primary permanency plan of APPLA. The primary purpose of the review is to assess appropriateness of the plan and review documentation of the Federal APPLA requirements.

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- *Newly established plans of APPLA.* CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 3 months of the establishment of APPLA as the primary permanency plan. Local boards will review cases to ensure that local departments made adequate and appropriate efforts to assess if a plan of APPLA was the appropriate recourse for the child.
- *Older youth aging-out or remaining in care of the State between the ages of 17 and 20 years old.* CRBC will conduct a review of a youth that are 17-20 years of age. The primary purpose of the review is to assess services provided to prepare the youth to transition to adulthood.

**Demographics of Youth Reviewed**

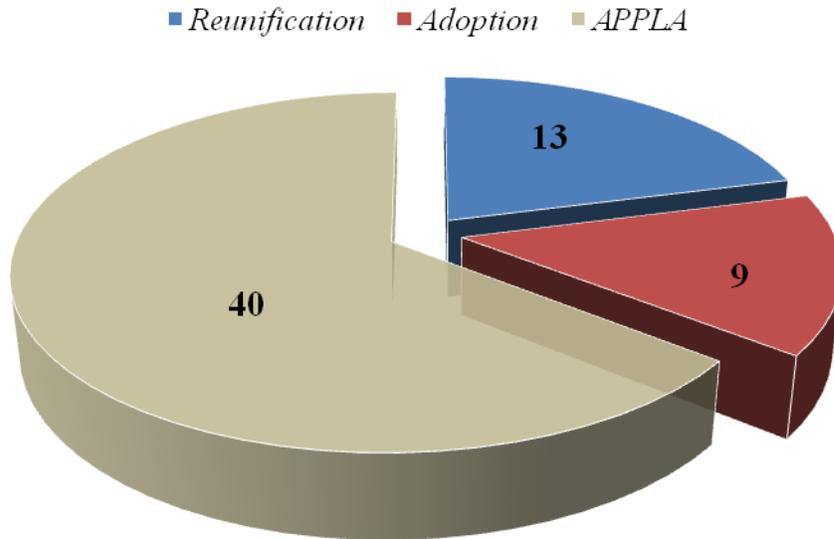
**Gender – Overall:**



There were a total of 141 children/youth reviewed in the FY14 First Quarter overall, consisting of 72 (54%) females, and 62 (46%) males.

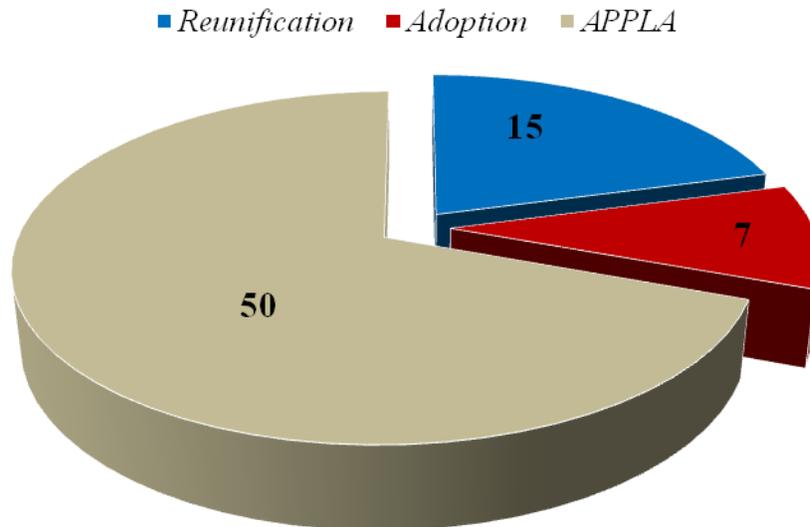
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**Male by Permanency Plan:**



In FY14 First Quarter, there were 62 children/youth reviewed who were male. These children/youth consisted of 40 males with a plan of APPLA, 13 males with a plan of Reunification, and 9 males with a plan of Adoption.

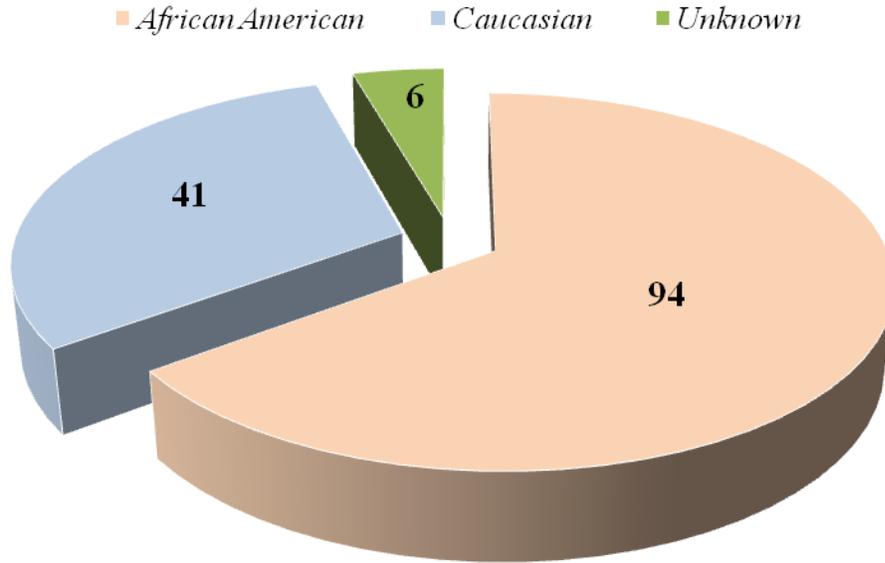
**Female by Permanency Plan:**



In FY14 First Quarter, there were 72 children/youth reviewed who were female. These children/youth consisted of 50 females with a plan of APPLA, 15 females with a plan of Reunification, and 7 females with a plan of Adoption.

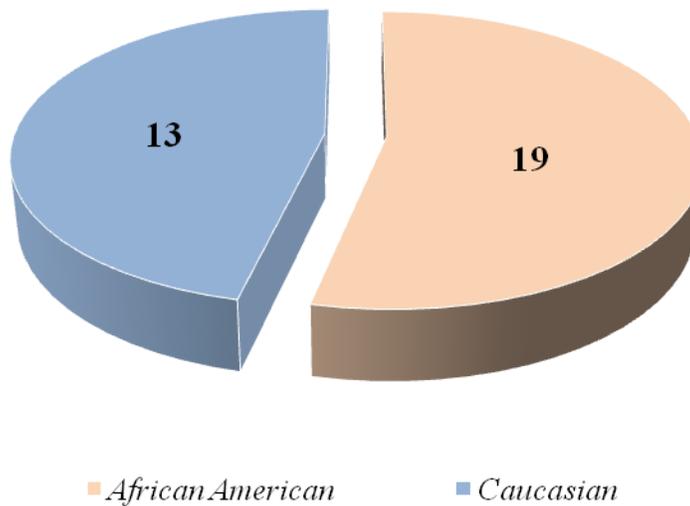
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**Ethnicity – Overall:**



Of the 141 children reviewed in the FY14 First Quarter, there were 94 (66%) who were African American, 41(29%) who were Caucasian, and 6 (4%) of the children/youth reviewed had an unknown ethnicity [missing data].

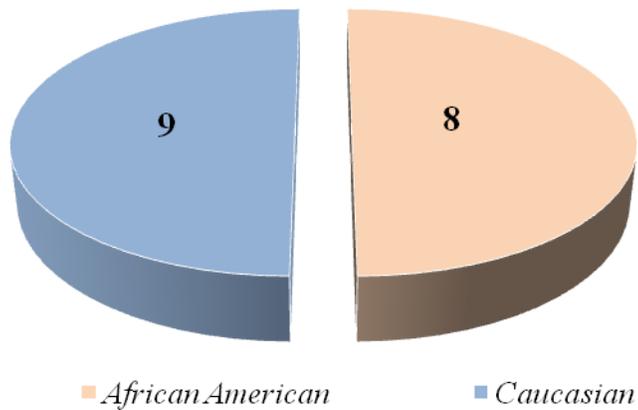
**Reunification by Ethnicity:**



In FY14 First Quarter, there were a total of 32 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Reunification consisting of 19 (60%) who were African American, and 13 (40%) who were Caucasian.

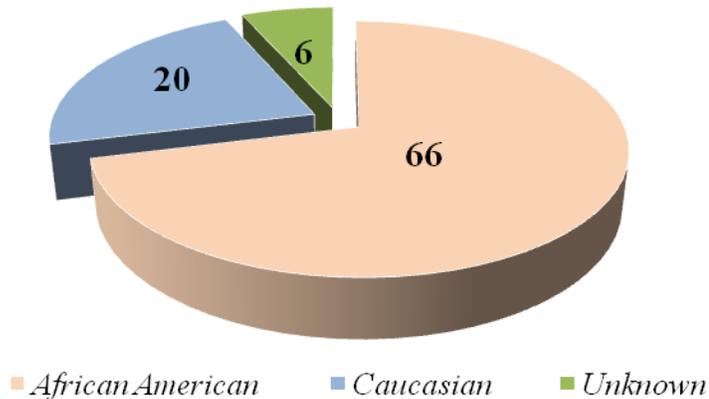
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**Adoption by Ethnicity:**



In FY14 First Quarter, there were 17 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption consisting of 9 (53%) who were African American, and 8 (47%) who were Caucasian.

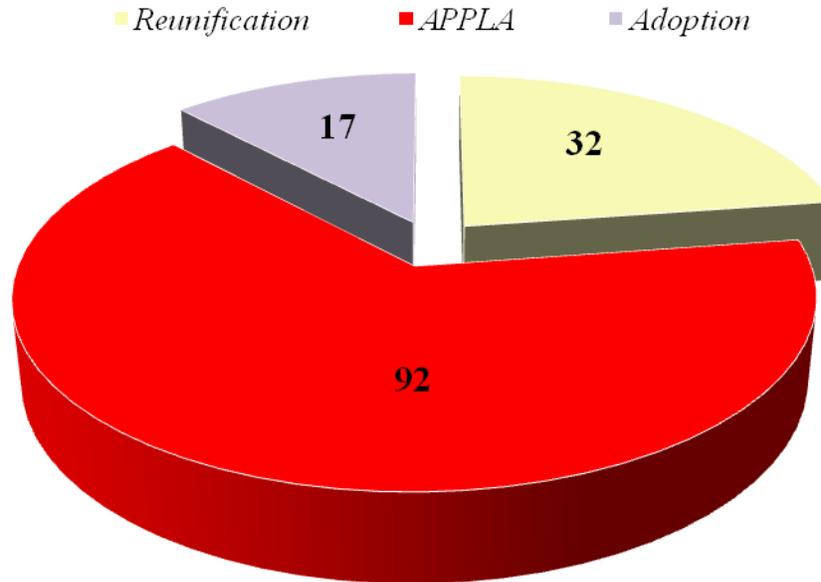
**APPLA by Ethnicity:**



In FY14 First Quarter, there were 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA consisting of 66 (72%) who were African American, 20 (22%) who were Caucasian, and 6 (6%) with an Unknown ethnicity [missing data].

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**Overall Permanency Plans Reviewed**



During the First Quarter (July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>) CRBC conducted 141 reviews of children/youth with a permanency plan of Reunification, Adoption, and Another Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA).

**Reunification Case Reviews Overall**

Concurrent planning: Overall there were only 3 (9%) out of the 32 cases reviewed with a plan of Reunification identified as having a concurrent plan.

Local boards permanency plan recommendations: Overall the local boards did not agree with the permanency plan of 19 (59%) out of the 32 cases with a permanency plan of Reunification. The local boards recommended the permanency plan of those 19 cases be changed to APPLA (12), Relative Placement (5), and Adoption (2). The local boards agreed with the permanency plan of Reunification of 10 (31%) out of the 32 cases.

Length of permanency plan: Overall there were 21 (78%) out of the 32 with a permanency plan of Reunification from 1 to 2 years. There were 6 (19%) out of the 32 cases reviewed with a permanency plan Reunification for 3 or more years.

Worker visits with child: Overall there were 100% worker visits with the children/youth at least once a month/less than twice a month for the 32 cases reviewed with a plan of Reunification.

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**Reunification Case Reviews Overall continued**

Placement stability: Overall there were 16 (50%) out of 32 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Reunification that had 1 placement change in the last 12 months. There were 6 (19%) out of the 32 children/youth reviewed that had 2 placement changes in the last 12 months.

Family Involvement Meeting: There were 7 (31%) out of the 22 children/youth reviewed with a placement change in the last 12 months that had a FIM take place with the placement change.

Reason for placement change: Overall there was 1 out of the 22 children/youth with a permanency plan of Reunification that had a placement change in the last 12 months due to a request by the provider. There were 5 (23%) out of the 22 children/youth that had a placement change in the last 12 months due to behavioral issues of the children/youth being replaced. There were 2 (9%) out of the 22 children/youth that had a placement change due to being a runaway.

Matching children's needs: Overall there was information indicating that 29 (91%) out of the 32 children/youth reviewed had current placements matching the needs of the children/youth with the provider's ability to meet those needs.

Local boards and placement plan: Overall the local boards agreed with 30 (94%) out of the 32 children/youth cases with a permanency plan of Reunification placement plans.

Independence: Overall there were 14 (44%) out of the 32 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Reunification that were age appropriate for independent living preparation, services, and assessment.

Overall there were 2 (14%) out of the 14 children/youth that were receiving appropriate services in preparation for independent living. There were 3 (21%) out of the 14 children that were assessed for independent living life skills.

Local boards and life skills: Overall the local boards agreed with 2 (14%) out of the 14 children/youth cases reviewed with a permanency plan of Reunification that were age appropriate for independent living; were receiving required independent living skills.

Service agreements: Overall there were 12 (38%) out of the 32 cases reviewed with a permanency plan of Reunification with a signed service agreement by the parents. There were 10 (31%) out of the 32 cases reviewed with an unsigned service agreement by the parents. There were 3 out of the 32 cases reviewed being reported that there was a signed service agreement by the parents without the required documentation. There were 30 (94%) out of the 32 cases reviewed that made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process. There were 14 (44%) out of the 32 cases reviewed that conducted a Family Involvement Meeting prior to the children/youth entering into care.

Physical and mental health: Overall there were 25 (78%) out of the 32 cases reviewed with a plan of Reunification that had completed medical records in the file, including physical, dental,

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**Reunification Case Reviews Overall continued**

vision, and immunization. All 32 (100%) of the children/youth with a permanency plan of Reunification had a comprehensive physical and mental health assessment. There were 15 (47%) out of the 32 children/youth reviewed that were prescribed and taking psychotropic medication. There were 6 out of the 32 children/youth reviewed that have a history of substance abuse problems and all 6 (100%) children/youth are having the substance abuse problem addressed.

Education: Overall there were 16 (50%) out of the 32 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Reunification that had their school placement remain the same at entry. The local boards agreed that the education needs of 29 (91%) out of the 32 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Reunification were being met.

Board and permanency: Overall the local boards agreed with the permanency plan of Reunification with 10 (31%) out of the 32 cases reviewed. The local boards recommended the other 22 permanency plans be changed to; 12 APPLA, 5 Relative Placement, 2 Adoption, and 3 Guardianship.

Re-reviewed: The local boards recommended that 23 out of the 32 cases with a permanency plan of Reunification overall should be re-reviewed.

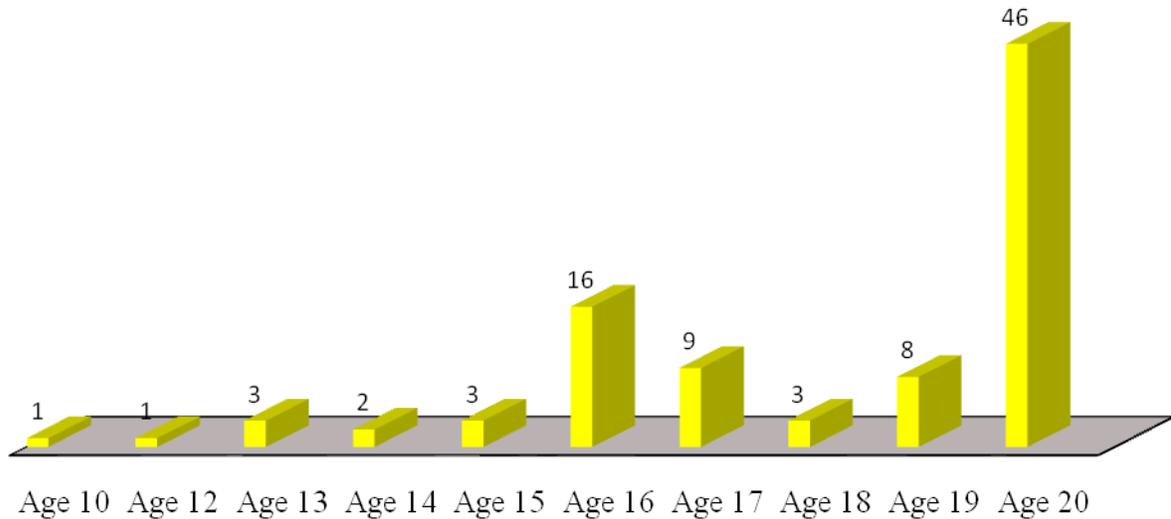
Reviewed timely: Overall CRBC did review all of the 32 (100%) children/youth cases with a permanency plan of Reunification in a timely manner.

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**APPLA Case Reviews Overall**

Overall CRBC reviewed 92 children/youth that had a permanency plan of APPLA in the First Quarter of FY14.

**APPLA By Ages:**



**APPLA permanency plan:** Overall there were 78 (85%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA that are expected to remain in existing placement until they reaches the age of majority (emancipation/independence). There were 8 (9%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed that are in long-term out of home care with a non-relative. There were 5 (5%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed that were placed in a long-term care facility until transition to an adult facility.

**Plan Options:** Overall Reunification was considered for 87 (95%); Relative placement was considered for 79 (86%); and Adoption was considered for 69 (75%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA.

Overall the biological father was unable or unwilling [including whereabouts unknown (19), or deceased (9)] to work towards Reunification for 64 (70% cumulative) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA.

Overall the biological mother was unable or unwilling [including whereabouts unknown (8), or deceased (12)] to work towards Reunification for 57 (62% cumulative) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA.

**Consent to adopt:** Overall 81 (88%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA did not want to be Adopted.

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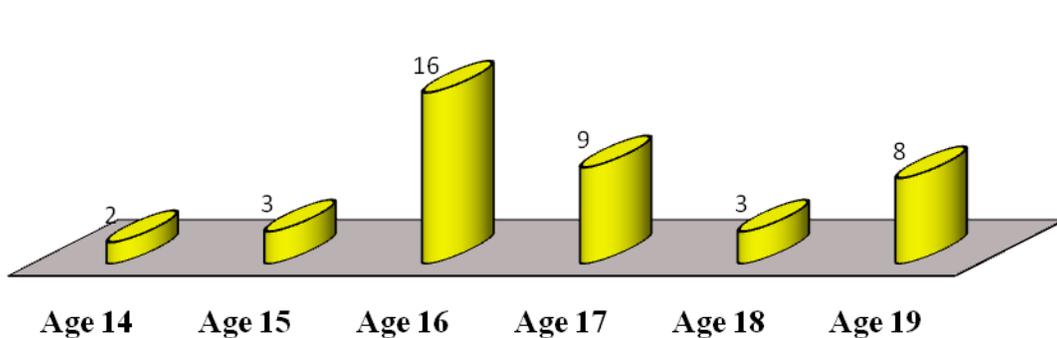
**APPLA Case Reviews Overall continued**

Length of plan: Overall the length of APPLA as a plan for the children/youth reviewed were; 15 (16%) 0 to 6 months, 8 (9%) 7 to 11 months; 24 (26%) 1 to 2 years; and 40 (44%) had a plan of APPLA for 3 or more years.

Termination of parental rights: Overall out of the 92 APPLA cases reviewed, TPR was granted for 10 (11%) cases; TPR was not filed for 46 (50%) out of the 92 cases reviewed.

Why APPLA: Overall the permanency of APPLA for the 92 children/youth cases reviewed was based on, 51 (55%) of the children/youth did not consent to Adoption; 15 (16%) of the children/youth have a lack of family resources; 15 (16%) of the children/youth had a plan of APPLA due to their behavior; and 7 (8%) children/youth were medically or mentally fragile.

Life Skills: Overall 44 (48%) out of the 92 children/youth cases reviewed were assessed for life skills and have the supportive documentation contained in the case files. There were 7 children/youth that were medically or mentally fragile and could not be assessed for life skills.



\*Overall ages of Children with a plan of APPLA 15 years of age and older.

Independent living: Overall there are 42 of the 44 children/youth that have been assessed for life skills with an assigned independent living caseworker.

Overall there were 52 (60%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA that are receiving required independent living skills.

Services needed for discharge: Overall the 42 (46%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency of plan of APPLA need housing services; 39 (42%) need medical services; 31 (34%) need mental health and educational services; and 28 (30%) need employment services for discharge.

Service Agreement: Overall there were 30 (33%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA that had a signed service agreement.

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**APPLA Case Reviews Overall continued**

Case planning: Overall there were efforts made to involve 52 (57%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA in the case planning process.

Family involvement meeting: Overall there were 49 (53%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed that had a FIM.

Placement: Overall the current placement of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA were, 23 (25%) independent living; 21 (23%) private treatment foster care; 17 (19%) regular foster care; 8 (9%) therapeutic group homes; 6 (7%) formal kinship care; 6 (7%) residential treatment centers; 3 (3%) residential group homes; and 3 (3%) were placed in teen mother's programs.

Placement Stability: Overall 44 (68%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA had 1 placement; 15 (16%) had 2 placements; 5 (5%) had 3 placements; and 1 child/youth had 4 placements.

Placement match with child needs: Overall there was a match between the children/youth's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs with 84 (91%) out of the 92 cases reviewed with a plan of APPLA.

Board and placement plan: Overall the local boards agreed with the placement plan of 84 (91%) out of 92 children/youth cases reviewed with a plan of APPLA.

Medical records: Overall there were 67 (73%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with completed medical records in the file.

Physical and mental health assessment: Overall there were 83 (90%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed received comprehensive physical and mental health assessments in a timely manner.

Medication: Overall there were 30 (33%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a plan of APPLA being prescribed psychotropic medications.

Mental health care: Overall there is an identified plan for 27 (29%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed to obtain mental health services in an adult mental health care system.

Board and physical and mental health: Overall the local boards agreed with that physical and mental health needs are being met with 58 (63%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA.

Permanent Connection: Overall there was a permanent connection identified for 52 (57%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA.

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**APPLA Case Reviews Overall continued**

Those individuals identified as a permanent connection were; 16 (17%) foster parents, 9 (10%) biological mother, 6 (6%) grandparent, 5 (5%) sibling, 2 (2%) biological father, 2 (2%) aunt or uncle, 1 (1%) mentor, and 10 (11%) other.

Board and permanent connection: Overall the local boards found the 52 identified permanent connections as being appropriate.

Caseworker visits: Overall there were 82 (89%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed that were receiving caseworker visits less than twice a month, but at least once a month. There were 4 (4%) of the children/youth reviewed that were not receiving caseworker visits less than once a month.

Living wage (\$10 hour): Overall there were 10 (11%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed earning a living wage.

Board and employment: Overall the local boards agreed that 23 (25%) of the 92 children/youth reviewed were being prepared to meet employment goals.

Housing: Overall there were 24 (48%) out of the 50 children/youth reviewed that were transitioning that had housing specified. There were 25 (50%) out of the 50 children/youth transitioning that received information on alternative housing options.

Board and transitional housing plan: Overall the local boards agreed with the transitional housing plans of 29 (58%) out of the 50 children/youth reviewed that were transitioning.

Re-review: Overall the local boards recommend that 41 (45%) out of the 92 cases reviewed should be re-reviewed.

Board and permanency plan: Overall the local boards agreed with the permanency plan of APPLA of 75 (81%) out of the 92 cases reviewed.

Reviewed timely: CRBC reviewed 87 (95%) out of the 92 cases in a timely manner.

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**Adoption Case Reviews Overall**

Overall CRBC reviewed 17 children/youth cases that had a permanency plan of Adoption in the First Quarter of FY14.

Permanency: Overall the permanency plan of Adoption was established in a timely manner for 13 (77%) out of the 17 children/youth cases reviewed.

Length of plan: Overall the permanency plan of Adoption for the 17 children/youth reviewed was; 10 (59%) 0 to 6 months, 1 (6%) 7 to 11 months, 2 (12%) 1 to 2 years, and 3 (18%) for 3 or more years.

Board and concurrent planning: The local boards agreed that concurrent planning took place for 13 (77%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed.

Termination of parental rights: Overall there were 12 (70%) out of the 17 cases reviewed that had TPR filed. In addition, 8 (66%) out of the 12 TPR filed were done in a timely manner.

Appeal delay: Overall there were 16 (94%) out of the 17 cases reviewed and filed for TPR that were delayed by appeal from the biological father. In addition, the remaining case reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption was delayed by appeal from the biological mother.

Child consent: Overall there were 5 (29%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed that consented to being adopted. Overall there were 8 (47%) out of the 17 children/youth with a permanency plan of Adoption that were not at legal age to consent; and 2 (12%) that were medically fragile or had mental health issues preventing to consent.

Adoption counseling: Overall there were 2 (40%) out of the 5 children/youth reviewed that consented to being adopted that received counseling services around Adoption.

Board and TPR: Overall the local boards agreed that 9 (53%) of the TPR's were done in a timely manner.

Placement: Overall the actual number of placements the 17 children/youth with a permanency plan of Adoption were; 8 (47%) had 1 placement, 2 (12%) had 2 placements, and 1 (6%) had 3 placements.

Board placement recommendation: Overall the local boards agreed with 16 (94%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed placement plan.

Pre-adoptive home: Overall there were 11 (65%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Health needs: Overall there were appropriate efforts to meet the health needs of 14 (83%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed.

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**Adoption Case Reviews Overall continued**

Education needs: Overall there were appropriate efforts to meet the education needs of 16 (94%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed.

Medication: Overall there were 5 (29%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption that were prescribed non-psychotropic medications. Overall there were 4 (24%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption that were prescribed psychotropic medications.

Behavioral issues: Overall there were 6 (35%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed that had behavioral issues.

Caseworker visits: Overall there were 16 (94%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption that received a caseworker visit less than twice a month, but at least once a month.

Adoption barriers: Overall there were no significant agency, court, child, or family barriers related to Adoption for the 17 children/youth reviewed.

Re-reviewed: Overall the local boards recommends 11 (65%) of the 17 Adoption cases reviewed should be re-reviewed.

Board and permanency plan: Overall the local boards agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption with 14 (82%) of the 17 cases reviewed.

Reviewed timely: CRBC reviewed 14 (82%) out of the 17 cases in a timely manner.

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**Jurisdictions**

Maryland is comprised of 23 counties and Baltimore City. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) identifies jurisdictions according to caseload size such as large, medium, and small.

**Large Jurisdictions:**

<b>*Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Reunification</b>	<b>Adoption</b>	<b>APPLA</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>
<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Baltimore County</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Prince Georges County</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>110</b>

\*Large: 500 cases or more

Out of the 141 children/youth reviewed in the First Quarter of FY14, there were a total of 110 (77%) who were placed within large jurisdictions.

Reunification within large jurisdiction cases made up 25 (23%) of the 110 children/youth reviewed in the First Quarter.

There are plans to return 14 (56%) of the 25 children/youth to the biological mothers. There are plans to return 5 (20%) of the 25 children/youth to the biological fathers. There are plans to return 4 (16%) of the 25 children/youth to both biological parents.

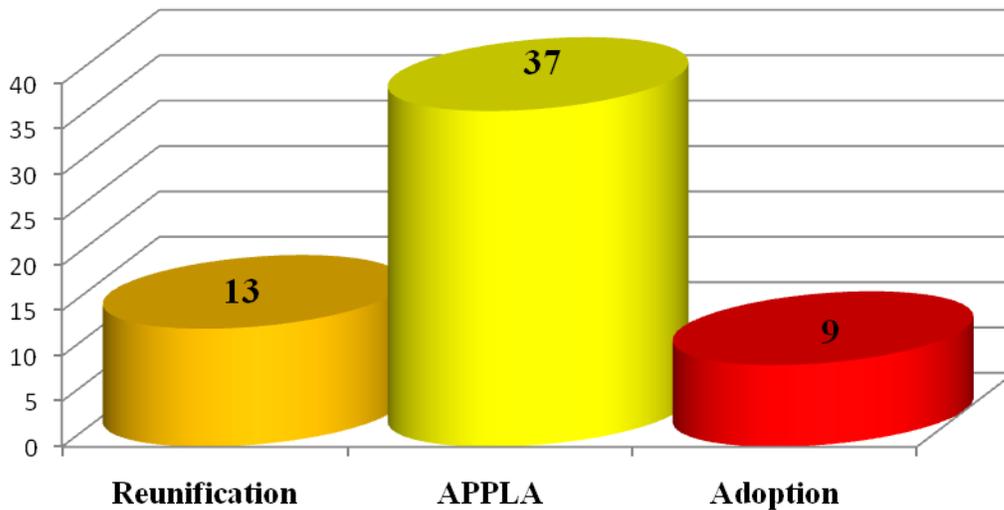
APPLA within large jurisdiction cases made up 75 (68%) of the 110 children/youth reviewed. There were 21 (28%) children/youth reviewed who had a permanency plan of APPLA from 1 to 2 years. There were 34 (45%) children/youth reviewed who had a permanency plan of APPLA for 3 or more years. There were 42 (56%) of the 75 children/youth identified with permanent connections. There were 33 (44%) of the 75 children/youth who were not identified as having a permanent connection.

Adoption within large jurisdiction cases made up 10 (9%) of the 110 children/youth reviewed. There were 9 (90%) of the 10 children/youth granted TPR. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption with 9 (90%) of the 10 cases reviewed.

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**Baltimore City**

There were a total of 52 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Baltimore City in the First Quarter of FY14.



Reunification case reviews in Baltimore City made up 13 (25%) of the 52 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. A Family Involvement Meeting was not held prior to entering into care with 12 (92%) of 13 children/youth cases reviewed. However, appropriate services are being offered to the children/youth and their birth families in 12 (92%) out of the 13 cases.

In 8 (61%) out of the 13 cases the plan of Reunification has been in place for 1 to 2 years. In 3 (23%) out of the 13 cases the plan of Reunification has been in place for 3 years or more. The local board did not agree with the current permanency plan of reunification in 12 (92%) of the 13 reviewed cases.

APPLA case reviews in Baltimore City made up 37 (71%) of the 52 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The permanent connection identified for 20 (54%) of the youth are: biological mother (4 cases), biological father (1 case), foster parent (5 cases), grandparent (3 cases), aunt or uncle (1 case), sibling (4 cases), and other (2 cases). In addition, the local board was in agreement with the identified permanent connections. There were 17 cases reviewed with a plan of APPLA without an identified permanent connection.

The local board agreed that 14 (38%) out of the 37 children/youth were prepared to meet employment goals; also agreed with 20 (54%) out of the 37 children/youth's transitional housing plan. In addition, the local board agreed that 19 (51%) out of the 37 children/youth reviewed were prepared to transition out of care.

**Citizens Review Board for Children  
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**Baltimore City continued**

Adoption case reviews in Baltimore City made up 9 (17%) of the 52 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The current placements of the 9 children/youth reviewed with a plan of Adoption included 2 placements in regular foster homes; 5 placements in private treatment foster homes; and 2 placements in therapeutic group homes. There were 3 (33%) out of the 9 children/youth reviewed that were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The local board agreed with the placement plan 8 (89%) out of the 9 cases reviewed.

There were 5 (56%) out of the 9 children/youth reviewed that needed post-adoptive educational, medical, and mental health services. There were 4 (44%) out of the 9 children/youth reviewed that were being prescribed psychotropic medication.

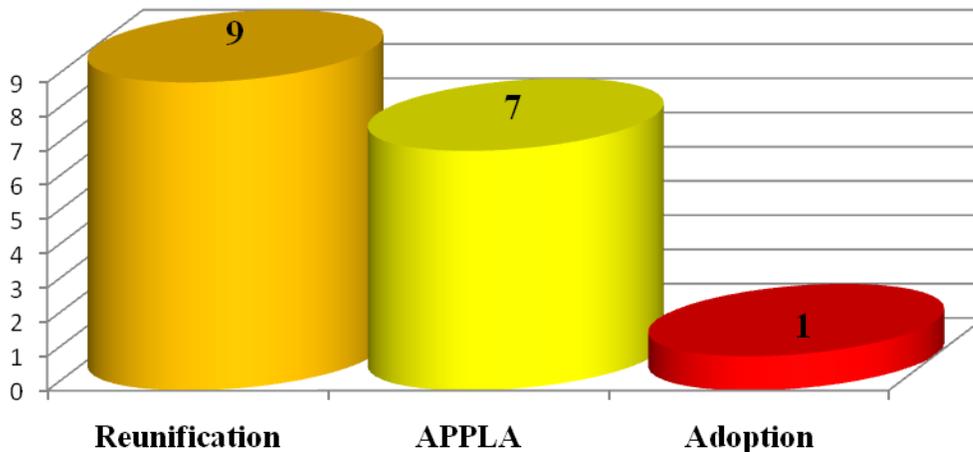
There were no court related barriers to adoption for all 9 of the cases reviewed. There was 1 (11%) out of the 9 cases reviewed that had a disrupted pre-adoption placement family barrier to adoption. There were 2 (22%) out of the 9 children/youth that has behavior problems in the home that are a barrier to adoption. There were 1 (11%) out of 9 children/youth with a plan of Adoption that received adoption counseling.

There were 2 (22%) out of the 9 children/youth that did consent to adoption. There were 2 (22%) out of the 9 children/youth that did not consent to adoption. There were 4 (44%) out of the 9 children/youth reviewed that were not at legal age to consent to adoption. There was 1 (11%) out of the 9 children/youth that was medically fragile or had mental health issues preventing from consenting to adoption.

**Citizens Review Board for Children  
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**Baltimore County**

There were a total of 17 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Baltimore County in the First Quarter of FY14.



Reunification case reviews in Baltimore County made up 9 (53%) of the 17 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. A Family Involvement Meeting was held prior to entering into care with all 9 (100%) of the children/youth cases reviewed. Appropriate services are being offered to all of the children/youth and 8 out of the 9 of the birth families.

In 6 (67%) out of the 9 cases the plan of Reunification has been in place for 1 to 2 years. In 1(11%) out of the 9 cases the plan of Reunification has been in place for 3 years or more. The local board did not agree with the current permanency plan of reunification in 5 (56%) of the 9 reviewed cases.

APPLA case reviews in Baltimore County made up 7 (41%) of the 17 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. There was 1 out of 7 children/youth reviewed identified as having a grandparent as the permanent connection. The other 6 cases reviewed with a plan of APPLA did not have an identified permanent connection.

The local board agreed that 3 (43%) out of the 7 children/youth were prepared to meet employment goals. The local board did not agree with 5 (71%) out of the 7 children/youth's transitional housing plan. In addition, the local board agreed that 1 out of the 7 children/youth reviewed were prepared to transition out of care.

Adoption case reviews in Baltimore County made up 1(6%) of the 17 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. This child's current placement was at a private treatment foster care home. The child was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The local board agreed with the current placement plan.

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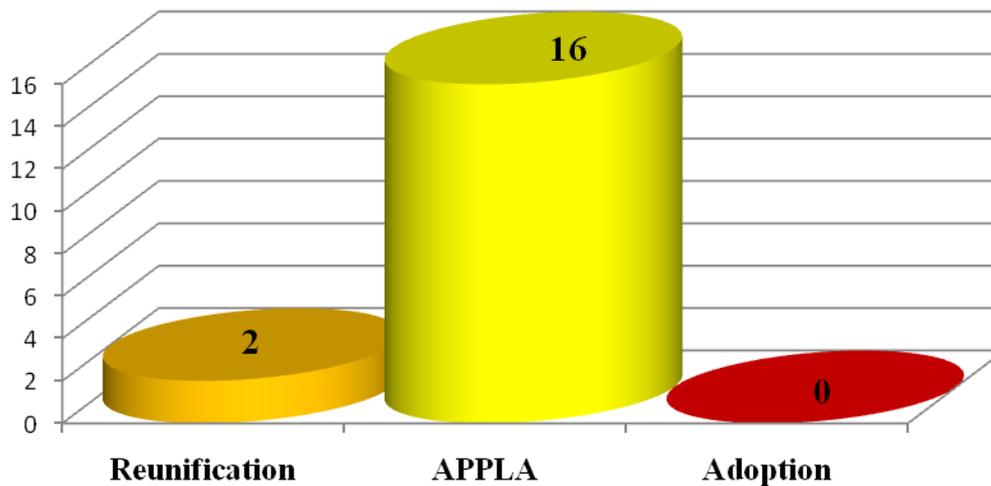
**Baltimore County continued**

The child reviewed needed post-adoptive educational, medical, and mental health services. The child was not prescribed psychotropic medication. The child reviewed is medically fragile or has mental health issues preventing from consenting to adoption. The child did not receive adoption counseling based on being medically fragile and/or mental health issues.

There were no court or child related barriers to adoption. The family was unwilling to adopt this child based on a lack of services and/or financial support.

**Montgomery County**

There were a total of 18 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Montgomery County in the First Quarter of FY14.



Reunification case reviews in Montgomery County made up 2 (11%) of the 18 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. A Family Involvement Meeting was not held prior to entering into care for both of the children/youth cases reviewed. Appropriate services are being offered to both of the children/youth and both of the birth families.

In 1 out of the 2 cases the plan of Reunification has been in place for 3 or more years. In the other case (1) the worker did not know how long the plan of Reunification had been in place. The local board agreed with the current permanency plan of reunification in both cases reviewed.

APPLA case reviews in Montgomery County made up 16 (89%) of the 18 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The permanent connection identified for 11 (69%) of the 16 youth are: biological mother (3 cases), foster parent (1 case), grandparent (1 case), aunt or uncle (1 case), mentor (1 case), and other (4 cases). The other 5 cases reviewed with a plan of APPLA did not have an identified permanent connection.

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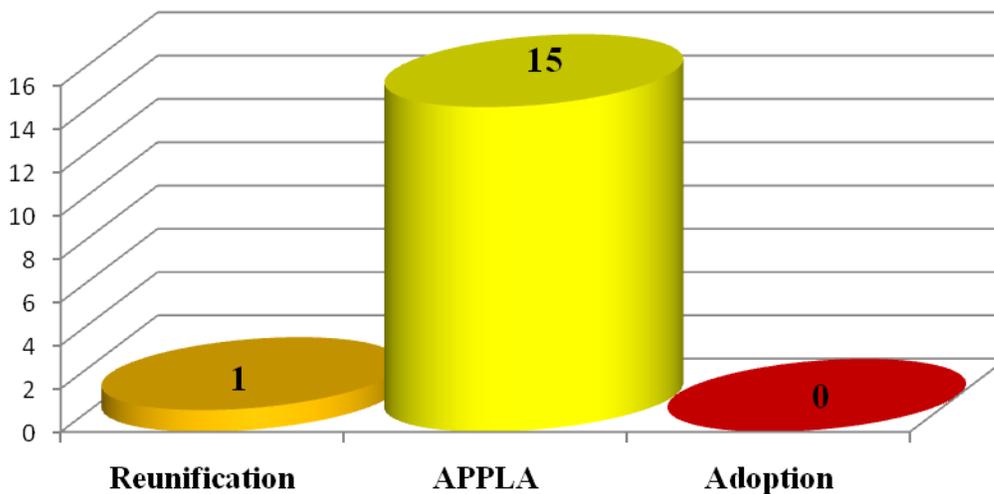
**Montgomery County continued**

There were 5 (31%) children/youth reviewed who had a permanency plan of APPLA from 0 to 6 months. There were 3 (19%) children/youth that had a permanency plan of APPLA for 7 to 11 months. There were 3 (19%) children/youth reviewed that had a permanency plan of APPLA for 1 to 2 years. There were 4 (25%) children/youth reviewed that had a permanency plan of APPLA for 3 or more years.

The local board agreed that 15 (94%) out of the 16 children/youth were prepared to meet employment goals. In addition, the local board agreed that 11 out of the 16 children/youth reviewed were being prepared to meet the educational goals.

**Prince Georges County**

There were a total of 16 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Prince Georges County in the First Quarter of FY14.



Reunification case reviews in Prince Georges County made up 1 of the 16 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. A Family Involvement Meeting was held prior to entering into care for the child/youth case reviewed. Appropriate services are being offered to both of the child/youth and the birth family.

The plan of Reunification has been in place for 1 to 2 years. The local board does not agree with the current permanency plan of reunification for the case reviewed.

APPLA case reviews in Prince Georges County made up 15 (94%) of the 16 cases reviewed in large jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The permanent connection identified for 10 (63%) of the youth are: biological mother (2 cases), biological father (1 case), foster parent (5 cases), other kin (1 case), and other (1 case). The other 5 cases reviewed with a plan of APPLA did not have an identified permanent connection.

**Citizens Review Board for Children  
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**Prince Georges County continued**

The local board agreed that 3 (20%) out of the 15 children/youth were prepared to meet employment goals. The local board agreed with 3 (20%) out of the 15 children/youth's transitional housing plan. In addition, the local board agreed that 2 (13%) out of the 15 children/youth reviewed were prepared to transition out of care.

**Medium Jurisdiction**

<b>**Jurisdiction – (Medium)</b>	<b>Reunification</b>	<b>Adoption</b>	<b>APPLA</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>
<b>Allegany County</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Anne Arundel County</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cecil County</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Frederick County</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Harford County</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>St. Mary's County</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>Washington County</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>

\*\* Medium: 300-500 cases

Out of the total 141 children/youth reviewed in the First Quarter of FY14, there were a total of 32 (29%) who were placed within medium jurisdictions.

Reunification within medium jurisdiction cases made up 7 (23%) of the 31 children/youth reviewed in the First Quarter. There are plans to return 2 (29%) of the 7 children/youth to the biological mothers. There are plans to return 1 (14%) of the 7 children/youth to the biological fathers. There are plans to return 4 (58%) of the 7 children/youth to both biological parents.

APPLA within medium jurisdiction cases made up 17 (55%) of the total 31 children/youth reviewed. There was 5 (29%) children/youth reviewed that had a permanency plan of APPLA from 0 to 6 months. There were 3 (18%) children/youth reviewed who had a permanency plan of APPLA for 7 to 11 months. There were 3 (18%) children/youth reviewed that had a permanency plan of APPLA for 1 to 2 years. There were 5 (29%) children/youth reviewed that had a permanency plan of APPLA for 3 or more years.

There were 9 (53%) of the 17 children/youth identified with permanent connections. There were 8 (47%) of the 17 children/youth who were not identified as having a permanent connection.

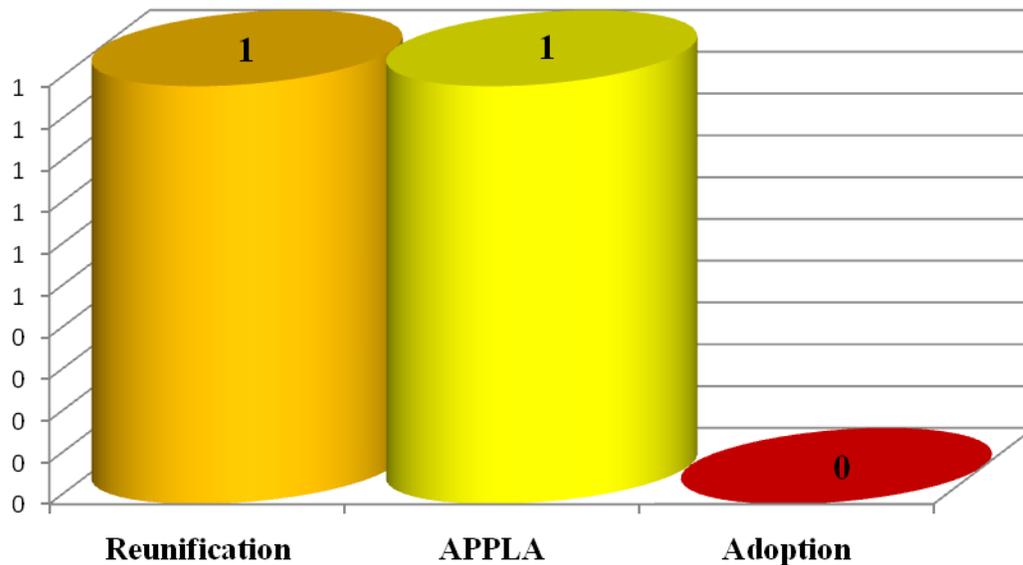
**Citizens Review Board for Children  
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**Medium Jurisdiction continued**

Adoption within medium jurisdiction cases made up 7 (23%) of the 31 children/youth reviewed. There were 2 (29%) of the 7 children/youth granted TPR. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption for all 7 (100%) cases reviewed.

**Allegany County**

There were a total of 2 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Allegany County in the First Quarter of FY14.



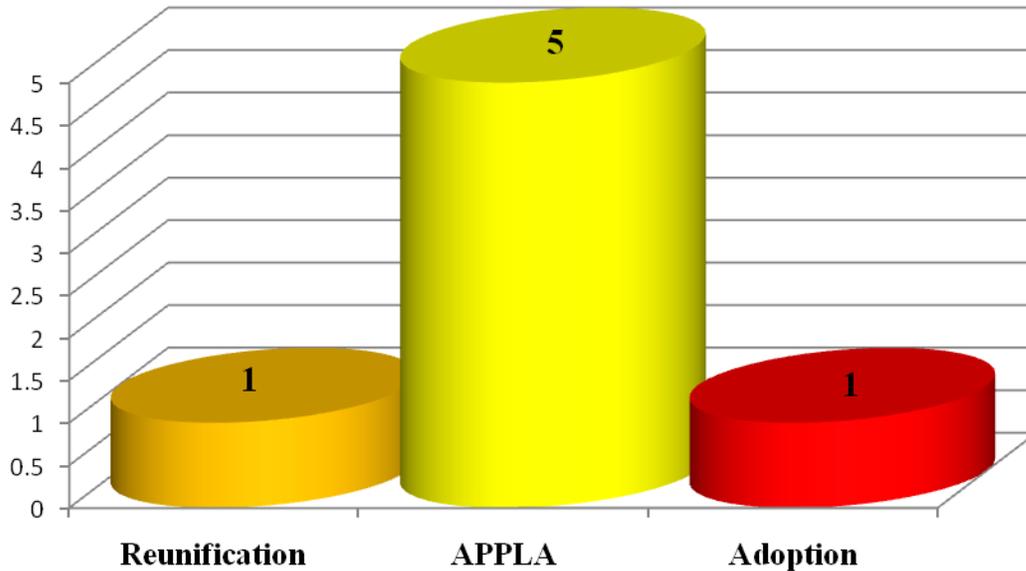
Reunification case reviews in Allegany County made up 1 (3%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. A Family Involvement Meeting was held prior to entering into care for the child/youth case reviewed. Appropriate services are being offered to both of the child/youth and the birth family. The plan of Reunification has been in place for 1 to 2 years. The local board agreed with the current permanency plan of reunification.

APPLA case reviews within Allegany County made up 1 (3%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. A permanent connection was not identified for the case being reviewed. The local board agreed that the child/youth were being prepared to meet employment and educational goals.

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**Anne Arundel County**

There was a total of 7 children/youth case reviews conducted in Anne Arundel County in the First Quarter of FY14.



Reunification case reviews in Anne Arundel County made up 1 (3%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. A Family Involvement Meeting was held prior to entering into care for the child/youth case reviewed. Appropriate services are being offered to both of the child/youth and the birth family. The plan of Reunification has been in place for 3 or more years. The local board agreed with the current permanency plan of reunification.

APPLA case reviews in Anne Arundel County made up 5 (16%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The permanent connection identified for 4 (80%) of the youth are: foster parents (3 cases), and grandparent (1 case). The other 1 case reviewed with a plan of APPLA did not have an identified permanent connection. The local board agreed that all 5 (100%) of the children/youth were being prepared to meet educational goals.

There were 4 (80%) of the 5 cases reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 0 to 6 months. There was 1 (20%) case reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 3 or more years. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of APPLA for all 5 (100%) cases reviewed.

Adoption case reviews in Anne Arundel County made up 1 (3%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. There was TPR granted for the case reviewed. The permanency plan of Adoption has been for 0 to 6 months. The child/youth being reviewed is currently placed in a regular foster home. The child was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption.

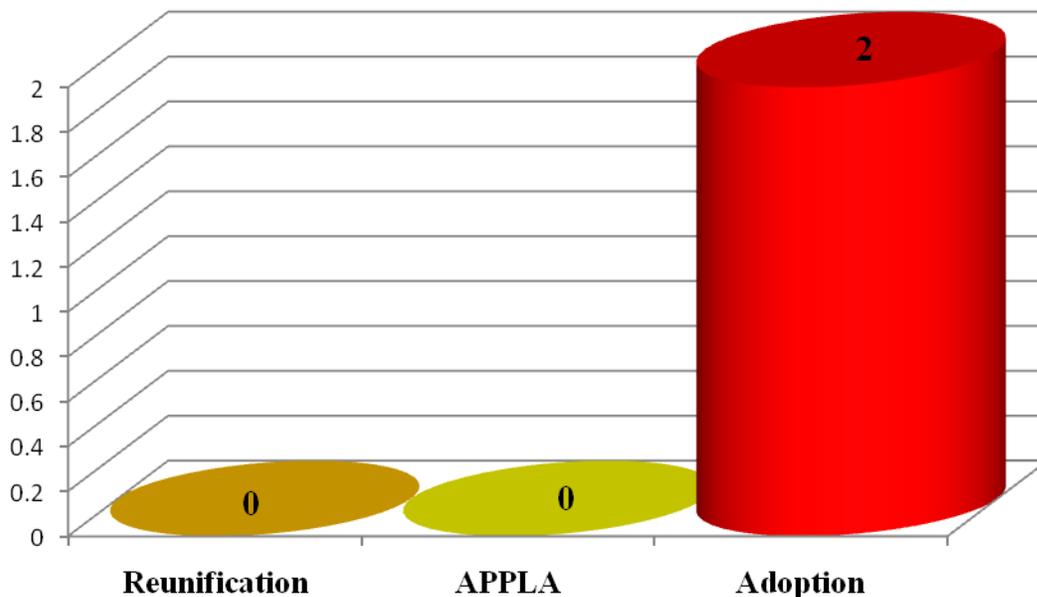
**Citizens Review Board for Children  
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**Anne Arundel County continued**

The child reviewed needed post-adoptive educational and medical services. The child was not prescribed psychotropic medication. The child reviewed did consent to being adopted. The child did not receive adoption counseling. There was no court, child, or family related barriers to adoption.

**Cecil County**

There were a total of 2 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Cecil County in the First Quarter of FY14.



Adoption case reviews in Cecil County made up 2 (6%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The 2 cases reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption had TPR filed. There was 1 case that had a permanency plan of Adoption for 1 to 2 years, and 1 case for 3 years or more. The 2 children/youth being reviewed is currently placed in a pre-finalized adoptive home. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption for both cases reviewed.

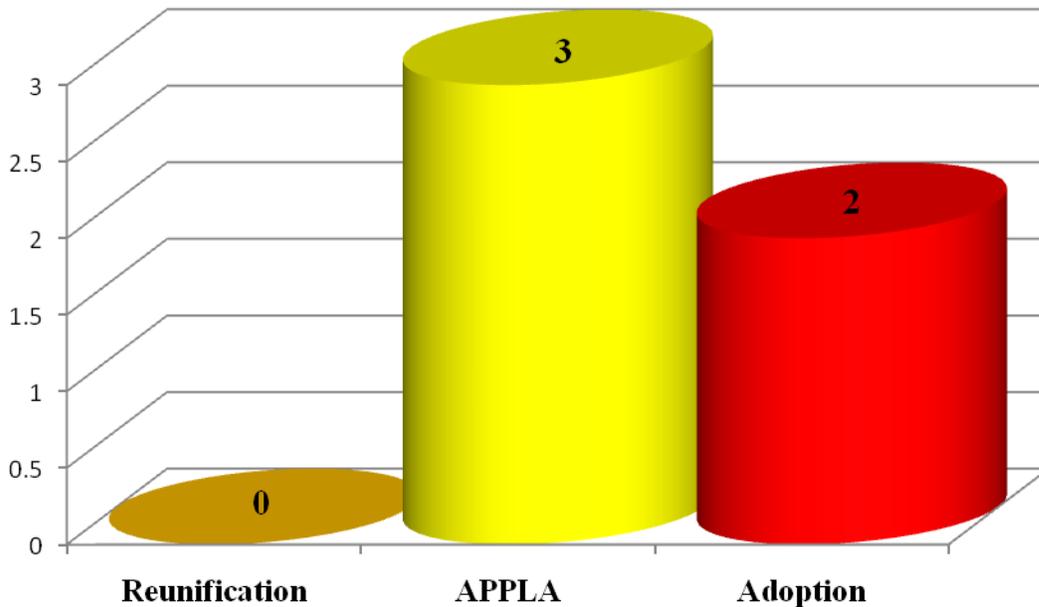
The 2 children/youth reviewed with a plan of adoption did not need post-adoptive educational, medical, and mental health services. The 2 children/youth reviewed were not being prescribed psychotropic medication.

The 2 children/youth reviewed did consent to adoption because they were not at legal age to consent to adoption. There was 1 out of the 2 cases reviewed that was being appealed by birth parents. There were 1 out of the 2 cases reviewed that did not have a pre-adoptive home finalized.

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**Frederick County**

There were a total of 5 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Frederick County in the First Quarter of FY14.



APPLA case reviews in Frederick County made up 3 (10%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The permanent connection identified for the 3 reviewed youth are: foster parents (1 case), sibling (1 case), and other (1 case). The 3 children/youth reviewed had a permanency plan of APPLA for 3 or more years.

The local board agreed with the permanency plan of APPLA for all 3 (100%) cases reviewed. The local board agreed that all 3 (100%) of the children/youth were being prepared to meet educational goals. The local board agreed that 2 out of the 3 children/youth were prepared to transition out of care.

Adoption case reviews in Frederick County made up 2 (6%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. The 2 cases reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption consisted of 1 of the 2 cases having TPR granted. Both cases reviewed had a permanency plan of Adoption for 0 to 6 months in length. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption for both cases reviewed.

The 2 children/youth reviewed needed post-adoptive educational and medical services. There was 1 out of the 2 children/youth that needed post-adoptive mental health services. The 2 children/youth reviewed were not being prescribed psychotropic medication.

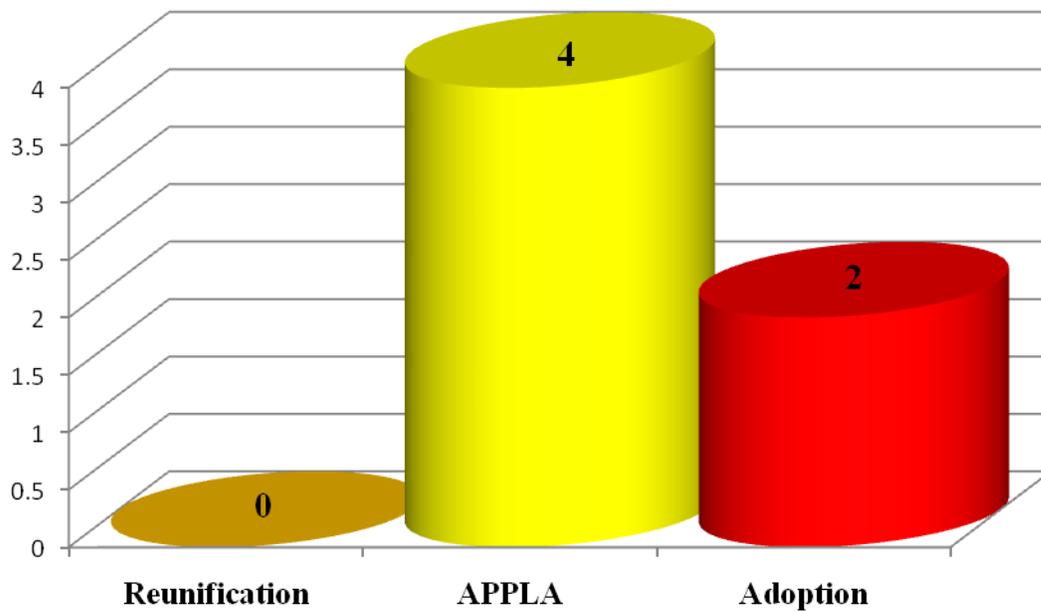
**Citizens Review Board for Children  
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**Frederick County continued**

There were no court, child, or family related barriers to adoption for the 2 cases reviewed. The 2 children/youth reviewed did consent to Adoption. There were 1 out of 2 children/youth with a plan of Adoption that received adoption counseling.

**Harford County**

There were a total of 6 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Harford County in the First Quarter of FY14.



APPLA case reviews in Harford County made up 4 (13%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. There was 1 out of the 4 children/youth that had a permanent connection identified. The permanent connection for the 1 child/youth was the foster parents. There was 1 child/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 0 to 6 months. There was 1 child/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 7 to 11 months. There was 1 child/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 1 to 2 years. There was 1 child/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 3 or more years.

The local board agreed with the permanency plan of APPLA for 3 out of the 4 (75%) cases reviewed. The local board agreed that all 4 (100%) of the children/youth were being prepared to meet educational goals. The local board agreed that 1 out of the 4 children/youth were prepared to transition out of care.

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**Harford County**

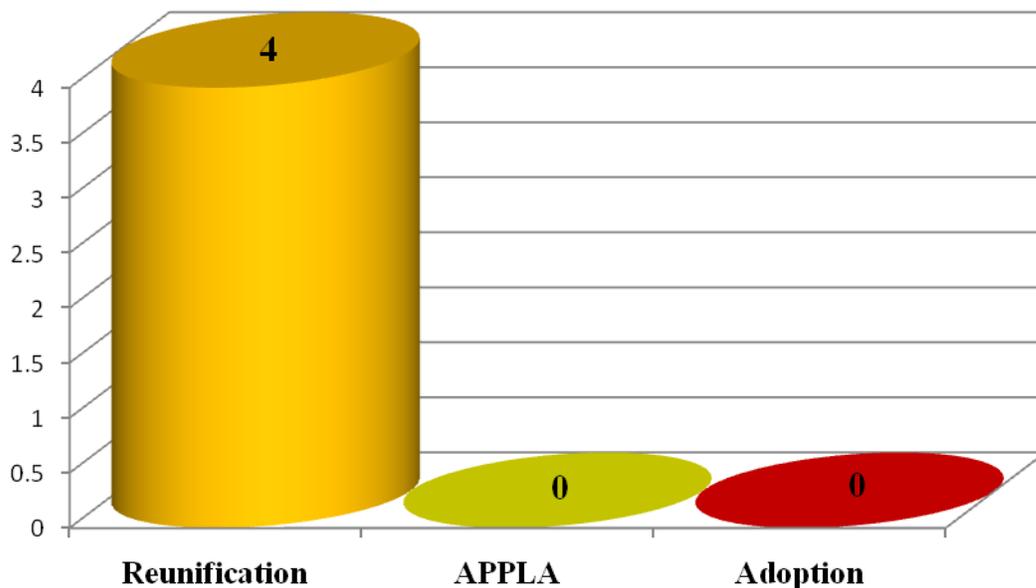
Adoption case reviews in Harford County made up 2 (6%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. Both cases reviewed with a permanency plan of Adoption had TPR granted. Both cases reviewed had a permanency plan of Adoption for 0 to 6 months in length. Both children/youth were placed in a regular foster care placement. The local board agreed with the pre-adoptive placements. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption for both the cases reviewed.

The 2 children/youth reviewed did not need post-adoptive educational, medical, or mental health services. The 2 children/youth reviewed were not being prescribed psychotropic medication. The 2 children/youth reviewed with a plan of Adoption did not yet have their pre-adoptive home finalized. This was the only barrier to adoption.

The 2 children/youth reviewed did not consent to adoption because they were not at legal age to consent to adoption. The 2 children/youth reviewed did not receive adoption counseling based on not being of legal age to consent to adoption.

**St. Mary's County**

There were a total of 4 children/youth cases reviews conducted in St. Mary's County in the First Quarter of FY14.



Reunification case reviews in St. Mary's County made up 4 (13%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter.

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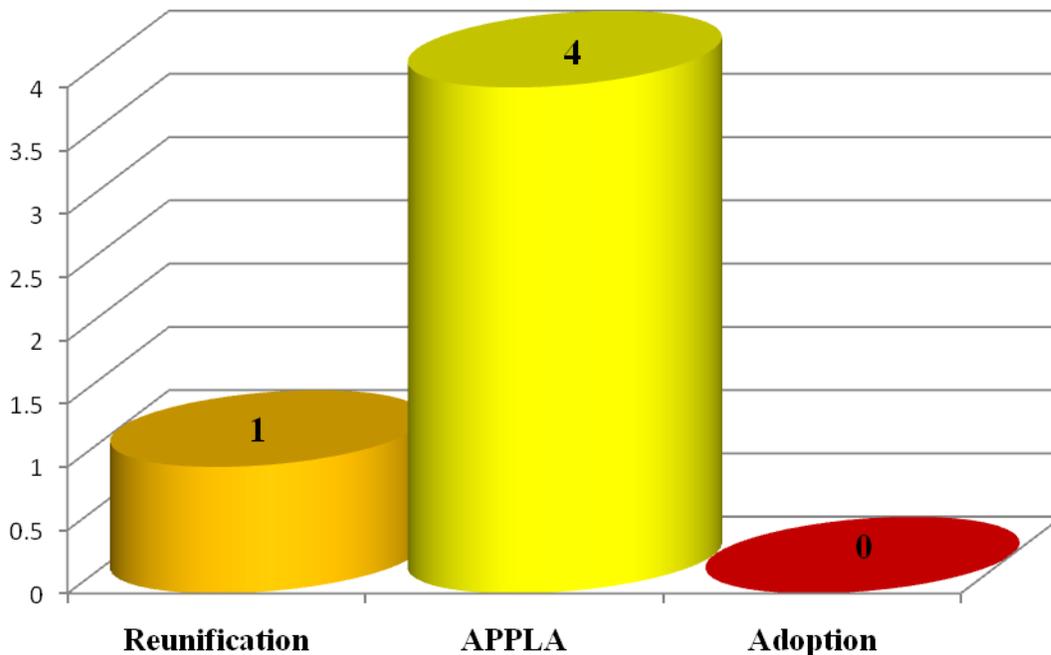
**St. Mary's County continued**

There are plans to return 1 (25%) of the 4 children/youth to the biological mother. There are plans to return 3 (75%) of the 4 children/youth to both biological parents. The plan of Reunification has been in place for all 4 children/youth reviewed for 3 or more years.

A Family Involvement Meeting was held for 1 (25%) out of 4 of the cases reviewed prior to entering into care for the children/youth cases reviewed. Appropriate services are being offered to all 4 of the children/youth and their birth families. The local board agreed with the current permanency plan of reunification for 1 out of 4 cases reviewed.

**Washington County**

There were a total of 5 children/youth cases reviews conducted in Washington County in the First Quarter of FY14.



Reunification case reviews in Washington County made up 1 (3%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. There are plans to return this child/youth to the biological mother. The plan of Reunification has been in place for 1 to 2 years.

A Family Involvement Meeting was not held prior to entering into care for the child/youth case reviewed. Appropriate services are being offered to this child/youth and to their birth family. The local board agreed with the permanency plan of reunification for the case reviewed.

**Citizens Review Board for Children  
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**Washington County continued**

*APPLA case reviews* in Washington County made up 4 (13%) of the 31 cases reviewed in medium jurisdictions within the First Quarter. There was 2 (50%) out of the 4 children/youth that had a permanent connection identified. The 2 permanent connections were identified as other. There was 1 child/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 7 to 11 months. There was 2 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 1 to 2 years. There was 1 child/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA for 3 or more years.

The local board agreed with the permanency plan of APPLA for all 4 (100%) of the cases reviewed. The local board agreed that all 4 (100%) of the children/youth were being prepared to meet educational goals. The local board agreed that all 4 children/youth were being prepared to meet their educational needs.

**Child Protection Panel Reviews**

A local Child Protection Panel may be established in each jurisdiction. There are currently child protection panels in seven (6) jurisdictions including Baltimore City, and Allegany, Baltimore, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and Worcester Counties. The child protection reviews address two child welfare outcomes for safety and three child welfare outcomes for well being, that are aligned with the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR).

The child welfare safety outcomes are 1) Protection from child abuse and neglect; and 2) Safety in their homes. The child welfare well being outcomes are 1) Family's capacity to provide for the child(ren) needs; 2) Child(ren) receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; and 3) Child(ren) receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

**Baltimore City Panel**

The Baltimore City Child Protection Panel typically will review at least 2 cases for each month of a FY Quarter. There were a total of 2 case reviews for the First Quarter of FY13. During the month of July, Baltimore City reported that the staff-person responsible for pulling the records was absent resulting in no panel being held for this month.

During the month of August, the Baltimore City Panel was canceled due to a lack of panel members on the scheduled review date. A panel has to consist of a minimum of 3 panel members to conduct a review.

During the month of September, the Baltimore City Panel conducted 2 case reviews. As a result, a determination was made by the local panel to review those two foster care case records. The results of those case record reviews will be reported during the Second Quarter of FY13.

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**Baltimore City Panel Findings and Recommendations**

1. Baltimore City panel finds there is a breakdown with receiving case records and receiving incomplete case records. The panel recommends receiving all case activity 1 year prior to panel review.
2. Baltimore City panel finds there is a lack of supporting documentation pertaining to engaging paternal family members, CPS and criminal background checks of other family and household members within the CPS case files. The panel recommends an increased effort in placing supportive documentation pertaining to paternal family members engagement, and CPS and criminal background checks in the case records.

**Baltimore City Panel Findings and Recommendations continued**

3. Baltimore City panel finds there is a lack of supportive documentation of services to the family in the case records. The panel recommends an increased effort to document all services provided to the child and family.
4. Baltimore City panel finds there is a lack of follow-up from the agency about the panel's concerns with issues pertaining to high-risk cases. The panel recommends an increased effort to appropriately follow-up in regards to high-risk case concerns.
5. Baltimore City panel finds that they are receiving 4 to 5 egregious safety cases a year. The panel suggests this may be contributed to children being sent back home once minimal parent compliance is adhered to, and inappropriate monitoring once the children are reunited. The panel recommends higher parent compliance before returning children home, and closer monitoring once the child is returned home.
6. Baltimore City panel has educational concerns with children in out-of-home care utilizing services at the "Crooked Lives Made Straight Christian Academy" in Philadelphia, PA. The panels concerns are centered on their challenges with receiving additional information about how Baltimore City's out-of-home placement youth are benefitting from this service. The panel recommends an increased effort to supply the panel with additional information about this educational service provider.
7. Baltimore City panel recommends that CRBC be given re-entry cases to review.

**Allegany County Panel**

Allegany County conducted 1 case reviewed during the First Quarter of FY13. There are no results to report based on this review at this time.

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**Anne Arundel County Panel**

Overall Anne Arundel County panel continues to have issues with receiving appropriate cases that meet the review criteria for case review. This continued challenge with receiving appropriate cases may cause the discontinuance of Anne Arundel County's panel. CRBC and Anne Arundel County panel recommends an increased effort to supply appropriate cases for panel review.

**Alternative Response**

Alternative Response is a new approach in the state of Maryland for managing low risk reports of child abuse and neglect that will result in safer kids, stronger families and significantly fewer recurrences. This alternative to investigation emphasizes and underscores the family-centered practice approached used in all 23 counties and Baltimore City.

As of July 1, 2013 Alternative Response was implemented in 5 counties in Western Maryland. Those counties include Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington. The first case assigned to Alternative Response was in Frederick County.

Allegany County had 54 (43%) out of 125 screened-in cases sent to Alternative Response for the First Quarter of FY14.

Frederick County had 88 (31%) out of 282 screened-in cases sent to Alternative Response for the First Quarter of FY14.

Garrett County had 22 (55%) out of 40 screened-in cases sent to Alternative Response for the First Quarter of FY14.

Montgomery County had 134 (24%) out of 556 screened-in cases sent to Alternative Response for the First Quarter of FY14.

Washington County had 116 (34%) out of 329 screened-in cases sent to Alternative Response for the First Quarter of FY14.

**CRBC Overall Highlights**

- Overall in 94% of the cases reviewed in the First Quarter with a permanency plan of Reunification, there were efforts made to include the families in the case planning process.
- Overall in 78% of the cases reviewed in the First Quarter with a permanency plan of Reunification, there were completed medical records in the case file.
- Overall in 100% of the cases reviewed in the First Quarter with a permanency plan of Reunification, there were comprehensive physical and mental health assessments completed.

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- Overall in the cases reviewed in the First Quarter with a permanency plan of Reunification, there were 19% of the children/youth identified with substance use issues, and all (100%) of those children/youth are having their substance use problems addressed.
- Overall in 91% of the cases reviewed in the First Quarter with a permanency plan of APPLA there was information that indicated a match between the child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs.
- Overall in 90% of the cases reviewed in the First Quarter with a permanency plan of APPLA there were timely physical and mental health assessments completed.

**CRBC Jurisdiction Recommendations**

- All jurisdictions should include the paternal family members as possible resources for all children who are in out-of-home care.
- All jurisdictions should include the paternal family members as possible resources for all Child Protection Service investigations.
- All jurisdictions are required to bring case records and/or supportive documentation to all CRBC case reviews.

**CRBC Activities (July 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013)**

- On July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>, CRBC's leadership attended the Alternative Response Council Teleconference Meetings. The primary focus of the July meeting was the first phase, including Frederick County assigning the first case to Alternative Response.
- On July 26, CRBC held Baltimore City Circuit Meeting; facilitated by Michele Foster, Staff Assistant. The presenters included Baltimore City DSS staff members Steven Youngblood, LCSW-C, Unit Manager; Charlene Steward, MSW, Educational Specialist; Angela Smith, MSW, Ready By 21 Specialist; Ms. Armstrong, Ready By 21 Supervisor. Pertinent information shared included new changes with the Tuition Waiver per HB1012 such as, Adopted and Guardianship children 13 years and older and their siblings (in the same home) are eligible for Tuition Waiver. These children are eligible up to the age of 25 years old. The Tuition Waiver does not affect any other financial support i.e., grants or scholarships. An obvious gap in providing these services is how to inform those children who have aged out of the foster care system.

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**CRBC Activities continued**

In addition, the Education and Training Voucher's (ETV) can be awarded up to \$5000 for current foster care, kinship, and you adopted after the age of 16 years old. One challenge with Baltimore City getting this information to eligible children is getting the youth to attend the Educational Workshops held in the month of July.

- On August 10, 2013 CRBC program officially moved from 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 to its new location at 1100 Eastern Boulevard, Essex, Maryland 21221.
- On September 21<sup>st</sup> CRBC's staff members participated in the Annual Family Tree's Family Fair and Walk. In addition, CRBC staff maintained an informational table in its efforts to boost recruitment.

**Citizens Review Board for Children  
Fiscal Year 2014 – First Quarter Report**

**The State Board**

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)  
*Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties*

James Trent (Vice Chairperson)  
*Representing Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties*

Delores Alexander  
*Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties*

Heidi Busch  
*Representing Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties*

Doretha Henry  
*Representing Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties*

Sheila Jessup, PhD  
*Representing Baltimore City*

Helen Diane Johnson, MSW  
*Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties*

Mary MacClelland  
*Representing Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties*

Sylvia Smith  
*Representing Baltimore City*

**Citizens Review Board for Children**

Sabrena Barnes-McAllister, LGSW  
*Administrator*